

Discourse Functions of “*Ke(re)do(mo)*” and “Copula+*Ke(re)do(mo)*” at the Left Periphery (LP) in Spoken Japanese: A Functional Expansion Perspective

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In modern spoken Japanese, some connectives which are basically used to connect the preceding and the following sentences are often used at the left periphery (LP) of a turn (Onodera 2014: 108-111). For example, “*ke(re)do(mo)*” (among *keredomo*, *keredo*, *kedomo* and *kedo*) and “copula+*ke(re)do(mo)*” express the meaning of contrast when they are used in the sentence-initial position of the second sentence (Nihon Kokugo Daijiten 2). They can also introduce an utterance in which the speaker is reflecting on something when they are used at the LP (Matsumoto1988: 346) (see (1)). This study aims to use “Taiyo Corpus” (Taiyo) (1895-1925) and “Nagoya University Conversation Corpus” (NUCC) (2001-2003) to clarify the differences between “*ke(re)do(mo)*” and “copula+*ke(re)do(mo)*” used at the LP of a turn from the perspective of functional expansion.

- (1) (speakers are talking about the spelling of a disease)
F001: *Wakatteru kedo*. (I know (how to spell).)
F079: *Dakedo nee, osoroshii byooki da to omou yo*. (**But**, I think it is a terrible disease.)
(NUCC, data076)

The result of this study shows that in Taiyo, the number of “*ke(re)do(mo)*” (19 cases) used at the LP of a turn is almost the same with that of “copula+*ke(re)do(mo)*” (16 cases). However, in NUCC, people tend to use “copula+*ke(re)do(mo)*” (99 cases) rather than “*ke(re)do(mo)*” (17 cases) at the LP of a turn. For the reason, it seems that it is because as a connective, “copula+*ke(re)do(mo)*” appeared later than “*ke(re)do(mo)*”. Specifically, as a connective, “copula+*ke(re)do(mo)*” appeared in the 18-19th century while “*ke(re)do(mo)*” appeared in the 17th century (Yuzawa 1936, 1954).

Traugott (1982: 256) suggested that in the course of grammaticalization, the accompanying semantic-pragmatic change is more likely to be one “from propositional through textual to expressive” meanings, the kind of change that we can also see in “*ke(re)do(mo)*” and “copula+*ke(re)do(mo)*”. However, although the function of “*ke(re)do(mo)*” expanded, the percentage of expressing the propositional function is the highest in both Taiyo (95%) and NUCC (65%). On the contrast, for “copula+*ke(re)do(mo)*”, although the percentage of expressing propositional function is the highest (56%) in Taiyo, the percentage of expressing textual function is the highest (41%) in NUCC. In a word, during the progress of functional expansion, “*ke(re)do(mo)*” has a strong tendency to express the propositional function in the same way as its sentence-initial counterpart. On the other hand, “copula+*ke(re)do(mo)*” tends to express textual function. For the reason, “*ke(re)do(mo)*” can be used as a connective as the same as “copula+*ke(re)do(mo)*”, and it can also be used as a connective particle in a subordinate clause and a sentence-final particle in “*iisashibun*” (insubordination). It seems that the development of the usage of “*iisashibun*” influences the progress of its functional expansion.

On the whole, it is clear that although both “*ke(re)do(mo)*” and “copula+*ke(re)do(mo)*” can be used at the LP of a turn, they have differences in both frequency of use and the progress of functional expansion.

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