

PIVOT-INDEPENDENT RELATIVIZATION IN JAPANESE (III)

Interlude: Types of Japanese relatives*

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Consider the following sentences:

- (1) Taroo wa sara no ue ni aru aoi ringo o totte....
- (2) Taroo wa aoi ringo ga sara no ue ni aru no o totte....
- (3) Taroo wa aoi ringo no sara no ue ni aru no o totte....
- (4) Taroo wa aoi ringo de sara no ue ni aru no o totte....

Glosses: aoi "blue", ringo "apple", sara "plate", aru "be", totte
"take, pick up, etc."

All of these sentences could be translated by the same English sentence

- (5) Taro picked up a green apple which was on the plate and

And in all of them the noun ringo might be said to hold double grammatical relations, one with the embedded verb aru as the subject and the other with the matrix verb totte as the direct object. Thus, prima facie they may all be considered as illustrating different types of relative clause constructions. I would like to try to clarify structural differences among these constructions.

For the sake of easy reference, let us give provisional nicknames