

Two types of possessive passives in Japanese
[日語中的兩種間接被動句]

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Abstract

Many East Asian languages have possessive passives, whose subjects are interpreted as the possessor of the direct object. This paper investigates Japanese Possessive Passives (JPPs) and proposes that there are two types of possessive passives in Japanese: one with a ‘by-phrase’ headed by *ni* (*ni* JPPs) and the other with a ‘by-phrase’ headed by *ni yotte* (*ni yotte* JPPs). While previous studies assumed that JPPs are a sub-type of indirect passive, I propose that such an analysis is untenable. Instead, JPPs exhibit the same dichotomy as *ni*-passives and *ni yotte*-passives exhibit (Kuroda 1979, Kitagawa & Kuroda 1992): While subjects of *ni* JPPs are base-generated like *ni*-passives, subjects of *ni yotte* JPPs undergo NP movement like *ni yotte*-passives.

Keywords: Japanese, syntax, indirect passive, possessive passive
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