

ANALYSIS OF THE MEANING OF THE VERB *OSU* AS A POLYSEMY IN JAPANESE SENTENCES: A COGNITIVE LINGUISTIC STUDY

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ABSTRACT

In every language, especially Japanese, there is often a meaning relationship between a word and another word. One of these meaning relationships is polysemy. Polysemy is a word that has more than one meaning. This study provides a comprehensive explanation of the meaning of the verb *osu* and contributes to Japanese language learning. Although the verb *osu* is discussed in basic-level textbooks, the current dictionary descriptions do not always provide enough information for sentence construction. Therefore, a polysemy analysis was conducted. The purpose of this study is to find out what the basic meaning of the verb *osu* is, what meanings are contained in the verb *osu*, and to find out the relationship between the meanings of the verb *osu*. The method used in this research is the descriptive analysis method. Data from various sources were collected, arranged, classified, and then analyzed. The results of the analysis show that the various meanings of the verb *osu* are derived from the basic meaning. The relationship between the meanings of the verb *osu* can be seen from three language styles, namely metaphor, metonymy, and synecdoche.

Keywords: meaning, *osu*, polysemy

INTRODUCTION

Japanese is one of the languages that have a lot of diversity and uniqueness, and if you look at the speakers, there are no other countries that use Japanese as their national language. When viewed from its linguistic aspects, Japanese has certain characteristics that can be observed from the letters used, vocabulary, pronunciation system, grammar, and language varieties.

For Japanese language learners, vocabulary is one of the most important things to learn. In addition to being written in a different font, the words also have different meanings from Indonesian. These differences sometimes cause difficulties in translating Japanese words into Indonesian. The difficulty arises when finding a Japanese word that, when translated into Indonesian, has a different meaning from the meaning that is already generally known by Japanese learners.

Nomura (in Sudjianto, 2009: 149) states that *doushi* (verb) is one of the word classes in Japanese. The word class is used to express the activity, existence, or state of something. Verbs (*doushi*) are one of the word classes (*hinshi*), which are quite numerous. The number of verbs in Japanese is one of the obstacles for Japanese learners when using them in sentences. There are also many polysemous verbs in the Japanese language.

Polysemous words are not uncommon in Japanese textbooks, even at the elementary level, so they often cause problems for learners. And it will be easier for learners to understand if the teacher can explain the meaning of the polysemous verb as a polysemy.

In his book, Sutedi (2018: 79) quotes Kunihiro, who states that polysemy is a word that has more than one meaning and each of these meanings has a relationship that can be

described, in contrast to homophones, which are several words whose sounds are not related at all.

The problems in this study can be formulated as follows: 1. What are the basic meanings (*kihon-gi*) of *osu* verbs as polysemy in Japanese sentences? 2. What are the expanded meanings (*ten-gi*) of *osu* verbs as polysemy in Japanese sentences? 3. What is the relationship between the basic meaning and the expanded meaning of *osu* verbs as polysemy in Japanese sentences?

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The meaning of each word is one of the objects of semantic study because communication using a common language such as Japanese will be smooth if every word used by the speaker in the communication has the same meaning or intention used by the interlocutor. However, neither in dictionaries nor in Japanese language textbooks are the meanings of each word listed in their entirety. The occurrence of language errors for Japanese language learners when communicating with native speakers is because the meaning of information known to learners is still incomplete. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct research that describes the meaning of words one by one thoroughly to improve language skills. One of them is researching words that have more than one meaning, called polysemy (*tagigo*). One polysemous word in Japanese, when translated into Indonesian, can become several different words. The relationship between meanings in each polysemy must be clearly described because it makes it easier for Japanese language learners to understand it (Sutedi, 2018: 122-123).

The basic meaning, called *kihon-gi* (基本義), is the original meaning of a word. The original meaning is the meaning of the language as it is used today. This needs to be emphasized because unlike *gen-gi* (原義) <original meaning>, in modern Japanese, a lot of the original meaning of a word has changed and is no longer used. The basic meaning is sometimes also referred to as the prototype meaning, although it is not exactly the same (Sutedi, 2019: 127).

Expanded meaning, called *ten-gi* (原義), is a meaning that arises as a result of the expansion of the basic meaning, including due to figurative or stylistic use (*hiyu*/比喻). This is argued by adherents of the cognitive linguistics school. The cognitive school, in describing the relationship between meanings in a polysemy, uses a lot of language styles (Sutedi, 2019: 127).

In addition to the above meanings, there is also what is called idiomatic meaning or figurative meaning. Idiomatic meaning or figurative meaning in Tim Penyusun KBBI (2008: 864), namely the meaning of words or groups of words that do not refer to the actual meaning but rather describe something, for example, a woman's crown means 'a woman's hair'.

Polysemy (*tagigo*), according to Kunihiro (Sutedi, 2018: 79) is a word that has more than one meaning, and each of these meanings has a relationship that can be described. In KBBI Pusat Bahasa (2008: 1090), polysemy is about language forms (words, phrases, and so on) that have more than one meaning. In the *Kokugogaku Daijiten* dictionary, Obashi states that *tagigo* is a form of the word that can have more than two meanings. When these meanings have a point of commonality on the part of each meaning and think of the same word order by putting them together, they are called *tagigo* (polysemy) (Obashi, 1980: 32).

One school of linguistics that offers how to describe the relationship between meanings in polysemy is the cognitive school. According to Machida and Momiyama, to describe the meaning of polysemy, among others, three kinds of language styles (*hiyu*) can be

used, namely metaphor, metonymy, and synecdoche, because language life cannot be separated from these language styles (Sutedi, 2018: 86).

- a. Metaphor (隱喻/*in-yu*) is a language style used to compare one thing (e.g. A) to another (e.g. B) due to their similarities (Sutedi, 2019: 163-164).
- b. Metonymy (換喻/*kan-yu*) is a language style used to liken one thing (A) to another (B), because of the proximity or relationship in both space and time (Sutedi, 2019: 164).
- c. Synecdoche (提喻/*tei-yu*) is a language style used to liken a general thing (A) to a more specific thing (B), or conversely, a specific thing (B) is likened to a specific thing (A) (Sutedi, 2008: 164).

METHODS

Type of method used

This research is linguistic research that is included in qualitative research. Sutedi (2018: 22) reveals that qualitative research is research whose data is not in the form of numbers and does not need to be processed by statistical methods; research data can be in the form of sentences, recordings or in other forms. This research is linguistic research that examines the policing of *osu* verbs in terms of cognitive linguistics. Therefore, the suitable research method is the descriptive research method. Descriptive research is non-hypothesis research, so there is no need to formulate a hypothesis.

The descriptive research method is a research method conducted to describe, describe a phenomenon that occurs today using scientific procedures to answer the problem actually. This research is conducted to describe the meaning relationship of *osu* verbs as a polysemy. Therefore, the method used in this research is the descriptive method, which is a method used to determine, describe, and give phenomena that occur naturally without experimental manipulation/abuse. Researchers chose this method because this method is the most suitable to descriptively describe the polarization of *osu* verbs in terms of cognitive linguistics. In general, this research has several stages, namely selecting and formulating problems, determining the type of data and collection procedures, analyzing data, and concluding and making reports (Sutedi, 2018: 58).

The type of data used

The type of data used in this research is qualitative data. The data used in this research is mainly word data, namely example sentences in the form of *jitsurei* containing *osu* verbs. *Jitsurei* is example of sentences using language used in everyday life sourced from published novels.

Data sources used

The data sources used are various novels in Japanese that can be accessed through internet sites.

Data collection techniques used

The data collection technique used by researchers is the listening method accompanied by note-taking techniques. The data collected in the form of examples of sentences that use *osu* verbs are then arranged systematically in the form of data formats/data cards.

Data processing techniques

The steps taken in this research are collecting data, analyzing, and then concluding.

a) Collecting data

Search and collect relevant references and literature and collect as many example sentences from novels and the internet as possible.

b) Classifying meaning (*imi-kubun*)

Search and collect relevant references and literature and collect as many example sentences from novels and the internet as possible.

c) Determine basic meaning (*kihon-gi no ninte*) and extended meaning (*ten-gi no ninte*)

The third step is to determine the basic and expanded meanings of *osu* verbs. The basic meaning is the original meaning or the most basic meaning that a word has and the expanded meaning is the meaning that arises as a result of the expansion of the basic meaning.

d) Describe the relationship between meanings (*tagi-kouzou no hyouji*)

After knowing the basic and extended meanings of *osu* verbs, the meanings are described using three language styles (*hiyu*): metaphor, metonymy, and synecdoche.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In accordance with what has been discussed in the methods section above, there are three main steps that will be taken in analyzing this research, namely (1) determining the basic meaning of the verb *osu*; (2) classifying the extended meaning contained in the verb *osu*; and (3) describing the relationship between the meanings of the verb *osu* in the form of a polysemic structure.

From the data analysis, the following classification of meaning can be found.

1. Basic Meaning (*kihongi*/基本義)

No.	Example Sentence	Synonym	Meaning
1	まっすぐに俺を見つめている少女、その制服姿が、降車の乗客に押されて俺から遠ざかっていく。(Shinkai: 2016) <i>Massuguni oreo mitsumeteiru shōjo sono sēfukusugataga kōshano jōkyakuni osarete orekara tōzakatteiku.</i> A girl was looking at me intently. The uniformed figure was <u>pushed</u> by the passengers getting off the train, away from me.	押す	Pushing = <i>mendorong</i>

2. Expansion Meaning (*tengi*/転義)

No.	Example Sentence	Synonym	Meaning
1	手のひらで背中を押されて思わず踏み込むと、そこはドラマで見るような狭い取調室だった。(Shinkai: 2019) <i>Tenohirade senakao osarete omowazu fumikomuto sokowa doramade miruyōna semai torishirabeshitsudatta.</i>	押し込む	Pushing in (inward)

	He <u>pushed me in</u> with the palm of his hand. The room was a cramped interrogation room like those in television dramas.		
2	ぬぼーっと自転車を押しながら黙ってついてきていたテッシーが、ふいに苛ついたように声を上げた。(Shinkai: 2016) <i>Nubōtto jiten'shao oshinagara damattetsuitekiteita tesshīga fuini iratsuitayōni koeo ageta.</i> Tessi, who had been following us silently while <u>guiding</u> her bike, suddenly shouted as if she was finally fed up.	手を携えてのガイドする	Guiding = <i>menuntun</i> (by holding hands)
3	センパイが壁にあるボタンを <u>押す</u> 。(Shinkai: 2019) <i>Sen'paiga kabeni aru botan'o osu.</i> Elder Brother <u>pressed</u> the button on the wall.	力を入れて押す	Pressing = <i>menekan</i> (with power)
4	「投稿」ボタンを <u>押して</u> しばらくすると、さっそくいくつか返信が届く。(Shinkai: 2019) <i>Tōkō botan'o oshite shibarakusuruto sassoku ikutsuka hen'shin'ga todoku.</i> I <u>pressed</u> the "send" button, and a few moments later some answers appeared.	指で押す	Pressing = <i>memencet/memijit</i> (with fingers)
5	そう言う声が物狂わしい駒子に島村は近づこうとして、葉子を駒子から抱き取ろうとする男達に <u>押されて</u> よろめいた。(Kawabata: 2013) <i>Sō iu koega monoguruwashī komakoni shimamurawa chikazukōto shite yōkoo komakokara dakitorōto suru otokotachini osarete yoromēta.</i> When Shimamura was about to approach Komako, who let out an almost maniacal cry, he staggered, <u>pressed</u> by the men who were trying to take Yoko away from her. (page 143)	体で押す	Pressing = <i>mendesak</i> (with the body)
6	計がヘアスタイルだけは整えようと前髪に手をやっている間に、数はシャッターを <u>押し</u> 、少女にカメラを返していた。(Kawaguchi: 2015) <i>Kēga heasutairudakewa totonoeyōto maegamini teo yatteiru aidani sūwa shattāo oshi shōjoni kamerao kaeshiteita.</i> Kazu had <u>taken</u> a photo while Kei was arranging her hair and fixing her bangs. He returned the camera to the girl.	取る	Taking

3. Makna Idiomatikal (*kanyouku*/慣用句)

No	Contoh Kalimat	Sinonim	Makna
1	未来に行けと計の背中を押した。 (Kawaguchi: 2015) <i>Miraini iketo kēno senakao oshita.</i> He gave her his full <u>support</u> to go into the future.	サポートを提供する	Giving support
2	「だから、そうやって暗い顔して、大丈夫ですか？とかって聞くのもなしね」と、念を押した。(Kawaguchi: 2015) <i>Dakara sō yatte kurai kaoshite daijōbudesuka tokatte kikunomo nashine to nen'o oshita.</i> "Therefore, please stop showing that sad look and stop asking if I'm okay!" Hirai <u>pleaded</u> .	願う	Plead = <i>memohon</i>
3	「だって陽菜さん、本物の晴れ女なんですよね？」と、僕はもう一度念を押ししてみる。(Shinkai: 2019) <i>Datte Hinasan' hon'monono hareon'nanan'desuyone to bokuwa mōichidonen'o oshitemiru.</i> "Hina-san is the real Bright Girl, right?" I asked for confirmation.	確認する	Confirm = <i>memastikan</i>

From the data analysis, it can be seen that in the verb "*osu*", the meaning of "pushing", expands to the meaning of "pushing (inside)" in synecdoche because there is a relationship that shows a general thing is used for a more specific thing, namely initially it can push in any direction, while this expansion specifically pushes in the direction of the inside. Then it expands to "guiding (by holding hands)" in synecdoche because there is a relationship that shows a general thing is used for a more specific thing, namely pushing it by leading while holding hands and holding the object being pushed while walking. Then it expands to "pressing (with power)" in synecdoche because there is a relationship that shows general things are used for more specific things, namely using power. Then it expands to "pressing (with fingers)" in synecdoche because there is a relationship that shows a general thing is used for a more specific thing, which initially can use anything and then push it using only fingers. Then it expands to "pressing (with the body)" in synecdoche because there is a relationship that shows a general thing is used for a more specific thing, which initially can use anything, then pushes by using the whole body. Then it expands to "taking" metonymically because there is a relationship that shows one thing with another on the basis of proximity, here causally close between pushing/pressing and taking. There is no metaphorical expansion of meaning. In addition to the above meanings "*osu*" is also used in various idioms. For example: "*senakao osu*" = to give support, "*nen'o osu*" = to request/plead or confirm.

CONCLUSION

From the data analysis and discussion of the meaning of *osu* verbs that the author has described earlier, the following conclusions can be drawn.

1. The meaning of *osu* verbs as polysemy in Japanese sentences

There are ten meanings contained in the verb *osu* as a polysemy in Japanese sentences, namely pushing (pushing away from the back or the front), 押し込む (pushing in), 手を携えてのガイドする (lead (with hands together)), 力を入れて押す (press (with pressure)), 指で押す (press (with fingers)), 体で押す (press (with the body)) 取る (take) and some idiomatic meanings. At the same time, the idiomatic meal itself has three meanings, namely 背中を押す (Senaka o osu) which means giving support (サポートを提供する), pleading (願う), confirming (確認する).

2. Basic meaning and extended meaning of *osu* verbs as polysemy in Japanese sentences

The basic meaning of the verb *osu* is pushing, i.e. pushing from the back or the front, while the extended meaning of the verb *osu* is 押し込む (pushing in), 手を携えてのガイドする (lead (with hands together)), 力を入れて押す (press (with pressure)), 指で押す (press (with fingers)), 体で押す (press (with the body)), 取る (take), and idiomatic meaning.

3. The relationship between the basic meaning and the expanded meaning of *osu* verbs as polysemy in Japanese sentences

The relationship between the basic meaning and the expanded meaning of *osu* verbs as a polysemy in Japanese sentences uses three kinds of language styles, namely metaphor, metonymy, and synecdoche. There are eight synecdoche meanings, namely 押し込む (to push in), 手を携えてのガイドする (to lead (with hands together)), 力を入れて押す (to press (with pressure)), 指で押す (to press (with fingers)), 体で押す (to press (with the body)), and metonymical expansion there is one meaning of 取る (taking), as well as some idiomatic meanings. There is no metaphorical expansion of meaning.

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