

THE SEMANTICS AND SYNTAX OF THE
JAPANESE GERUNDIVE AND INFINITIVE CONJUNCTIONS*

Ikuhiro Tamori

University of Southern California

0. INTRODUCTION

This paper deals with the semantics and syntax of the gerundive form and infinitive form of verbs in Japanese. While the English conjunction and can serve to connect sentences as well as NPs, Japanese has distinct lexical items on the surface: to for linking NPs and sosite for conjoining sentences. With regard to sentential conjunction, in addition to the above-mentioned sosite 'and', there is another possible way to conjoin sentences, namely by inflecting verbs, adjectives, and nominal adjectives. I call this type of conjunction as inflectional conjunctions. For verbs and adjectives, two forms are available, which can serve as conjunctions: the gerundive forms V-te and Adj. -ku-te and the infinitive forms V-i and Adj. -ku (cf. (1) and (2)), but the gerundive form -de is the only possible form for nominal adjectives (cf. (3)).¹

(1) Zyon ga yama e $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{it-te} \\ \text{ik-i,} \end{array} \right\}$ Marii ga umi e it-ta

John Nom Mountain to go Mary Nom sea to go-Past

'John went to the mountain and Mary went to the sea'