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*Ba*-Oriented Culture and Predicate-Oriented Language

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Ba-Oriented Culture
**Ba-Oriented Culture**

- Self-organization in *ba*
- Predicative/holistic representation
- Internal point of view
  - Interdependent view of the self and others
  - 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
  

✧ Absolute type of self-designation
  
  Suzuki (1973)

✧ Dichotomous view
→ Self-Identification in Terms of *Ba*

\[ ba \to \text{person (}\text{ba-focus identification}) \]

(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
(2) a. kinou  
    kinou 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)*
<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.*
< 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)
< 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)
- 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?
- 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!*”

   be enough -GER –PL
   (lit.) “*Be enough.*”
   b. I don’t need it.”

➢ *Ba*-Oriented Indirect Speech Act 2 → Situation-Focus Expression
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
   - $ba \rightarrow$ person
2. Clause structure
   - $ba \rightarrow$ 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
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
References


Thank you!

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