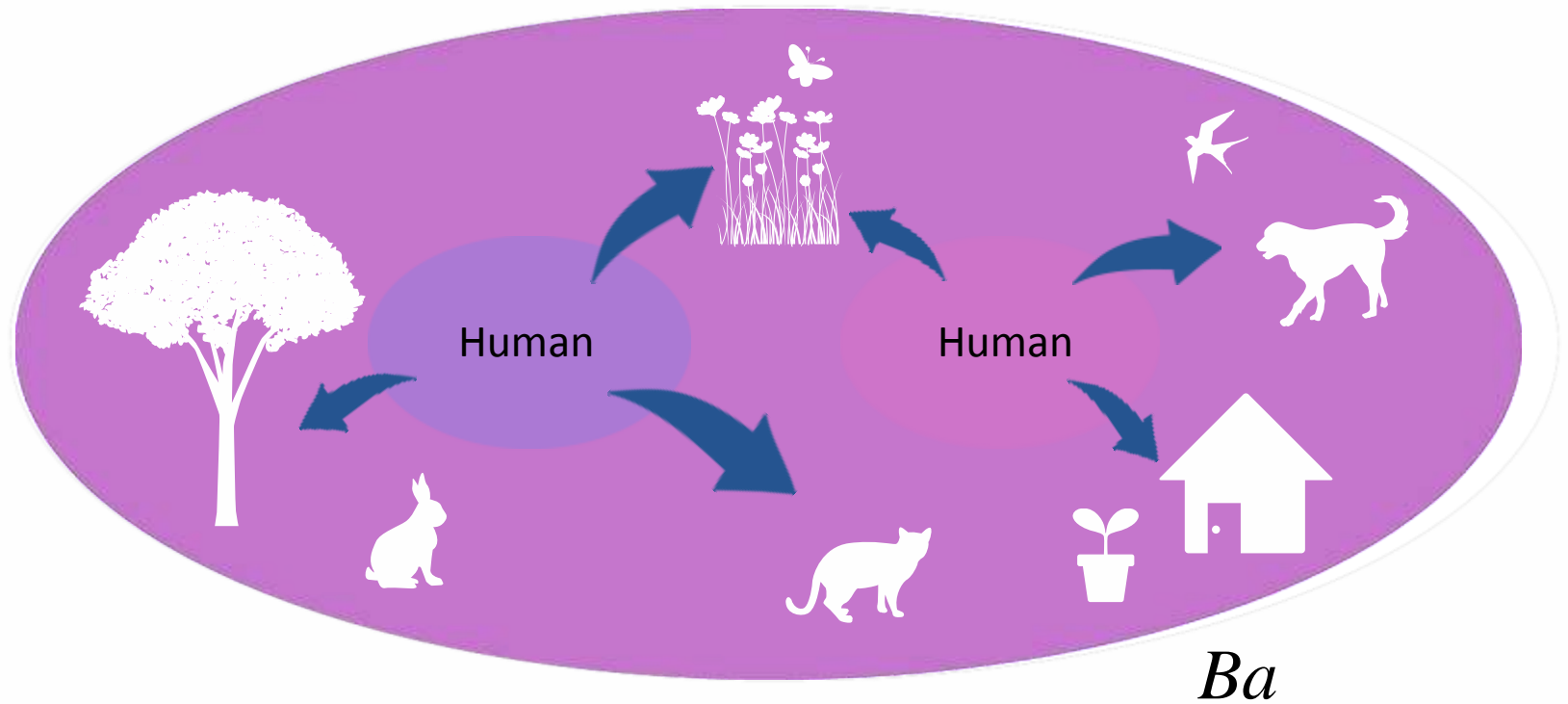# *Ba*-Oriented Culture and Predicate-Oriented Language
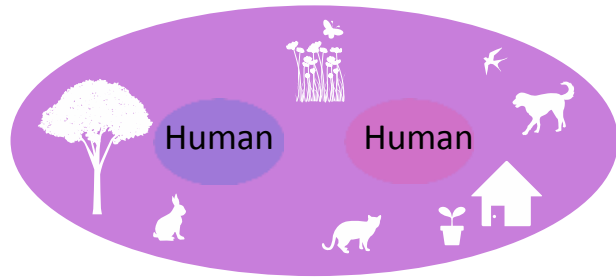
Japan Women's University

Yoko Fujii

yokofujii@nifty.com

Ba-Oriented Culture

Ba-Oriented Culture

➢ Self-organization in *ba*

➢ Predicative/holistic representation

➢ Internal point of view

◇Interdependent view of the self and others
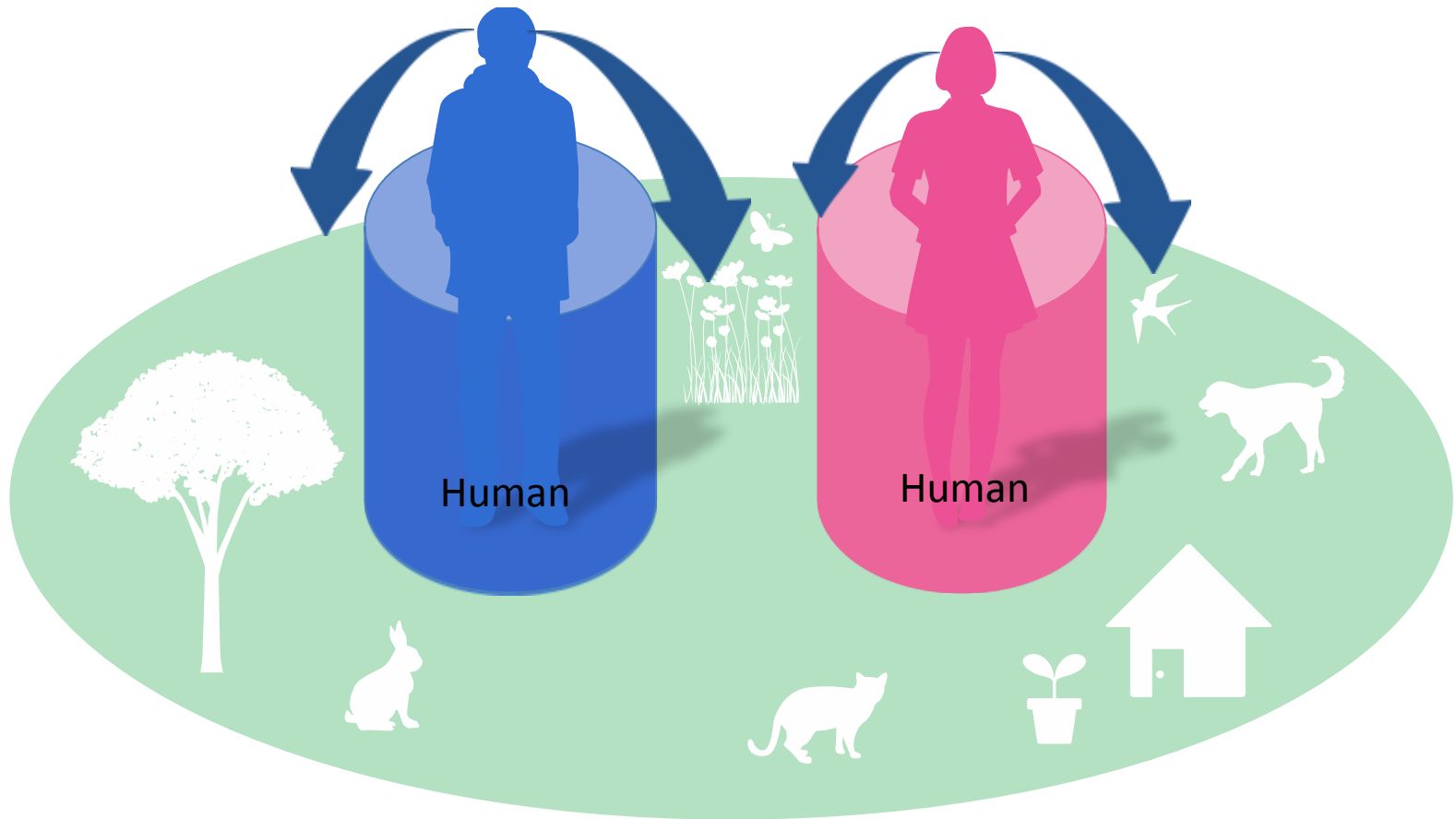
Markes and Kitayama (1991), Nisbett (2003)

◇ Relative and other-oriented self-designation   Suzuki (1978)
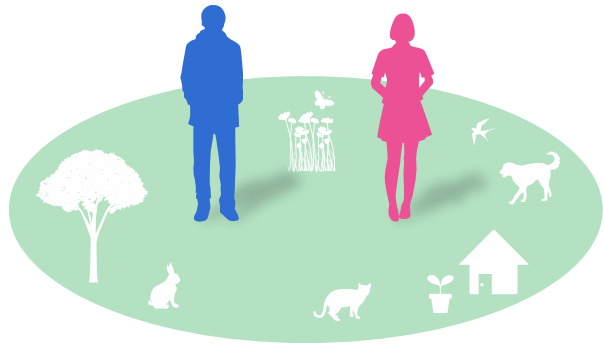
◇ Predicative/holistic view   Shimizu (1995 and others)

Western Thinking

Western Thinking

➢ Separation from the environment/*ba*

➢ Dichotomous view

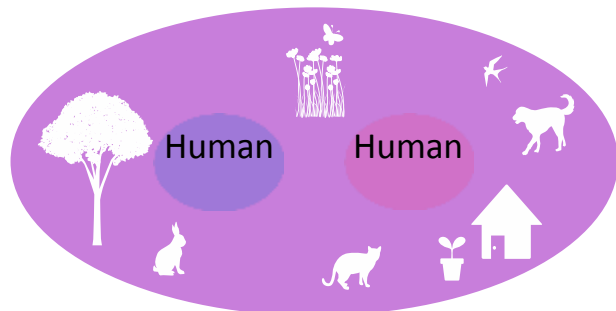➢ Outer/objective point of view

⬇

✧ View of the self as independent from others

Markes and Kitayama (1991), Nisbett (2003)

✧ Absolute type of self-designation   Suzuki (1973)

✧ Dichotomous view

➤ Self-Identification in Terms of *Ba*

ba → person (*ba*-focus identification)
   (1) a. Tokyo-to
       Bunkyo-ku
       Mejirodai 2-8-1
       Japan Women's University
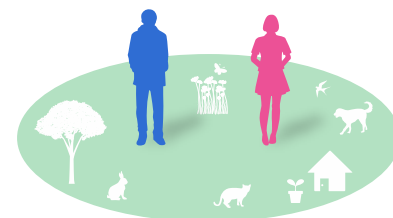   FUJII Yoko

person→ *ba* (person-focus identification)

     b. Yoko FUJII
       Japan Women's University
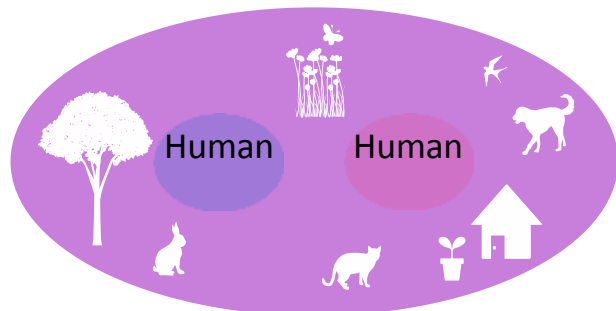   2-8-1 Mejirodai
       Bunkyo-ku
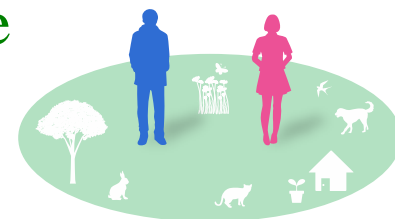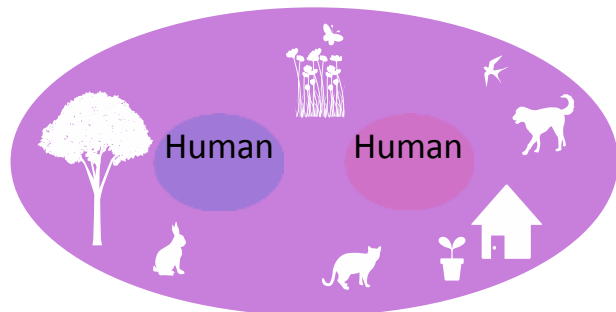   Tokyo

Human   Human

➢ *Ba*-Oriented Clause Structure

ba → person (agent)

(2) a. *kinou   koen-de   tomodachi-ni   at -ta.*
        yesterday   park –LOC friend   -DAT meet-PST
   (lit.) Yesterday in the park (I) met a friend.

   b. I met my friend in the park yesterday.
      = person (agent)-oriented clause structure

➢ *Ba*-Oriented Description
= Situation-Focus/Holistic Description 1

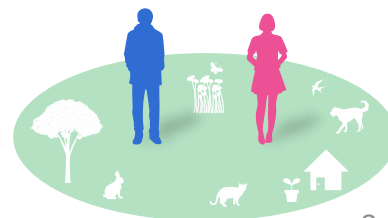(*Doraemon vol. 9*)

< situation-focus/holistic description >
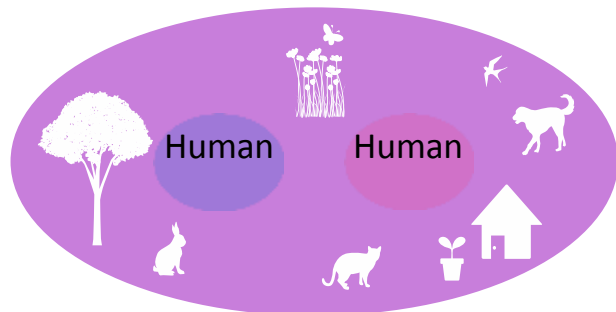(3) a. *Uchi -ni   omoshiroi-mono-ga   aru-yo*
       home-LOC   interesting–things-NOM   be   -FP
     (lit.) "There are interesting things at home."

< person-focus description >
     b. I have something interesting at home.

> *Ba*-Oriented Description
= Situation-Focus/Holistic Description 2

< situation-focus/holistic description >
 (4) a. *Kojin   -no   besso   -wa   sokokoko   -ni   ikutsudemo*
     individual-GEN summer.house-TOP   here.and.there-LOC   many

     tate –rare –te   -i   -ta.
     build-PASS -GER-be -PST

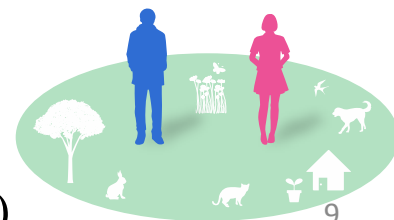   (lit.) "Many private summer houses were built here and there."

< person-focus description >
     b. Many rich families had built their villas there.
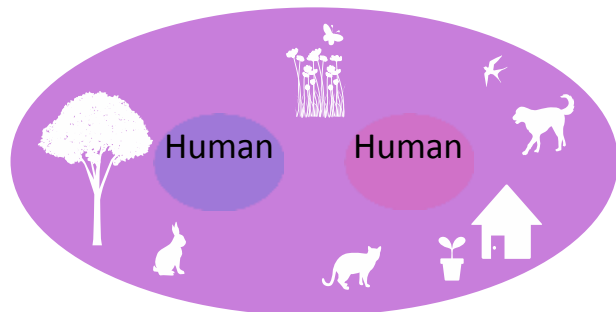
                                        (*Kokoro)*

     (Endo 2014)

> *Ba*-Oriented Description
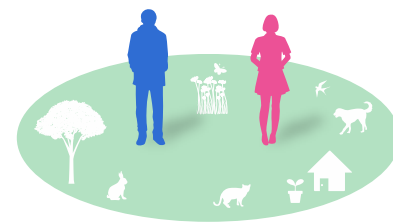= Situation-Focus/Holistic Description 3

< situation-focus/holistic description >
   (5) a. *Sugee   warai-goe*
        terrific   laugh –voice
        (lit.) "Terrific laughter."

< person-focus description >
        b. You can hear them a mile off.

(*Nodame Cantabile* 2007)

(Endo 2014)
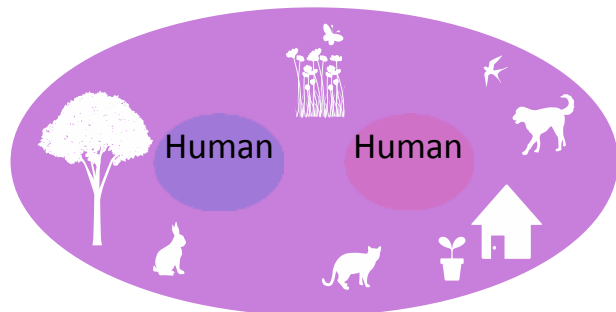
➤ *Ba*-Oriented Description
   = Egoless Expressions 1

DO-language vs. BECOME-language   Ikegami (1991)

< egoless expression >   BECOME-language
   (6) a. *Hikkosu-koto-ni   nari   -mashi-ta*
             move   - NM-DAT   become -POL   -PST
       (lit.) "The fact comes to the situation in which (I) am moving ."

< person-focus description >   DO-language
          b. I am moving.

> *Ba*-Oriented Description
>   = Egoless Expressions 2

< egoless expression>
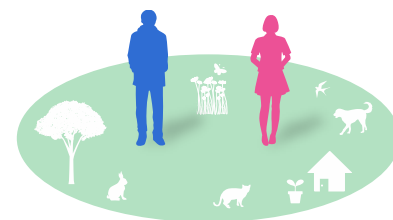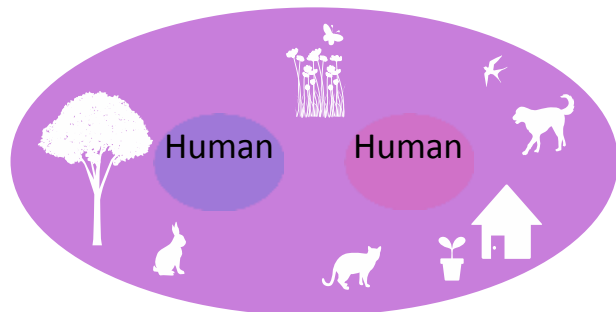
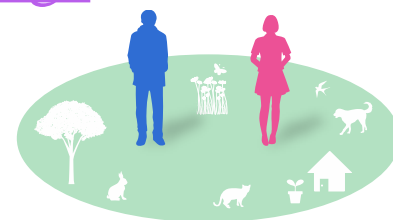(7) a. *Buji-ni   teinen   -made tsutome -sase -te-*
         safe –LOC retirement.age -until   serve   -CAUS-GER

   itadaki   -mashi-ta
   receive. HON - POL   -PERF

(lit.) "(I) have been given (the chance by someone) to have me
         serve without any trouble until retirement age."

< person-focus description >
   b. I have worked without any trouble
      until retirement age.
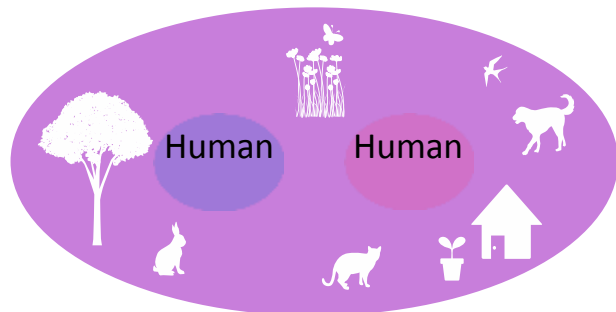
➢ *Ba*-Oriented Description
= Internal/Subjective Point of View 1

< internal/subjective point of view >

(8) a. *Koutougakko-no   gakusei-san-yo.*
high.school   - GEN   student -ADD-FP

(lit.) "(He is) a high school boy."

< outside view, objective point of view >
b. He is a high school boy.

(Ide 2006)
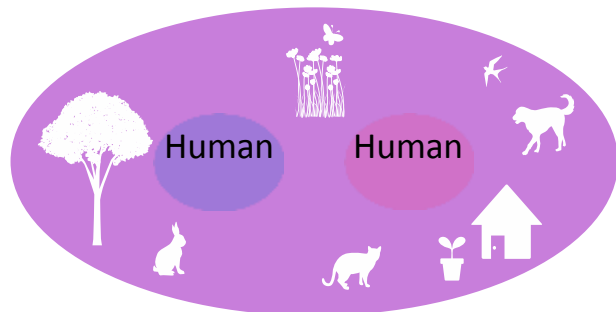
➤ *Ba*-Oriented Description
= Internal/Subjective Point of View 2

< internal/subjective point of view >

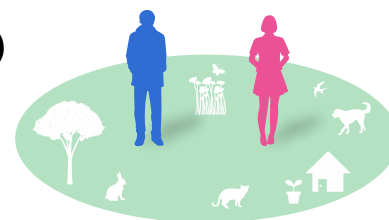(9) a. *Kokkyo-no nagai toNnel-wo nukeru -to,   yukiguni -de   at-ta*
    border-GEN long   tunnel-ACC go.through-CONJ, snow.country-DAT be-PST

   (lit.) "(I) Having gone through the long tunnel at the border,
          (it was) the snow country."

< outside view, objective point of view >
   b. The train came out of the long tunnel into the snow country.

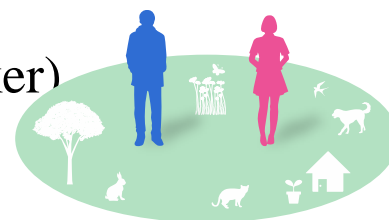(*Yukiguni* trans. by E. Seidensticker)

(Ikegami 2005)

➢ *Ba*-Oriented Description
= Internal/Subjective Point of View 3

(10) a. *Koko-wa   doko*?
    here   -TOP where
    (lit.) "Where is this place?"   internal/subjective point of view

    b. Where am I?   outside/objective point of view

(11) a. *Dare   -mo   i -nai*
    someone-too   be-NEG
    (lit.) "Nobody is here."   internal/subjective point of view

    b. Nobody is here except me.   outside/objective point of view

(Ikegami 2006)
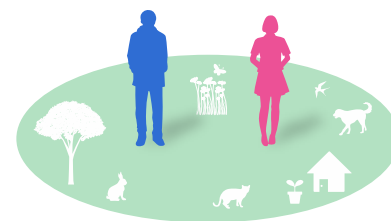
➤ *Ba*-Oriented Indirect Speech Act 1
  → Situation-Focus Expression

- Invitation –

< situation-focus expression>
(12) a. *Shitsumon-wa   ari-masen -ka*
       question   -TOP   be -NEG.PL -QU
       (lit.) "Aren't there any questions?"

< person-focus description >
   b. Do you have any questions?
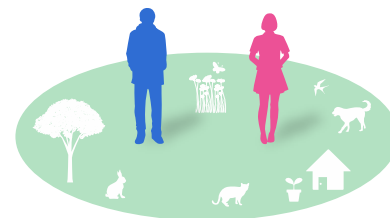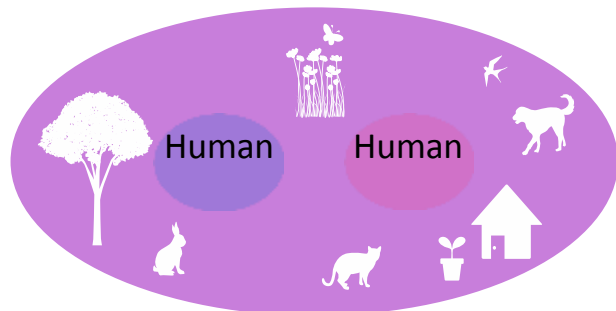
> *Ba*-Oriented Indirect Speech Act 2
> → Situation-Focus Expression

- Order -   (13) a. *Urusai*! / *Yakamashii*!
                (lit.) "Noisy!"
           b. (You) Be quiet! / (You) Shut up!"

- Warning - (14) a. *Abunai*!
                (lit.) "Danger!"
           b. (You) Watch out! / (You) Be careful!

- Refusal -   (15) a. *Maniat   -te   -masu*.
                be enough   -GER –PL
                (lit.) "Be enough."
           b. I don't need it."
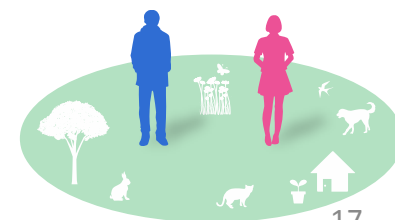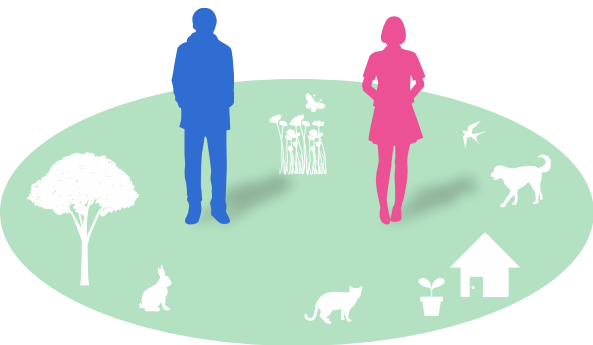
> Person-Oriented Language

➡️ Agency-Oriented Language

(16) a. *dokoni   i-temo   naNdaka negurushii-node*,
       wherever be-CONJ   somehow   sleep.trouble-since,

  (lit.) "wherever (I) am, somehow (I) cannot sleep so…"

  b. After my grandmother died, I couldn't sleep.

(Yoshimoto, Banana, *Kitchen*)
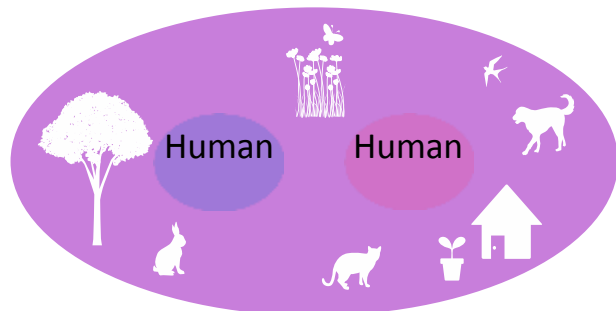
➢ *Ba*-Oriented Language

Review

1. Self-identification   *ba* → person
2. Clause structure   *ba* → person
3. Egoless expression   no-agency
4. Situation-focus/holistic description   no-agency
5. Internal/subjective point of view   no self-representation
6. *Ba*-oriented indirect speech act   no-agency

Predicate-Oriented
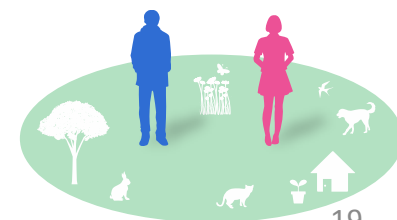
➢ *Ba*-Oriented Language

➡ Predicate-Oriented Language

Abundant Linguistic Resources in Predicate

1. Honorific forms – humble and honorific forms
2. Three kinds of giving and receiving verbs and their auxiliary use – *ageru* "give," *kureru* "give," *morau* "receive"
3. Abundant final particles – *yo, ne*, etc.
4. Markers of territory of information – *no, yo*
5. Confirmation marker – *ta*

    e.g.: *wakat-ta*   "I understand." *shimat-ta* "Oh, dear!"
        yat-ta   "I did it!"   *tsukare-ta* "I'm tired."
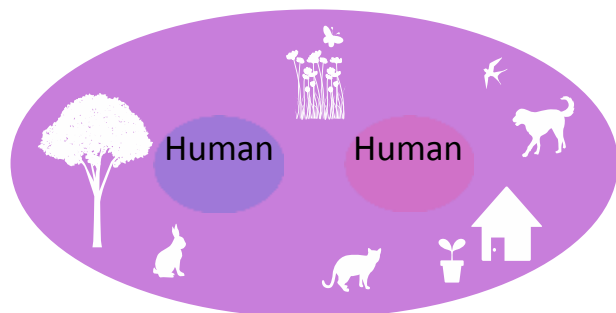
➤ *Ba*-Oriented Language

➡ Predicate-Oriented Language

(17) a. *Ima-mo   o   -uwasa-shi-te   -ta -N -desu -no -yo*

now -too   HON-rumor -do -GER-PST-NM-POL -FP -FP

(lit.) "(I) was talking about (you)."

b. I was just talking about you.   (*Sazae-san 11*)

- agent = speaker, person reference = addressee (internal point of view)
- honorific marker, *o* → person reference in utterance is "addressee" i.e., "talking about you."
- politeness marker, *desu* → relation between speaker and addressee
- marker of territory of information, *no* → agent of "talking" is "I." I tell you that it is "I" who was talking about you.
- final particle, *yo* → another territory of information marker; conveys that speaker is female
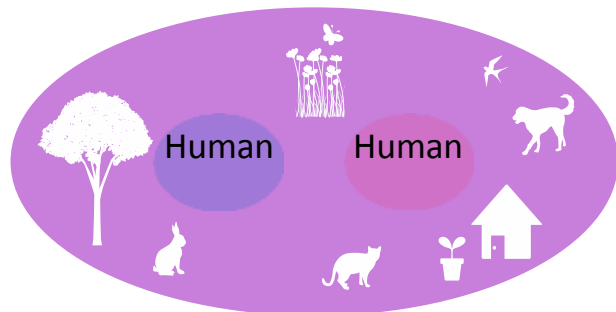
➢ *Ba*-Oriented Language

⟹ Predicate-Oriented Language

Nishida "Predicativism"   (Nakamura 2001: 84)
  = subjective aspect goes deeply into predicative aspect
  = predicate subsumes subject, functioning comprehensively
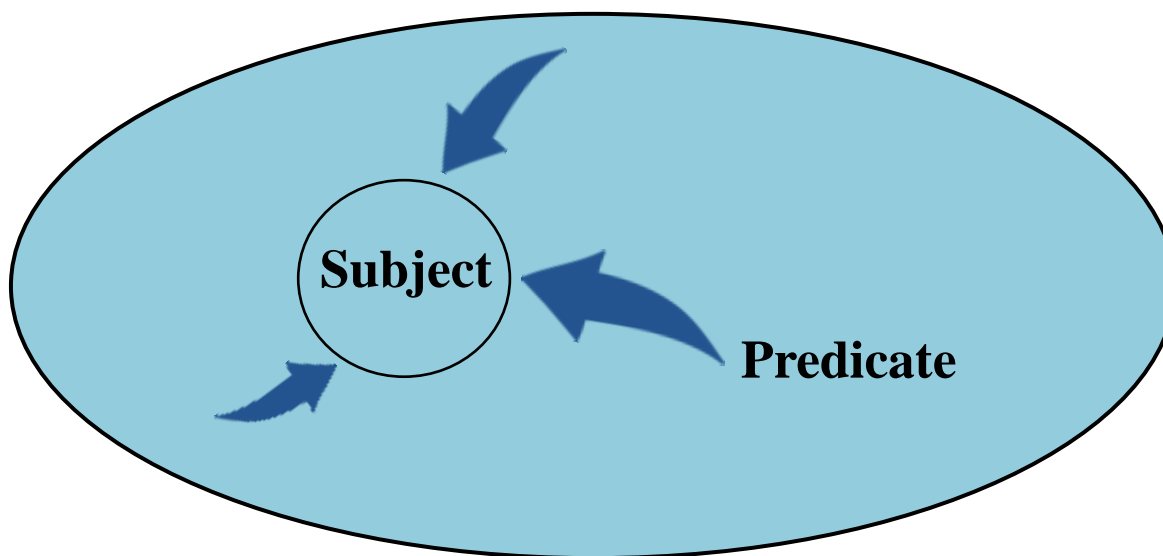
Subject

Predicate

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_____. 1986. Language and behavior in Japan: The conceptualization of personal relations–selected readings. In Lebra, T.S. and Lebra, W. P. (eds.), *Japanese Culture and Behavior*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press. 142-157.

Thank you!

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