

A JUSTIFICATION OF THE FEATURE [+AUX] IN JAPANESE\*

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1. INTRODUCTION

The existence of the categorial node 'Aux', encompassing typically Tense and some Modal elements, is assumed in the majority of the generative works on Japanese hitherto published (e.g. Prideaux 1966, Soga 1966, Inoue 1969, Kuno 1973, and Nakau 1973). In none of these works, however, has there been made provisions for 'Aux' as a syntactic feature. Neither is such a feature discussed in Smith 1970 and Sawada 1975, which explicitly dispense with the Aux node. The only conspicuous exception to date is Inoue's (1976:117-123) postulation of the feature [+Zyodoos1] ('[+Aux]') in support of her controversial Mokutekigo Kuriage Kisoku ('Object Raising'). In this respect, therefore, the generative treatment of Japanese auxiliaries exhibits a rather interesting contrast to what has taken place with English, where, while the issue concerning the existence or non-existence of Aux as a categorial node has generated considerable debate, the need for 'Aux' as a syntactic feature has been accepted, if somewhat reluctantly in some cases, by a number of linguists on both sides of the controversy (cf. Ross 1969, Akmajian and Wasow 1975, and Pullum and Wilson 1977). The purpose of this paper is to show, mainly by means of re-examination of Harada's 1976 study of Subject Honorification, that, in spite of the relative silence so far, the feature [+Aux] does need to be posited in an adequate description of Japanese, regardless of whether or not Aux as a categorial node proves to be a viable construct in Japanese grammar.