

CONDITIONS ON CONTEXTUAL DELETION*

—A Preliminary Analysis—

Kazuaki Hojo
Fukui University

INTRODUCTION

The X-wa Y da pattern sentence such as Boku-wa unagi da, which was hitherto considered to be a mystery in the syntax of Japanese, has recently become a target of inquiry made by such linguists as Muraki, Okutsu, and Kawamoto.¹ Muraki was the first to formalize the rule to derive this X-wa Y da pattern, which he called Contextual Deletion rule.² This paper is not so much an attempt to investigate the way to derive the pattern as an attempt to explore the conditions under which this X-wa Y da pattern can be derived. In its exploration, our attention will be focused mainly on the environment where two sentences are juxtaposed, the first one supplying the context and the second one being the X-wa Y da sentence.