

Characteristics of Meaning in Japanese Relative Clauses

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini berfokus pada jenis klausa yang dikenal sebagai klausa relatif, yang ditinjau dari perspektif semantik. Penelitian ini termasuk dalam penelitian kualitatif. Data yang terkumpul kemudian dianalisis menggunakan metode analisis data kualitatif berdasarkan teori Creswell (2013). Teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini mengacu pada pendekatan teori makna menurut Comrie (1981). Secara umum, para ahli bahasa membagi jenis fungsional klausa relatif menjadi (a) klausa relatif restriktif (KRR) dan (b) klausa relatif non-restriktif (KRNR). Dalam Klausa Relatif Jepang, makna klausa relatif juga ditemukan ambigu. Klausa relatif restriktif mengacu pada klausa relatif yang memberikan informasi penting untuk mengidentifikasi atau membatasi subjek atau objek yang sedang dibahas. Klausa relatif non-restriktif memberikan informasi tambahan tentang kata benda yang berfungsi sebagai anteseden, tetapi tidak membatasi atau mengidentifikasinya secara spesifik. Ambiguitas dalam klausa relatif Jepang terjadi karena mereka memiliki dua atau lebih interpretasi yang berbeda tergantung pada konteks kalimat atau struktur di mana mereka digunakan. Ambiguitas dalam klausa relatif sering ditemukan dalam bahasa Jepang karena struktur kalimatnya lebih fleksibel.

Kata Kunci: *Klausa relatif; semantik, restriktif; non restriktif; ambigu*

Abstract

This research focuses on the type of clause known as a relative clause, which is reviewed from a semantic perspective. This research is included in qualitative research. The collected data were then analyzed using qualitative data analysis methods based on the theory of Creswell (2013). The theory used in this study refers to the theory of meaning approach according to Comrie (1981). Generally, linguists divide the functional types of relative clauses into (a) restrictive relative clauses (RRC) and (b)

non-restrictive relative clauses (NRRC). In Japanese Relative Clauses, the meaning of relative clauses is also found to be ambiguous. A restrictive relative clause refers to a relative clause that provides essential information to identify or limit the subject or object being discussed. A non-restrictive relative clause provides additional information about the noun that serves as an antecedent, but does not restrict or identify it specifically. Ambiguity in Japanese relative clauses occurs because they have two or more different interpretations depending on the context of the sentence or the structure in which they are used. Ambiguity in relative clauses is often found in Japanese due to the more flexible sentence structure.

Keywords: *Relative clause; semantics, restrictive; non-restrictive; ambiguous*

I. Introduction

Everything in this world can be visualized through language. Language can be said to be the foundation of everything in this world. Learning a language requires understanding its rules. This is because each language in the world has its own characteristics. Therefore, foreign language learners must know and understand each characteristic of the foreign language they are studying. One such example is learning Japanese.

Japanese has its own characteristics that Japanese learners must know and understand. This is essential for communicating information to others in the language they are learning. The goal is for learners to communicate well and correctly so that the information conveyed is received well by the other person, both verbally and in writing, and vice versa.

The characteristics of Japanese that distinguish it from other foreign languages are the large number of words written in kanji and the SOV (Subject-Object-Verb) pattern of Japanese sentences. Kindaichi (1986) classifies the characteristics of Japanese into five major groups: *hatsuon* (pronunciation), *moji* (letters), *goi* (words), *bunpou* (grammar), and *hyogen* (expressions). This study focuses on the characteristics of Japanese *bunpou* (grammar), which is included in the syntax group. The elements of language included in the scope of syntax are phrases, clauses, and sentences. According to Verhaar (1999:161), syntax is the science that discusses the relationships between words in speech. These relationships include grammatical units that include phrases, clauses, and sentences. The definition of syntax from several opinions in From the above, it can be concluded that syntax is a part of linguistics that studies the formation of structures in phrases, clauses, and sentences. In this research, the object of study is clauses.

A clause is a grammatical unit consisting of a group of words consisting of at least a subject and a predicate and having the potential to become a sentence (Kridalaksana, 1983:118). This research focuses on a type of clause known as a relative clause, viewed semantically. From a semantic perspective, they are divided into restrictive relative clauses and non-restrictive relative clauses. The following are the linguistic phenomena that are the focus of this research:

(1) There shiroi boushi wo Kabute Iru hito wa,

That-DEM white hat ACC use-PROG person
NOM Tawapon san desu.
Name ART COP
'The person wearing the white hat is Mr. Tawapon'

From the example of lingual phenomenon (1), the relative clause is *shiroi boushi wo kabutte iru* 'who is wearing a white hat' which functions to expand the information from the antecedent hito 'person'. The relative clause in this sentence is classified as a non-restrictive relative clause because the relative clause can be removed without changing the meaning. This is what is interesting about this research.

The following are studies that have been conducted by previous researchers that are related and can be used as references for this research. Prideaux (1987) explores the nature of processing strategies in detail in an attempt to cut through the often-conflicting and confusing maze of proposals regarding the nature and form of various strategies. Once a preliminary conception of the nature of cognitive strategies and hypotheses about how they interact with linguistic structures have been established, their use is explored by testing experiments that address the role specific strategies play in sentence production. The authors distinguish between strategies, on the one hand, and grammatical structures, on the other. They argue that, in principle, strategies should be defined as language-independent, cognitively based operations that engage in cognitive domains other than language, but that, in linguistic processing, interact with language-specific structures to facilitate processing. Furthermore, strategies are not linguistic rules because, unlike rules, they allow for exceptions and express tendencies rather than strict yes-no choices. This book contributes to the understanding of strategies and relative clause structures. This research also discusses the relationship between strategies and the emergence of meaning in relative clauses.

Kidd (2011) in his book entitled "The Acquisition of Relative Clauses: Processing, Typology, and Function" explains the acquisition and processing of relative clauses, which have long been a challenge for psycholinguistic researchers. This book presents a collection of chapters discussing the acquisition of relative clauses, with a particular focus on function, typology, and language processing. A variety of theoretical and linguistic approaches are used to acquire this type of construction. This book will be of interest to students and scholars interested in syntactic acquisition and processing, with a particular focus on complex sentences from a cross-linguistic and functionalist perspective. This book contributes to the understanding of relative clause typology. However, this research does not touch on the domain of relative clause acquisition and processing.

Atindogbé (2017) in his book entitled "Relative Clauses in Cameroonian Languages: Structure, Function, and Semantics" This book presents a series of nine (9) contributions to the understanding of relativization strategies in eleven (11) Cameroonian languages spread across seven (7) sub-branches of the Niger-Congo phylum: Ekoid, Mambiloid, Mamfe, Mbam, Narrow Bantu, Broad Grassland, Yemne-Kimbi. As a productive strategy in the world's languages, and considering the evidence

that African languages are under-described, poorly described or not described at all, an investigation into the form, structure and function of relative clauses and relativization is beginning to fill a gap in the world's languages. There is a lack of analytical descriptive work on the topic. This book examines relative clause construction, its structure and constraints, its morphosyntactic properties, how it is used to highlight thematic topics or participants in a given discourse, and to mark the boundaries of text units, and the formal characteristics of restrictive relative clause construction. The findings thus far provide an endless source of information for many fields of hyphenated linguistics, including general linguistics, cognitive linguistics, applied psycholinguistics, psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics, cognitive psychology, linguistics, and pragmatics. This book contributes to the discussion of relative clauses from a structural and semantic perspective. However, this study analyzes the characteristics of relative clauses in Japanese.

Pradhana (2021) in the *Kiryoku Journal* (Sinta 4) with the research title "Relative Clause Patterns in Japanese and Indonesian." This study examines the comparison of relative clauses in Japanese and Indonesian. The analytical method used in this study is the distribution method. Based on the analysis that has been conducted, several conclusions can be drawn as follows. In Indonesian, Relative Clauses are marked by the word "yang" as a connecting demonstrative. There are differences in the formation of Relative Clauses in Indonesian and Japanese. namely, in Indonesian, a relative clause can only consist of the word "yang" as a relative clause marker and a predicate that functions as a modifier, then followed by the main sentence. Meanwhile, in Japanese, a relative clause consists of at least an object and a predicate as a modifier followed by the main sentence. The contribution of this study is to provide an overview of relative clauses. The difference is that this study specifically discusses Japanese relative clauses by reviewing in more depth the structure of their relativity and strategies related to Japanese relative clauses.

Ueno (2008) in the international journal "Language and Cognitive Processes" with a study entitled "ERP study of the processing of subject and object relative clauses in Japanese". Through an ERP study, this study investigated the processing of Japanese subject and object relative clauses. In contrast to English, the gap in Japanese relative clauses is less clearly marked and precedes the filler, and the linear gap filler distance is shorter in OR than in SR. However, Japanese OR takes longer to read (Ishizuka, Nakatani, & Gibson, 2003; Miyamoto & Nakamura, 2003), possibly because in English and Japanese, the gap in OR is embedded more deeply, with the result that there is a longer structural distance between the filler and the gap in its syntactic representation (O'Grady, 1997). This study investigated the gap-filler association in Japanese compared to the filler-gap association in English, and whether linear or structural distance determines comprehension difficulty. The results indicate higher processing costs for OR than SR in both reading time and ERPs, and are thus most consistent with a structural distance account. The results also indicate that gap-filling difficulty manifests itself as a greater centro-posterior positivity in ERP responses to Japanese OR sentences, as it does in English long-distance dependencies

(cf. Kaan, Harris, Gibson, & Holcomb, 2000; Phillips, Kazanina, & Abada, 2005; Gouvea, Phillips, Kazanina, & Poeppel, 2007). There is also evidence that there is a probabilistic cue from the gap in Japanese OR sentences that triggers an anterior negativity – similar to the triggering of anterior negativity by the filler that is clearly marked in English gap-filler sentences (cf. Kluender & Kutas, 1993a, 1993b). Thus, we argue that there are substantial similarities between the processing of English gap-filler constructions and Japanese gap-filler constructions.

II. Method

This research is included in qualitative research. Creswell (2016) states that qualitative research is a type of research that explores and understands the meanings of individuals or groups of people arising from social issues. Qualitative research can generally be used for research on community life, history, behavior, concepts or phenomena, social problems, and so on. Data sources commonly used in qualitative research include interviews and conversations with informants to gather information from their perspectives. In this study, the data sources analyzed came from media and publications from the website <https://www.sukasuki.org/koran-sukasuki/>.

The SUKI newspaper is a publication published in January 2016. The SUKI newspaper aims to help Japanese language learning and provide the latest news from Japan. This newspaper is published in two languages, namely Japanese and Indonesian. It can be used as a learning tool and information source for researchers and Japanese language learners. In addition to publishing the newspaper, SUKI also sponsors cultural events and provides consultations for those who want to study or work in Japan.

The research began by collecting data regarding the use of Japanese relative clauses in relation to the research subjects, as seen from their grammatical structure. Several commonly used qualitative data collection methods exist, including interviews, observation, focus groups, online data collection, and document analysis. In this study, data was collected through document analysis. Document analysis is a data collection method that involves analyzing documents relevant to the research, such as reports, notes, or articles (Prior: 2003). This data collection method was followed by a phenomenological approach. The phenomenological approach (Moustakes: 1994) involves collecting data through interviews and observations to understand participants' experiences and perceptions.

The implementation of this research, using the chosen method, emphasized the use of Japanese relative clauses by identifying, describing, and analyzing existing data. The study began with data collection regarding the use of Japanese relative clauses in relation to the research subjects, as seen from their grammatical structure. This data was obtained through literature review, namely data collection from various written sources, including newspapers, magazines, and other Japanese documents containing relative clauses.

The collected data was then analyzed using qualitative data analysis methods based on Creswell's theory. Creswell explains that qualitative data analysis methods are iterative and spiral, not linear. Iterative refers to the researcher's continuous return to data, codes, and themes to refine understanding. Analysis also occurs throughout the

research process, not just after data collection is complete. Creswell refers to the "data analysis spiral," which refers to the researcher's activity moving through several stages of analysis iteratively, rather than linearly. Each stage takes the researcher deeper into the meaning of the data, like a spiral that deepens. Researchers often revise themes/categories based on new insights that emerge during the analysis process. This differs significantly from quantitative analysis, which is more systematic and rigid.

During the analysis process, the collected data is then identified using Leipzig glossing. Leipzig glossing is a notation system used to represent the morphological and syntactic structures of language in a simpler and more systematic form, facilitating language analysis and comparison. The basic principle of using Leipzig glossing includes using abbreviations to represent grammatical categories such as NOM (nominative), ACC (accusative), V (verb), N (noun), and others. Leipzig glossing also uses a slash (/) to separate morphemes within a word. It also uses a hyphen (-) to separate morphemes related to morphological processes. Using this method, the data obtained in this study were analyzed by examining the structure of relative clauses and their relativization strategies, as well as identifying the meaning contained within these relative clauses.

The final stage is the presentation of the analysis results. The presentation stage is the researcher's attempt to present the findings of the analysis, particularly the principles, in a written "report" (Sudaryanto, 1993: 7). Depending on the type of data analyzed, the principles are presented using qualitative data presentation methods. These principles are presented in various formats, including narratives, tables, graphs, coding, and matrices. In this study, the principles related to the structure, strategy, and meaning of Japanese relativity are presented in narrative form.

Narrative presentation of analysis results involves presenting data in the form of a narrative or story that illustrates the phenomenon being studied (Riessman, 2008). The analytical results are presented in narrative form using descriptive and analytical approaches. The descriptive approach can describe the phenomenon being studied in detail (Wolcott, 1994). The analytical approach, on the other hand, can include interpretation and analysis of qualitative data (Strauss & Corbin, 1998). These two approaches are used so that readers can understand empirically and theoretically the findings of this research.

III. Theory

According to Shibatani (2017), a relative clause is a clause used to explain or provide additional information about a noun. In line with Shibatani's thinking, Iori (2012) classifies this embedded/relative clause into two types, namely uchi no kankei and soto no kankei based on the type of meaning contained in the relative clause. The uchi no kankei type is divided into restrictive relative clauses and non-restrictive relative clauses. Meanwhile, the soto no kankei type shows the presence of pseudo-relative markers in Japanese relative clauses.

In a number of languages, all relative clauses are of the restrictive type; this is true in Kambara (Austronesian, Indonesia; Klamer 1998: 316), Manambu (Aikhenvald 2008a: 468), and Jarawara (Dixon 2004a: 525). Tosco (2001 : 282) states that Dhaasanac uses

non-restrictive relative clause constructions also found in other languages. Munro (1976 : 205–7) states that in Mojave there is no structure or intonation difference, but for non-restrictive constructions, general arguments must have a definite reference.

According to Downing (1978 :379) restrictive relative clauses function to express assertions that are not to convey new information, but to limit the reference of the antecedent noun phrase to the possible referents whose assertions are believed to be true; while non- restrictive relative clauses function to express an independent assertion or additional assertion regarding the antecedent noun phrase. According to Comrie (1981 :131-132), Hannay and Vester (1987:39-40) and Djajasudarma (1997:25) restrictive relative clauses function to provide information on the limitations of the antecedent noun phrase, thus changing the intended meaning, therefore they cannot be removed or are obligatory; while non-restrictive relative clauses function to provide additional information on the antecedent noun phrase and do not change the intended meaning, therefore their presence is optional.

Jacobs (1998: 310) distinguishes between restrictive relative clauses and non-restrictive relative clauses as follows: the main function of a restrictive relative clause is to identify the referent while a non-restrictive relative clause adds information about the referent being discussed or omitted, the pronunciation of a restrictive relative clause in the structure is emphasized on the first syllable of the noun phrase while in a non-restrictive relative clause it is emphasized on the main clause (in spoken or by including a comma (in writing), the information structure of a restrictive relative clause is a unified information unit from the antecedent noun while in a non-restrictive relative clause it is followed by an appositive from two different information units, proper nouns cannot be in restrictive relative clauses but can be in non-restrictive relative clauses followed by an appositive, and intransitive restrictive relative clauses can use extraposition which is moved outside the noun phrase at the end of the clause and does not apply to non-restrictive relative clauses.

Celce (1999: 594) also identifies restrictive relative clauses as clauses that function to modify the same as an adjective that limits or identifies an antecedent noun, while non- restrictive relative clauses only function to add information about the antecedent noun phrase. Based on the theories put forward by these experts, it can be understood that the function of a restrictive relative clause is as a limiter of the antecedent noun phrase; while the function of a non-restrictive relative clause is as additional information to its antecedent noun phrase. A restrictive relative clause is an integral part of its parent clause, it cannot be removed, on the other hand, a non-restrictive relative clause is only new information derived from the free base clause, so it can be removed. Thus, these theories can be used as indicators in distinguishing between restrictive relative clauses and non-restrictive relative clauses in this study. In addition, this theory will be developed, because based on data phenomena, it turns out that there are two types of behavior expressed in restrictive relative clauses, as well as in non-restrictive relative clauses.

IV. Discussion

The discussion of the meaning of relative clauses in this section relates to the

functional meaning of relative clauses relative to antecedents. Generally, linguists divide functional types of relative clauses into (a) restrictive relative clauses (RRC) and (b) non-restrictive relative clauses (NRRC). In Japanese relative clauses, the meaning of relative clauses is also found to be ambiguous. The following is an explanation.

4.1 Meaning of Restrictive Relative Clauses

In Japanese, restrictive relative clauses are known as 限定的な関係節/*genteiteki na kankeisetsu*. A restrictive relative clause refers to a relative clause that provides essential information to identify or limit the subject or object being discussed. This clause limits the intended referent and cannot be omitted without significantly changing the meaning of the sentence.

Watashi ga yonde iru hon wa omoshiroi desu. 'The book I read was interesting.'

(4-1) *Watashi ga yondeiru Hon*
I TOP read-PROG Book
'the book I read.'

In data (4-1), the relative clause *Watashi ga yonde iru* 'that I read' limits the books in question, that is, only the book I am currently reading is mentioned. Without this clause, the information would be more general.

Kyōto ni sunde iru ani wa kyōshi desu.

'The older brother who lives in Kyoto is a teacher' (4-2) *Kyoto This sundeiru Ani*

Name LOC Tinggal-PROG Older
brother 'My older brother who lives in Kyoto.'

In data (4-2), *Kyōto ni sunde iru* 'who lives in Kyoto' limits the meaning to 'older brother'. This could mean that there may be more than one older brother, and only the one living in Kyoto is a teacher.

Characteristics of Restrictive Relative Clauses:

Relative clauses are not separated by commas.

The clause provides the information needed to understand the reference more specifically.

4.2 Meaning of Non-Restrictive Relative Clauses

In Japanese, a non-restrictive relative clause is known as 非制限の関係節/*hiseigenteki kankeisetsu*. A non-restrictive relative clause is a relative clause that provides additional information about the noun that functions as an antecedent, but does not limit or identify it specifically. This information is optional and can be omitted without changing the core meaning of the main sentence. In other words, this clause can be omitted without changing the basic meaning of the sentence.

In Japanese, nonrestrictive relative clauses are usually connected with the particle *ga* or *no* after the noun they modify, and are often separated by commas to indicate that they provide additional information.

Kare wa Nihon ni sunde iru, Tōkyō ni sunde iru hito

desu. 'He lives in Japan, the person who lives in Tokyo.'

(4-3) Tokyo this sunde iru hito dear.
Name LOC Tinggal-PRS-PROG Person
COP ' people who live in Tokyo.'

In data (4-3), the clause Tōkyō ni sunde iru 'who lives in Tokyo' provides additional information about the person, without changing the meaning of the main sentence Kare wa Nihon ni sunde iru ' He lives in Japan'. The meaning of the main sentence can still stand alone and be understood without the additional clause.

Watashi wa Eigo wo hanaseru tomodachi ga imasu, kanojo wa totemo yasashii. ' I have a friend who can speak English , he is very good.'

(4-4) Watashi wa eigo Wow hanaseru
tomodachi I-1SG NOM English ACC talk.POT
Friend
'I have a friend who can speak English.'

In data (4-4) consists of two clauses. The first clause is also the main clause, Watashi wa Eigo o hanaseru tomodachi ga imasu 'I have a friend who can speak English'. Then followed by the second clause as additional information from the main clause, kanojo wa totemo yasashii ' He is very kind' . The second clause is additional information that does not change the main meaning that the speaker has a friend who can speak English. Characteristics of non-restrictive relative clauses:

Separated by Commas in Writing.

In writing, these clauses are usually separated by punctuation such as commas (,) to indicate that they are additional information.

Often uses demonstrative words such as soshite and mataha . The information in this clause does not identify the main topic; it often contains additional conjunctions such as soshite 'and also' or mataha 'or'. These clauses are useful for adding information without changing the basic meaning.

Can be removed without changing the essential meaning

If this clause is deleted, the main sentence still has a complete meaning and can be understood well.

Does not limit or narrow the meaning of the modified noun.

So, non-restrictive relative clauses in Japanese function more to provide additional details or details about something without changing the main information in the sentence. In comparison, there are also non-restrictive relative clauses that provide additional information, but not information that is important for identifying the subject or object in question.

4.3 The Meaning of Japanese Relative Clauses is Ambiguous

Ambiguity in Japanese relative clauses refers to situations where a relative clause can have two or more different interpretations depending on the context or structure of the sentence. Ambiguity in relative clauses is common in Japanese due to its more flexible sentence structure than in other languages, particularly in terms of subject and object placement and the absence of relative markers.

Things that are the reasons for the emergence of ambiguous meanings in Japanese relative clauses include:

1. Relative Clause Structure

Japanese relative clauses have an ambiguous structure, making it difficult to determine which noun is modified by the relative clause.

2. Use of Particles

Particles in Japanese have several functions so they can create ambiguous meanings in relative clauses.

3. Contexts

The meaning of Japanese relative clauses is very dependent on the context of the sentence or conversation so it can give rise to ambiguous meanings if the context is not clear. The following is data on Japanese relative clauses that have ambiguous meanings.

(4-5) Watashi Wa this wow Mita Neko wow yondeimasu.
I-1SG TOP dog ACC view-PST Cat ACC call.PSR-
PROG 'I call the cat that the dog sees.'

In data (4-5), the relative clause can have two different meanings. This depends on the noun described by the relative clause. The first meaning can refer to the noun "dog" i.e. 'I call the cat that sees the dog', and it can also refer to the second meaning which emphasizes the noun "cat"

i.e. 'I call the cat that the dog sees'. This depends on the speaker's perspective related to the context of the conversation.

(4-6) Kanojo wa kite iru otoko wo shite iru.
The girl TOP Coming-PST Man ACC Tahu-PRS-PROG.Q
'Does she (the woman) know the man who came.'

In data (4-6), the relative clause can have multiple meanings depending on the reader's perspective. This clause likely has a structural error. If "wa" is interpreted as "come," then this sentence could mean "Is she (the woman) waiting for the man to arrive?" or have other meanings depending on the context. From this data, it can be assumed that the first meaning is 'she knows the man who came', and the second meaning is 'she knows the man who made her come'. This creates an ambiguous meaning due to the sentence structure and the use of particles. A similar thing can be seen in the following data.

(4-7) Watashi Wa sensei-ni atta gakusei wo Shokaishimashita.
I-1SG TOP Teacher-LOC meet-PST Student ACC introduce POL-
PST 'I introduce the students who met the teacher.'

Based on the context and emphasis on the antecedents, data (4-7) can be viewed from two meanings, namely:

Meaning 1: 'I introduce the students who meet the teacher.'
Meaning 2: 'I introduced the students the teacher met.'

(4-8) Kare Wa Tsukutta sushi Wow tabeteimasu
He TOP Create-PST Sushi ACC Eat.PSR-
PROG 'He ate the sushi he made.'

In data (4-8), we can also trace different meanings based on the context of the sentence. The meanings that arise include:

Meaning (1) : He ate the sushi he made.

Meaning (2) : He eats sushi made by someone else.

Ambiguity can occur in Japanese relative clauses because:

Unclear antecedent position. In some cases, the subject or object of a relative clause can be confusing if there is no clear marker in the sentence, for example, if the subject or object that functions as an antecedent in the relative clause can be interpreted as the subject of the main clause or vice versa.

The absence of a clear demonstrative or marker. In Japanese, the subject or object is often not explicitly stated in a relative clause, so the reader or listener must rely on context to understand who is performing or receiving the action.

This kind of ambiguity can be avoided by constructing sentences more carefully or by using clear demonstratives or markers. For example, by adding more detailed explanations to the sentence or ensuring that the subject or object of a relative clause is clear from the context.

V. Conclusion

Relative clauses in Japanese are known as 連体修飾節 (rentai shūshoku setsu) which function to modify nouns. Japanese relative clauses can have three types of meanings: restrictive, non-restrictive, and ambiguous. Restrictive relative clauses in Japanese are characterized by their non-comma-separated nature, providing information necessary to understand the referent more specifically. Non-restrictive relative clauses in Japanese serve to provide additional details or details about something without changing the main information in the sentence. In comparison, non-restrictive relative clauses provide additional information, but not information that is essential for identifying the intended subject or object. Ambiguous meanings are also found in Japanese relative clauses due to their more flexible sentence structure compared to other languages, particularly in terms of subject and object placement and the absence of relative markers.

Characteristics of the Meaning of Restrictive and Non-Restrictive Relative Clauses in Japanese. Restrictive relative clauses in Japanese have several characteristics, including: using relative particles such as (no), (ga), (o), or (ni) to connect the relative clause to the head noun. Restrictive clauses in Japanese cannot be deleted because deleting part of the relative clause can change the meaning. Restrictive relative clauses in Japanese do not use punctuation such as commas or periods to separate the relative clause from the head noun that receives the relative clause. Restrictive relative clauses in Japanese use certain relative words such as demonstratives (sono), (kono), (ano), and others that function to connect the relative clause to the head noun. Meanwhile, the characteristics of non-restrictive relative clauses in Japanese include being able to provide additional information about the head noun but are not necessary to identify the head noun's reference. Non-restrictive relative clauses in Japanese can be

deleted without changing the meaning of the main clause. Japanese non-restrictive relative clauses can be marked with a comma to separate the relative clause from the head noun. Japanese non-restrictive relative clauses use certain particles such as (no), (ga), (o), or (ni) to connect the head noun to the relative clause. Japanese non-restrictive relative clauses express a non-essential relationship between the head noun and the relative clause. Restrictive and non-restrictive relative clauses are described into several derivative meanings based on the relationship between the relative clause and the head noun in Japanese, including explaining properties or characteristics, stating relationships, stating locations or places, stating time or periods, and stating causes or reasons. Ambiguity is also found. Ambiguity in Japanese relative clauses refers to situations where the relative clause can have two or more different interpretations depending on the context of the sentence or the structure used. Ambiguity in relative clauses is often found in Japanese because the sentence structure is more flexible than other languages, especially in terms of the placement of subjects and objects.

VI. Suggestion

This research focuses on the meaning associated with Japanese relative clauses. This problem is still linked to syntactic and semantic typology to discover the characteristics of Japanese relative clauses compared to other languages in the world. A suggestion for further research is to discuss the pragmatic elements of Japanese relative clauses as they relate to the speech sequence patterns of Japanese people. This is very interesting because it can reveal the characteristics of Japanese communication styles.

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