



DEIXIS IN JAPANESE
AND ENGLISH VERBS

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SUMMARY

In this thesis two major points are made.

The first point is that English and Japanese deictic motion verbs - *come*, *go*, *kuru* and *iku* have basic semantic features in common. Thus, *come* and *kuru* have [+ Towards Ego], but *go* and *iku* have [- Towards Ego]. It is assumed that these basic semantic features are derived from the basic deictic contrast between [+ Ego] and [- Ego] suggested by Kurylowicz when he pointed out that the deictic properties in Indo-European languages have evolved from the proto-deictic contrast between [+ Ego] and [- Ego].

The second point is that the basic semantic features [+ Towards Ego] for *come/kuru* and [- Towards Ego] for *go/iku* reflect the idiomatic use of *come/go* in English and similarly reflect the aspectual use of *V-te-iku/V-te-kuru* structures. It is these features, [+ Towards Ego] and [- Towards Ego] that give:

- 1) English idioms with *come/go* the empathic use and the implication of metaphorical arrival at or of a non-literal departure from a point of reference.
- 2) Japanese *V-te-iku/V-te-kuru* constructions the implication of figurative movement towards, or away from a point of reference.

Therefore, a) some idioms involving *come* and some *V-te-kuru* constructions indicate (the process of) change of state from *non-existence* to *existence*, from *outside* the scope of our perception to *inside* the scope of our perception. b) On the other hand, some idioms involving *go* and some *V-te-iku* structures indicate (the process of)

change of state from *existence* to *non-existence*, from *inside* the range of our perception to *outside* the range of our perception.

The aim of this thesis is not to prove that the contrast between [+Ego] and [-Ego] may be universal. However, it should be noted that this assumption - that English and Japanese deictic verbs are derived from this contrast - provides an interesting starting point for the deictic problems in any language.

DECLARATION

This thesis contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except when due reference is made in the text of the thesis.

I consent to the thesis' being made available for photocopying and loan if accepted for the award of the degree.

(J. Kumamoto-Healey)

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