Historical developments/variations of Japanese addressee-honorific markers and economy principles

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1 Introduction


Korean -supnita
Thai -khrap

Question A
Where could this lower position be?

Question B-1
Why is an element in T affected?

Question B-2
Why was there a variation?

Middle Japanese (MJ)
Heisei Japanese (21stC)
Meiji Japanese (19thC)

(3) [CP[TP[PolP pitopito motii-sooraw-azu] [T soora(w)-iki]]].
people use-HON$_A$-NEG HON$_A$-PST

(4) [CP[TP[PolP minna motii-mas-en] [T des-ita]]].
people use-HON$_A$-NEG COP.HON$_A$-PST

(5) [CP[TP[PolP minna motii-mas-en] [T kat-ta]]].
people use-HON$_A$-NEG COP.PLAIN-PST

‘People did not use (it) [polite register].’
2 Position A High-ApplicativeP

Fact: Addressee-honorific markers used to be an object-honorific marker.

Claim 1: As a historical reminiscent property, the AH-marker -\textit{mas} continues to appear in the Head, High-ApplicativeP, just like -\textit{ma(w)}\textit{iras}/\textit{marasur}.

\[ [\text{saP} \text{HR...}[\text{HighAppP} [vP IO DO teach (verb)\textit{-marasur-}] ... \text{sa}]] \]
\[ [\text{saP} \text{HR...}[\text{HighAppP} [vP IO DO teach (verb)\textit{-sauraw-}] ... \text{sa}]] \]

Claim 2: From downward-agree to upward-agree.

\[ [\text{saP} \text{HR...}[\text{HighAppP} [vP IO DO teach (verb)\textit{-marasur-}] ... \text{sa}]] \]
\[ [\text{saP} \text{HR...}[\text{HighAppP} [vP IO DO teach (verb)\textit{-sauraw-}] ... \text{sa}]] \]
Position B

Fact: OH-constructions do not have Position B elements. Position B elements appear only after they became a full-fledged AH-marker.

Claim 1: Economy Principle #1
Preference for an agreement within short-er distance: when one has a valuation of the unvalued feature, the shorter the Probe-Goal distance, the better.

Claim 2: Economy Principle #2
Multitasking: when there are more than two problems to solve during the derivation, the most economical solution is to fix all the problems at once, rather than solving these problems one by one using different solutions (cf. Van Urk and Richards 2015).
References


