

Preface

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Locality and Information Structure: A cartographic approach to Japanese

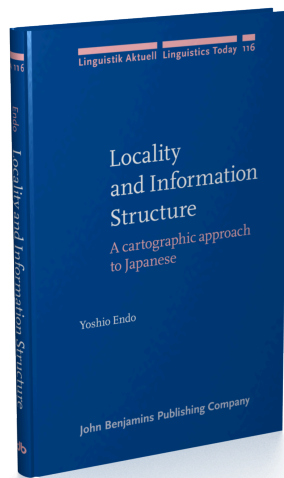
Yoshio Endo

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Several aspects of this book make it unique and go beyond earlier works. First, this book is currently the only systematic exploration of Japanese syntax within the cartographic approach that pays special attention to the locality effects induced by discourse-based features such as topic and focus. Second, unlike previous works on Japanese generative syntax, the research reported in this book is based partially on informant surveys, including the distribution of adverbials and the categorical status of the nominative Case particle on adverbials, as well as an exhaustive survey of ditransitive predicates in terms of word formation and idioms in *Koujien*, one of the largest Japanese dictionaries. Third, a systematic study of the nature of clause-final particles in Japanese syntax, which has previously only been explored in the framework of discourse analysis, is presented.

The following provides an overview of the content of the book. Chapter 1 introduces some basic notions to be exploited in the rest of the book along with some relevant fundamental properties of Japanese. Chapter 2 discusses negative islands, mainly in English, to review the historical development of Relativized Minimality (RM). Chapter 3 examines some quantifiers that block wh-movement in Japanese. Chapter 4 takes up the issue, raised in Rizzi (2004), of why topics are special with respect to RM in Italian and provides a piece of evidence from Japanese backward binding in favor of one possible solution. Chapter 5 turns attention to a case where the suffixation of an extra Case particle induces a new semantic effect of focus interpretation that blocks wh-movement. Chapter 6 explores the nature of suffixation of the nominative Case particle *ga* to an adverbial, which creates a new focus interpretation and blocks overt movement. In chapter 7, we look at locality seen in the dative construction and the double object construction in English and Japanese from the perspective of morpho-syntax. Chapter 8 examines the nature of the subject position, and clause-final particles are discussed. Chapter 9 presents some results from the informant surveys that I conducted to support some of the points made in the previous chapters. Chapter 10 concludes our discussion.

This book is a revised version of my Ph.D. dissertation, where all chapters have undergone a number of revisions. The original dissertation was written while I was a graduate student at the University of Geneva and a visiting scholar at MIT. In the course of writing this book, I have benefited a lot from various people. First and foremost, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Luigi Rizzi for giving me a chance to write my dissertation under his supervision. His insightful comments broadened my perspective on theoretical linguistics, which I hope is reflected in this book. My deep appreciation goes to my other dissertation committee members. Ur Shlonsky always helped me sharpen my ideas by asking the right questions and pointing out possible flaws in my argumentation. Shigeru Miyagawa taught me many things through his lectures, discussion, and collaboration, for which I am very grateful. In addition to my committee members, I am grateful to the following linguists in Geneva: Christopher Laenzlinger, Jacques Moeschler, Genoveva Puskas, and Gabriela Soare for discussing some of the topics of the book with me.

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Tokyo, Japan

Yoshio Endo

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