

Interpretation predicates and contents in frame integration: the case of *sasou* in Japanese

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This paper discusses frame integration involving an interpretation predicate in Japanese. Inspired by Hasegawa et al. (2006), which uses the idea of frame integration to characterize the meaning of sentences with an interpretation predicate, this paper argues that a Japanese verb *sasou* 'entice/seduce' may also be characterized as an interpretation predicate and analyzes the meanings of the verb and of sentences containing it. First, it claims that *sasou* evokes three frames. Secondly, the paper points out that in all of the three meanings of *sasou*, the content is encoded either as a predicate or a noun phrase in the sentence. This is in contrast to the English interpretation predicate *risk*, since in the case of *risk*, the content is always encoded as a predicate and not as a noun phrase. By analyzing meanings of *sasou* and meanings of sentences containing it, this paper argues that interpretation predicates exist not only in English but also in Japanese and points out that there are interesting differences between English and Japanese interpretation predicates.

Hasegawa et al. (2006) employs the idea of frame integration to describe the meaning of sentences containing an interpretation predicate such as *risk*, *manage* and *dare*. They point out that interpretation predicates "locate a state of affairs within some larger interpretive schema" (Hasegawa et al. 2006: 1). In their analysis of the verb *risk*, they argue that there is a frame integration between the verb and a content predicate, which "gives information about the content of a state of affairs," within a sentence (ibid.). In the sentence *she risked her life by going to Iraq*, for example, *going to Iraq* is the content verb phrase and *risk* plays a role in evaluating the risk of the action. *He risked leaving the security of his home to deliver the message* is also composed of the interpretation predicate *risk* and a content verb phrase, *leaving the security of his home*.

This paper argues that *sasou* in Japanese is an interpretation predicate just like *risk* in English. It claims that the verb evokes three frames (the *Attempt_suasion*, *Cause_to_start*, and *Seducing* frames) and that in all of the three meanings the content may be encoded as a noun phrase, in addition to as a predicate, unlike *risk*. In (1) and (2), the interpretation predicate *sasou* is shown in bold and the content noun phrase is underlined. In (1), the noun *syokuzi* 'meal' is the content and *sasou* gives an interpretation of the SPEAKER's intention for suggesting a CONTENT to Kasuya. That is, Akino not only suggested Kasuya to go to a place for a meal but also intended to spend time together by going and eating there. In (2), *sasou* is used with a noun phrase expressing the SEDUCER's attractive attributes. Here, the verb gives an interpretation of the SEDUCER's intention for using a MEANS, i.e. *kuroi hitomi* 'black eyes.' That is, the SEDUCER used her black eyes to sexually attract the traveler.

- (1) [Akino wa SPEAKER] [Kasuya o ADDRESSEE] [syokuzi ni CONTENT] **sasotta.**Attempt_suasion
Akino TOP Kasuya ACC meal LOC enticed.
'Akino invited Kasuya to a meal.'
- (2) [Seisyu ga SEDCER] [kuroi hitomi de MEANS] [tabibito o SEDCED] **sasotta.**Seducing
sacred prostitute NOM black eyes INSTR traveler ACC seduced.
'A sacred prostitute seduced a traveler with black eyes.'

To summarize, this paper analyzes the meanings and uses of the verb *sasou*, by employing the theory of frame semantics and especially the idea of frame integration. It points out for the first time that *sasou* is an interpretation predicate and thus shows that interpretation predicates exist not only in English but also in Japanese. Except for Hasegawa et al. (2006), the importance of frame integration, especially the importance of interactions between an interpretation predicate and its content in sentence meanings, has not been studied. This paper argues that the Japanese verb *sasou* is indeed an interpretation predicate and demonstrates that its content may be encoded as a noun phrase, in addition to as a predicate, unlike the English interpretation predicate *risk*. It is hoped that this paper contributes to a better understanding of semantics of interpretation predicates in Japanese as well as in English and in other languages. It is also hoped that mechanisms of frame integration may be studied from cross-linguistic perspectives.