

ABSTRACT

Thesis	A Descriptive Study on the Polysemous Words
Subject	' <i>iku</i> (to go)' and ' <i>kuru</i> (to come)' in Modern Japanese
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This study aims to describe the meanings of polysemous verbs *iku*(to go) and *kuru*(to come) in modern Japanese (Tokyo dialect). The author analyzed approximately 7700 samples taken from language corpora of modern written Japanese. In many literatures of Japanese *iku* and *kuru*, the usages of these 2 words are separated into 2, (1) main verbs (lexical elements) (2) auxiliary verbs (grammatical elements, attached to a main verb's adverbial form "*V-shite*"). But from viewpoints of their semantic and syntactic nature, this study separates the usage of *iku/ kuru* into 3, (1) main verbs, (2) marginal usage between main verbs and auxiliary verbs, and (3) auxiliary verbs. Below, we see polysemous meanings of *iku* and *kuru* of each usage.

<Main verbs>

First of all, we see their core (basic) meaning, which is spatial motion of an agent shown with *-ga* (nominative case). In case of the core meaning, the most typical agent of spatial motion is "human." As for spatial nouns which co-occur with *iku/kuru*, *iku* can co-occur with nouns which indicate "course" and "direction." On the other hand, *kuru* seldom co-occurs with these nouns. This fact indicates that in case of *iku*, compared with *kuru*, goal of spatial motion can be ambiguous. This difference between

iku and *kuru* is reflected in the different way of derivation of various meanings between *iku* and *kuru*.

Next, we discuss about their derivative meanings. As the result of corpus-based analysis, the system of *iku* and *kuru*'s derivative meanings is below.

nominative noun : human	1-1 entering to a social group (both <i>iku</i> and <i>kuru</i>)	(i)
	1-2 phase of a sequence of human activities (both <i>iku</i> and <i>kuru</i>)	(i)
	1-3 death (<i>iku</i> only)	(i)
	1-4 interaction between humans (<i>kuru</i> only)	(i)
	1-5 choice of way of human activity (<i>iku</i> only)	(ii)
nominative noun : phenomenon	2 occurrence of phenomenon (<i>kuru</i> only)	(iii)
nominative noun : abstract thing	3-1 interaction between humans (both <i>iku</i> and <i>kuru</i>)	(i)
	3-2 contamination between languages and cultures (<i>kuru</i> only)	(i)
	3-3 passage of time (<i>iku</i>), arrival of a certain time (<i>kuru</i>)	(ii)
	3-4 achievement to a certain degree (both <i>iku</i> and <i>kuru</i>)	(ii)
	3-5 progress of activity (<i>iku</i> only)	(ii)
	3-6 causal relationship as occurrence of an event (<i>kuru</i> only)	(iii)
	3-7 spatial relationship as fictive occurrence (<i>kuru</i> only)	(iii)
	3-8 occurrence of mental or physiological state (<i>kuru</i> only)	(iii)
nominative noun : [others]	4-1 [diverse] change (<i>iku</i> only)	(ii)
	4-2 [no nominative noun] topic (both <i>iku</i> and <i>kuru</i>)	(iii)

Each derivative meaning can be separated into 3 groups from the viewpoint of the relationship to the core meaning, (i) spatial motion's "source", "course" and "goal" reflect the derivative meaning, (ii) among spatial motion's 3 phases ("source", "course" and "goal"), some reflect the derivative meaning, others don't. (iii) no direct relationship between spatial motion's 3 phases and the derivative meaning.

Direct relationship cannot be seen in some derivative meanings (i.e. type (iii)). Among *kuru*'s derivative meanings, those of type (iii) all indicate "occurrence", except for "topic." "3-3" also indicate "occurrence." As for *iku*, there are no derivative meanings in type (iii), but among derivative meanings which *iku* has and *kuru* doesn't, "progress of activity" and "change" indicate a kind of "transition." The biggest difference between these 2 words is that *iku* indicates "transition" and *kuru* indicates "occurrence."

<marginal usage between main verbs and auxiliary verbs>

In this case (some of “*iku/kuru*” attached to “*V-shite*”), *iku* and *kuru*'s meaning is the same as the core meaning of the main verbs. But compared with usual sequence of verbs, the connection between “*V-shite*” and *iku/kuru* is stronger and this reflects grammatical fact (e.g. adnominal clause construction).

< Auxiliary verbs>

In this case, not only the connection between “*V-shite*” and *iku/kuru* is strong, meanings of *iku/kuru* is abstract and grammatical (not lexical) even when “*V-shite iku/kuru*” indicates spatial motion. The system of meanings of *iku* and *kuru* as the auxiliary verbs is below.

Event which is shown by the verb “ <i>V-shite</i> ” (or verbal phrase)	Meaning of <i>iku</i>	Meaning of <i>kuru</i>	Direction of semantic derivation
Spatial motion (<i>V-shite</i> : motion verbs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direction of spatial motion & • Deictic relationship & • (progressive phase of change)*1 		Spatial motion (both <i>iku</i> and <i>kuru</i>)
Time (<i>V-shite</i> : motion verbs)	Passage of time	Arrival of a certain time	From Spatial motion to Time (both <i>iku</i> and <i>kuru</i>)
Action, state (<i>V-shite</i> : diverse)	Deictic temporal relationship		
Occurrence of Agent (<i>ga</i> -case noun)	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis of occurrence • (progressive phase of change)*1 	<i>Iku</i> : “transition” <i>kuru</i> : “occurrence”
Change of Agent (<i>ga</i> -case noun) or State (<i>kuru</i> only)	Progressive phase of change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurrence of change and progressive phase of change or • Emphasis of occurrence 	
Change of object (<i>o</i> -case noun)	Progressive phase of change	N/A	
Continuously repeated action	Gradual increase of agents or objects	N/A	
Human interaction (typical type is verbal negotiation)	N/A	Movement of the result of human interaction from person A to person B. (speaker's viewpoint is on “person B”)	From spatial motion to human interaction *2

*1: Not fixed as a grammatical meaning yet.

*2: Logically both *iku* and *kuru* can have this meaning, but accentually only *kuru* has.

In addition to spatial motion, there are 2 common directions of semantic derivation of the main verbs and the auxiliary verbs, one is “From spatial motion to time” and the other is “From spatial motion to human interaction.” Of course, the main verbs have various meaning in addition to “time” and “human interaction” but this common directions are important, for the deixis of language have usually 3 aspects, which are “space”, “time” and “person.” And this is also important when we think about how a polysemous word can obtain various meanings.

And as for the directions of semantic derivation, the biggest difference between *iku* and *kuru* (including both the main verbs and the auxiliary verbs) is that *iku* indicates “transition” and *kuru* indicates “occurrence.”

This study’s main purpose is to describe polysemous meanings of *iku* and *kuru*. But through this description we can see the relationship between lexicon and grammar. To consider from this viewpoint, according to “Grammaticalization” theory, we see how much *iku* and *kuru* as the auxiliary verbs are semantically and morphologically “grammaticalized.” And we discuss the position of the auxiliary verbs *iku* and *kuru* in the grammatical system in modern Japanese.

Some of “V-*shite iku/ kuru*” are losing their motivation between 2 words (“V-*shite*” and “*iku/ kuru*”). That is, some is in the process of “Lexicalization”, the process in which a new word is made in a certain language. This study discuss about the process of “Lexicalization” through analyzing words “*motte iku/ kuru* = to bring something”, “*tsuite iku/ kuru* =to follow someone” and “*yatte kuru* = to come, almost the same as *kuru*.”

As we saw above, this study not only described the polysemous meanings of some words in a certain language, but through that, could show a certain aspect of the nature of lexicon and grammar of a language.