

Honorifics and syntactic structure

I. Two honorific constructions

(1) Some **morphology** for the two kinds of politeness marking we are about to see

- | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|---|-------|----|---------|--|-----------|-------------------------------|
| (a) | o | - | yom-i | ni | nar- | | o- | HONORIFIC prefix (HON, HP) |
| | o | - | kake | ni | nar- | | yom- | 'read' |
| | | | | | | | kake- | 'hang, suspend; call (phone)' |
| (b) | o | - | yom-i | | si-~su- | | nar- | 'become' |
| | o | - | kake | | si-~su- | | si- ~ su- | 'do' (irreg.) |

(c) What might we propose for the word class of *yomi* and *kake*?

Additional data: (Ivana & Sakai 2007)

sensei-ga	o-kak.i-no	hon		'the book the teacher wrote'
<i>teacher-NOM</i>	<i>HP-write-GEN</i>	<i>book</i>		
<i>pro</i> moo	o-kaer.i	des-u ka?		'did <i>pro</i> already go home?'
<i>already</i>	<i>HP-go.home</i>	<i>COP</i> <i>C.QUESTION</i>		

(d) Side note: this supports the view that the /-i-/ that appears on consonant verbs with certain suffixes is a *morpheme* that has a “zero” counterpart for vowel verbs

(2) Some lexical items

sensei 'teacher,' but also used for writers, politicians, etc.

- this is a title:
 - use as a referent, or as a form of address
 - use alone or as a suffix to a name

watasi 1st person sg “pronoun”

- used in male-typical and female-typical speech if formal
- characteristic of female-typical speech if informal

(3) Under what **social** circumstances are the *o-V-ni nar-* and *o-V-si-* constructions used?

- Context: Mariko is speaking these sentences to a friend. Aya is another friend.
 - The symbol '#' indicates 'infelicitous' — grammatical, but inappropriate to the context.
 - The usual disclaimers apply about the use of *-ga* on a main-clause subject.

(a) (i) Aya-ga koohii-o non-da.
coffee drink-PAST

(ii) Sensei-ga koohii-o o-nom-i-ni nat-ta.

(iii) # Sensei-ga koohii-o o-nom-i sita.

(b) (i) Watasi-ga Aya-o tazune-ta.
visit

(ii) Watasi-ga sensei-o o-tazune si-ta.

(iii) # Watasi-ga sensei-o o-tazune-ni nat-ta.

(c) (i) Watasi-ga Aya-ni sono koto-o hanas-ita.

- that matter discuss*
- (ii) Watasi-ga sensei-ni sono koto-o o-hanas-i si-ta.
 (iii) # Watasi-ga sensei-ni sono koto-o o-hanas-i-ni nat-ta.
 (iv) Sensei-ga watasi.tati-ni sono koto-o o-hanas-i-ni nat-ta.
us
 (v) # Sensei-ga watasi.tati-ni sono koto-o o-hanas-i si-ta.

- (4) Reminder: **SSS** (“socially superior to the speaker”) (Harada 1976)
 o + V(+i) + ni naru • used when _____ is SSS
 o + V(+i) + suru • used when _____ is SSS

- (5) What happens when both conditions are met?

Tanaka-sensei-ga Yamada-sensei-ni sono koto-o o-hanasi-ni nat-ta.
 # Tanaka-sensei-ga Yamada-sensei-ni sono koto-o o-hanasi si-ta.

- (6) How do these *referent honorifics* relate to *performative politeness (formality)*?

Sensei-ga o-kaer-i-ni nat-ta. / Sensei-ga o-kaer-i-ni nar-imas-ita.
 # Sensei! O-kaer-i-ni nar-u? / Sensei! O-kaer-i-ni nar-imas-u ka?
 Ame-ga hut-ta. / Ame-ga hur-imas-ita.
rain fall *fall-FORMAL*
 # Ame-ga o-hur-i-ni natta. / #Ame-ga o-hur-i si-ta.

II. Honorifics and syntactic structure

- Under what **syntactic conditions** can we use *o-V-ni nar-*? What about *o-V si-*?

- (7) Watasi-ga sensei-no o-nimotu-o o-moti si-mas-u.
HP-luggage hold (carry)

- (8) Sensei-no o-nimotu-ga todoi-ta.
arrive
 # Sensei-no o-nimotu-ga o-todok-i-ni natta.

For further reading

- Harada, Shin-Ichi. 1976. Honorifics. In Masayoshi Shibatani (ed.), *Japanese Generative Grammar*. Syntax & Semantics 5. New York: Academic Press, 499-561.
 Ivana, Adrian, and Hiromu Sakai. 2007. Honorification and light verbs in Japanese. *Journal of East Asian Linguistics* 16(3): 171-191.
 Jorden, Eleanor Harz, and Mari Noda. 1987. *Japanese: The Spoken Language, part I*. New Haven: Yale University Press.