

INCORPORATION AND SINO-JAPANESE VERBS*

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1. INTRODUCTION

A major feature of the Japanese vocabulary is found in the large set of compound verbs (e. g. kenkyuu-su- 'to study') consisting of Sino-Japanese nouns (e. g. kenkyuu 'study') and su- 'do'. These compound verbs shall be referred to as 'S-J- verbs', and their stem nouns as 'verbal nouns' (VNs)(Martin 1975). The purpose of this paper is to consider how to derive such verb compounds.

At least four possible analyses suggest themselves which could be conveniently divided into two groups, depending on whether sentence-pairs like (1a) and (1b), which are considered synonymous, are related transformationally.

- (1) a. Ozilisan wa mai-asa undoo-suru

'My grandfather exercises every morning'

- b. Ozilisan wa mai-asa undoo o suru

'My grandfather takes exercise every morning'

In (1b) the VN undoo 'exercise', which appears as part of the S-J verb undoo-su- 'to exercise' in (1a), is realized as the object of the verb su-. If the synonymy of these two sentences is to be accounted for by