# On PF-LF Mismatch in the Japanese Light Verb Construction

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## 1. Introduction

- (1) Transfer operations
  - a. PF-Transfer -> The sensory-motor (S-M) interface
  - b. LF-Transfer -> The conceptual-intentional (C-I) interface
- (2) When do Transfer operations apply?
  - a. Chomsky's (2004, 2005, 2006) Simultaneous Transfers
     The phases are the same for both Transfer operations. PF-Transfer and
     LF-Transfer apply simultaneously when structure-building completes a
     phase (CP/vP).
  - b. Non-simultaneous Transfers

Since PF-Transfer and LF-Transfer are independent operations, there is no a priori reason to assume that they should apply simultaneously in a derivation.

(Nissenbaum 2000, Megerdoomian 2002, Cecchetto 2004, 2005, Felser 2004, Matushansky 2005, Marušič 2005, Ishii (to appear))

#### (3) Proposal

- Non-simultaneous Transfers in a Nominal Phrase
   The complement nominal phrase of a light verb in the light verb construction functions only as an LF-phase but not as a PF-phase.
- b. "Case Domain Fusion"

When more than one case domain overlaps, "case domain fusion" must take place, where "case domain" is regulated by the Phase Impenetrability Condition (PIC).

## 2. Japanese Light Verb Constructions

- 2.1 Verbal Nouns (Complex Event Nominals) and Light Verb suru
- (4) John-ga Bill-to(-no) aiseki-o sita koto-ga nai
  John-Nom Bill-with(-Gen) table-sharing-Acc did Comp-Nom Neg
  'John has never shared a table with Bill.' (Matsumoto 1996: 116)
- (5) a. John-ga yooroppa-e tomodati-to ryokoo-o sita
   John-Nom Europe-to friend-with trip-Acc did
   'John made a trip to Europe with friends.'
  - b. John-ga yooroppa-e(-no) tomodati-to-no ryokoo-o sita John-Nom Europe-to(-Gen) friend-with-Gen trip-Acc did

(Cf. Tsujimura 2007: 314)

# 2.2 A PF-LF Mismatch in the Light Verb Construction

- (6) Grimshaw and Mester (1988), Sells (1989), Dubinsky (1990), Hasegawa (1991),
  Kageyama (1991, 1993), Uchida and Nakayama (1993), Matsumoto (1996),
  Huang (1997), Saito and Hoshi (2000)
- (7) John-ga Bill-to aiseki-o site-iru
  John-Nom Bill-with table-sharing-Acc doing-be
  'John is sharing a table with Bill.'

# (8) PF-LF Mismatch

a.  $\theta$ -marking = LF: *John* and *Bill* are inside the nominal phrase.

[<sub>NomP</sub> John-ga Bill-to aiseki]-o site-iru John-Nom Bill-with table-sharing-Acc doing-be (Agent, Theme)

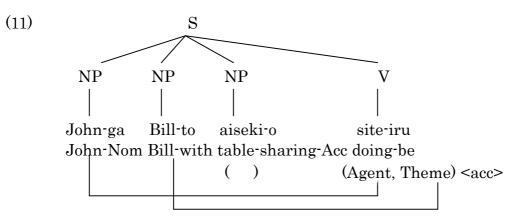
b. Case marking = PF: John and Bill are outside the nominal phrase. John-ga Bill-to [<sub>NomP</sub> aiseki]-o site-iru John-Nom Bill-with table-sharing-Acc doing-be

# 3. Previous Analyses

# 3.1 Grimshaw and Mester's (1988) Argument Transfer Analysis

- (9) a. *suru* 'do' ( ) <acc>
  - b. aiseki 'table-sharing' (Agent, Theme)
- (10) *aiseki* 'table-sharing' ( ) + *suru* 'do' (Agent, Theme) <acc>

Argument Transfer



#### 3.2 Lexical Decomposition Analyses

- (12) Tamen bang-le wo-de piao they tie-Perf my ticket 'They kidnapped me.'
- (13) a.  $[_{VP} \text{ tamen } [_{V'} \text{ DO } [_{VP} \text{ wo } [_{V'} \text{ bang piao}]]]]$ 
  - b.  $[_{VP} tamen [_{V} bang_i [_{VP} wo [_{V'} t_i piao]]]]$
- (14) Suru as an "Eventuality Predicate"
  - a. The Light Verb Construction: *Suru* is an overt form of the "eventuality predicate" DO.
    - (i) S-selection

This use of *suru* s-selects an agent as its subject and an action as its complement.

(ii) C-selection

It c-selects an NP complement, which is a gerundive construction, *i.e.* a nominalized verb phrase.

(iii) Case

It assigns the accusative case particle -o to the NP.

- b. The Overtly Incorporated Construction: *Suru* is an overt form of the "eventuality predicate" DO, OCCUR, or BE
  - (i) S-selection

This use of *suru* s-selects an eventuality (an action, an event, or a state) as its complement. If *suru* s-selects an action (*i.e. suru* is an "eventuality predicate" DO), it also s-selects an agent as its subject. If *suru* s-selects a non-action or state (*i.e. suru* is an "eventuality predicate" OCCUR or BE), it does not s-select a subject.

(ii) C-selection

It c-selects a VP complement.

(iii) Case

Since VPs do not need Case, accusative case assignment does not take place.

- (15) a. The Light Verb Construction John-ga Bill-to aiseki-o site-iru John-Nom Bill-with table-sharing-Acc doing-be 'John is sharing a table with Bill.'
  - b. The Overtly Incorporated Construction
    John-ga Bill-to aiseki-site-iru
    John-Nom Bill-with table-sharing-doing-be
    'John is sharing a table with Bill.'
- (16) a. The Light Verb Construction John-ga [<sub>NP</sub> [<sub>VP</sub> Bill-to aiseki]]-o site-iru John-Nom Bill-with table-sharing-Acc doing-be 'John is sharing a table with Bill.'
  - b. The Overtly Incorporated Construction John-ga  $[_{VP}$  Bill-to  $t_i$ ] **aiseki**<sub>i</sub>-site-iru John-Nom Bill-with table-sharing-doing-be 'John is sharing a table with Bill.'
- (17) Argument Transfer as the Result of Complex Predicate Formation When an "eventuality predicate" is combined with the main predicate of its complement, arguments of the individual predicates become arguments of the composite predicate.
- (18) a. A flight occurred over the North Pole in a light aircraft in 1926.
  - b. A flight over the North Pole occurred in a light aircraft in 1926.
  - c. A flight over the North Pole in a light aircraft occurred in 1926.
  - d. A flight over the North Pole in a light aircraft in 1926 occurred.
- (19) a. John did *yesterday's* reading of the poem.
  - b. John did the reading of the poem <u>vesterday</u>.

### **3.3 Incorporation Analyses**

(20) a. S-structure

John-ga Bill-to aiseki-o site-iru John-Nom Bill-with table-sharing-Acc doing-be (Agent, Them)

b. LF

John-ga Bill-to  $t_i$ -o **aiseki**<sub>i</sub>-site-iru John-Nom Bill-with  $t_i$ -Acc **table-sharing**<sub>i</sub>-doing-be (Agent, Theme)

(21) Taroo-ga kotosi-no natu [Amerika-ni **ryokoo**] to [Doitu-ni Taro-Nom this year-Gen summer America-to **travel** Conj Germany-to **ryuugaku**](-to)-o <u>sita</u>

study abroad(-Conj)-Acc did

Lit. 'This summer, Taro did a travel to the United States and a study abroad in Germany.' (Fukui and Sakai 2006: 328)

(22) Constraint on an Across-the-Board Movement

An across-the-board movement of different elements into a single landing site is prohibited.

# 4. Proposal

# 4.1 A Non-simultaneous Transfer Analysis

- (23) [<sub>nP</sub> John [[<sub>NP</sub> Bill-to aiseki ] n]] John Bill-with table-sharing (Agent, Theme)
- (24) LF-phasehood (Chomsky 2000, 2001, 2004, 2005, 2006, Matushansky 2005)
   LF phases have the status of a "proposition"; either a phrase in which all θ-roles are assigned or a full clause including tense and force.
- (25) [vP [vP [nP John [[NP Mary-to aiseki] n]] su] v]
  John Mary-with table-sharing do
  The clausal case domain = the accessible domain of v
  The nominal case domain = the accessible domain of n

- (26) Two Case Marking Systems in Japanese (cf. Miyagawa 1990)
  - a. There are two case marking systems in Japanese, *i.e.* the clausal case marking system (the lack of the genitive case particle *-no*) and the nominal case marking system (the presence of the genitive case particle *-no*).
  - b. The clausal case marking system involves two steps, *i.e.* Case assignment and Case licensing, whereas the nominal case marking system involves only Case licensing.
- (27) Licensing Conditions on Clausal and Nominal Case Markings
  - a. The clausal case marking is licensed within the accessible domain of the C/v; the clausal case domain is equivalent to the accessible domain of C/v.
  - b. The nominal case marking is licensed within the accessible domain of *n*; the nominal case domain is equivalent to the accessible domain of *n*.
  - c. The notion of accessible domain is regulated by the notion of c-command and the Phase Impenetrability Condition (PIC).

(28) The Phase Impenetrability Condition (PIC) In [<sub>ZP</sub> Z ... [<sub>HP</sub> a [H YP]]], the domain of H, *i.e.* YP, is not accessible to operations at ZP; only H and its edge are accessible, where ZP and HP are phases.

(adapted from Chomsky 2001: 13)

- (29) Case Domain Fusion
  - a. When more than one case domain overlaps, "case domain fusion" must take place.
  - b. "Case domain fusion" only takes place when the two phase heads are of the same type; transitive/experiencer (T/E) or unaccusative (ergative) /passive (UA/P)

(30) $\left[_{vP}\left[_{NP} \left[_{nP} \text{John}\left[_{NP} \text{Mary-to(-no)} \text{aiseki}\right] n\right]\right]$ su] v]					
John Mary-with( <b>-Gen</b> ) table-sharing <t e=""> do <t e=""></t></t>					
(31) $[_{vP} [_{nP} John Mary-to(-no) aiseki] - o [t_{nP} su]]_{v}$					
[John Mary-with(-Gen) table-sharing]-Acc do					
(32) $[_{\text{TP}} \operatorname{John-ga} [[_{vP} [_{vP} [_{nP} t_{John} \operatorname{Mary-to(-no)} aiseki] - o [t_{nP} \operatorname{su}]] v] T]]$					
John-Nom [t <sub>John</sub> Mary-with(-Gen) table-sharing]-Acc do					
(33) *[ <sub>TP</sub> [ <sub>nP</sub> $t_{John}$ Mary-to-no aiseki]-ga [[ <sub>vP</sub> [ <sub>VP</sub> John-o [ $t_{nP}$ su]] v] T]]					
[ <i>t<sub>John</sub></i> Mary-with(-Gen) table-sharing]-Nom <b>John</b> -Acc do					
(* by the Proper Binding Condition)					

(34) [TP Mary-ga [[ $_{vP}$  [VP [ $_{nP}$  ][NP John-no Amerika-e-no ryokoo] n]-o John-Gen America-to-Gen travel-Acc Mary-Nom  $[t_{nP}$ kyakkasita ]] v]T]] turned-down 'Mary turned down John's trip to the United States.' 4.2 Consequences 4.2.1 Case Marking of an External Argument (35)\*John-no Mary-to-no aiseki-o sita koto-ga nai John-Gen Mary-with-Gen table-sharing-Acc did fact-Nom Neg 'John has never shared a table with Mary.' 4.2.2 The Ergativity Constraint (36) a. \*?Ya-ga mato-ni **meityuu-o** sita arrow-Nom target-Dat strike-Acc did 'The arrow hit the target.' (Miyagawa 1989: 659) b. \*Ressya-ga Tokyoo-kara tootyaku-o sita train-Nom Tokyo-from arrival-Acc did 'The train arrived from Tokyo.' (37)  $[_{vP} [_{vP} [_{nP} [_{NP} Tokyoo-kara ressya tootyaku]]$ v $|\mathbf{n}|$ su Tokyo-from train arrival <UA/P> do <UA/P> The clausal case domain = the accessible domain of v The nominal case domain = the accessible domain of *n* 4.2.3 Indeterminate Pronouns (38) a. waruil-to-mo iwa-nakat-ta Taroo-wa Hanako-ni **dare**-ga Taro-Top Hanako-Dat anyone-Nom fault-that-MO say-Neg-Past Lit. 'Taro did not say to Hanako that anyone was wrong.' [Hanako-ga warui]-to-mo iwa-nakat-ta b. \*Taroo-wa **dare**-ni Taro-Top anyone-Dat Hanako-Nom fault-that-MO say-Neg-Past Lit. 'Taro did not say to anyone that Hanako was wrong.' (Fukui and Sakai 2006: 330) (39) a. \*Taroo-wa **dare**-ni hon-mo watasa-nakat-ta Taro-Top **anyone**-Dat book-**MO** hand-**Neg**-Past 'Taro did not hand a book to anyone.' Taroo-wa dare-ni soodan-mo b. si-nakat-ta

Taro-Top **anyone**-Dat consultation-**MO** do-**Neg**-Past 'Taro did not consult anyone.' (Kishimoto 2001: 624)

(40)	John-w	va [ <sub>nP</sub> t <sub>John</sub> <b>dare</b> -ni soo	odan] <b>-mo</b>	si- <b>nakat</b> -ta	
John-Top <b>anyone</b> -Dat consultation- <b>MO</b> do- <b>Neg</b> -Past					
4.2.4	Topl	icazation, Relativizati	on, Clefting,	and Scrambling	
(41) a	ı. Joh	nn-wa [Tokyoo-ni ryokoo]-o	sita		
	Joh	nn-Top [Tokyo-to trip]-Acc	did		
	'John made a trip to Tokyo.'				
]	o. Topicalizaton				
<b>*Ryokoo<sub>i</sub>-wa</b> John-ga [Tokyoo-ni <i>e<sub>i</sub></i> ] sita					
	tri	<b>p-Top</b> John-Top Tokyo-	to did	(Matsumoto 1996: 114)	
(	e. Rel	lativization			
*[John-ga [Tokyoo-ni <b>e</b> <sub>i</sub> ] sita] <b>ryokoo</b> <sub>i</sub>					
John-Nom Tokyo-to did <b>trip</b>					
	Lit	. 'the trip John made to To	kyo		
(		efting			
*[[ $OP_{\mathbf{i}}$ [John-ga [Tokyoo-ni $t_i$ ] sita]]-no]-wa ryokoo <sub>i</sub> -o da					
John-Nom Tokyo-to did-Comp-Top trip-Acc be					
	Lit	. 'It is the trip that John m	ade to Tokyo.'		
(	e. Passivization				
* ${f Ryokoo}$ -w ${f a}_i$ John-ni-yotte [Tokyoo-ni $t_i$ ] s-are-ta					
	tri	<b>p-Top</b> John-by Te	okyo-to do	o-Passive-Past	
	Lit	. 'The trip was made to Tol	xyo by John.'		
1					
	*John-ga <b>ryokoo-o<sub>i</sub></b> Tokyoo-ni <i>t<sub>i</sub></i> sita				
	John-Nom <b>trip-Acc</b> Tokyo-to did				
	'John made a trip to Tokyo.'				
	* <b>Ryokoo-o<sub>i</sub></b> John-ga   Tokyoo-ni <i>t<sub>i</sub></i> sita				
		p-Acc John-Nom Tokyo-			
(42) a. John-ga [kagaku-no ronbun]-o kaita					
John-Nom [chemistry-Gen paper]-Acc wrote					
	'Jol	hn wrote a paper on chemi	stry.'		
]	-	picalization	1 1/		
* <b>Ronbun<sub>i</sub>-wa</b> John-ga [kagaku-no <b>e</b> <sub>i</sub> ](-o) kaita					
paper-Top John-Nom chemistry-Gen(-Acc) wrote					

c. Relativization

\*[John-ga [kagaku-no e<sub>i</sub>](-o) kaita] ronbun<sub>i</sub> John-Nom chemistry-Gen(-Acc) wrote paper Lit. 'the paper that John wrote on chemistry'

d. Clefting

\*[ $OP_i$  [John-ga [kagaku-no  $t_i$ ] kaita]]-no]-wa ronbun<sub>i</sub>-o da John-Nom chemistry-Gen wrote-Comp-Top paper-Acc be Lit. 'It is the paper that John wrote on chemistry.'

- e. Passivization
  - \* Ronbun<sub>i</sub>-wa John-ni-yotte [kagaku-no t<sub>i</sub>] kak-are-ta paper-Top John-by chemistry-Gen write-Passive-Past Lit. 'The paper was written on chemistry by John.'

### f. Scrambling

\*John-ga **ronbun-o**<sub>i</sub> kagaku-no  $t_i$  kaita John-Nom **paper-Acc** chemistry-Gen wrote 'John wrote a paper on chemistry.'

\***Ronbun-o<sub>i</sub>** John-ga kagaku-no  $t_i$  kaita

paper-Acc John-Nom chemistry-Gen wrote

- (43) John-ga yooroppa-e(-no) ryokoo-o sita
  John-Nom Europe-to(-Gen) trip-Acc did
  'John made a trip to Europe.'
- (44) Topicalization
  - a. **\*[Yooroppa-e ryokoo]<sub>i</sub>-wa** John-ga *e<sub>i</sub>* sita **Europe-to trip-Top** John-Nom did 'John made a trip to Europe.'
  - b. **[Yooroppa-e-no ryokoo]**<sub>i</sub>**-wa** John-ga **e**<sub>i</sub> sita **Europe-to-Gen trip-Top** John-Nom did

#### (45) Relativization

- a. \*John-ga *e<sub>i</sub>* sita **[yooroppa-e ryokoo]**<sub>i</sub> John-Nom did **Europe-to trip** Lit. 'the trip John made to Europe'
- b. John-ga **e**<sub>i</sub> sita [yooroppa-e-no ryokoo]<sub>i</sub> John-Nom did Europe-to-Gen trip

(46)  $[_{nP} t_{John} [[_{NP} yooroppa-e(-no) ryokoo] n]]_i$ -wa John-ga  $e_i$  sita Europe-to(-Gen) trip-Top John-Nom did

'John made a trip to Europe.'

(47) Müller's (1996) Generalization

A trace with a (not necessarily c-commanding) antecedent in a position of type  $\alpha$  must not be dominated by a category in a position of the same type  $\alpha$ .

(48)  $[[_{nP} t_{John} [[_{NP} yooroppa-e-no ryokoo] n]]_i$ -wa  $[[_{TP} John-ga t_i sita]] C]]$ Europe-to-Gen trip-Top John-Nom did

# 5. Constraints on the Distribution of Arguments

# 5.1 Grimshaw and Mester's (1988) Constraints on Argument Transfer

- (49) a. At least one non-subject argument of a verbal noun must be transferred to a light verb.
  - b. An argument cannot be transferred unless all thematically higher arguments are transferred as well.
- (50) The subject argument must be transferred to a light verb.
- (51) ?John-ga Bill-to-no aiseki-o sita
  John-Nom Bill-with-Gen table-sharing-Acc did
  'John is sharing a table with Bill.' (Grimshaw and Mester 1988: 218)
- (52) a. ?Sono deeta-ga [wareware-e-no [kare-no riron-ga matigatte iru to]-no that data-Nom [us-to-Gen [he-Gen theory-Nom mistaken be Comp]-Gen syoomei]-o site-iru

proof-Acc doing-be (Grimshaw and Mester 1988: 215-6)

b. Sono deeta-ga [wareware-e-no [kare-no riron-ga matigatte iru that data-Nom us-to-Gen [he-Gen theory-Nom mistaken be <u>koto</u>]-no syoomei]-o site-iru Comp]-Gen proof-Acc doing-be

(53) a. Sono deeta-ga **wareware-ni** [[kare-no riron-ga matigatte iru to]-no GOAL THEME

that data-Nom us-to he-Gen theory-Nom mistaken be Comp-Gen
syoomei]-o site-iru
proof-Acc doing-be
'That data proves to us that his theory is mistaken.'

- b. \*Sono deeta-ga [kare-no riron-ga matigatte iru to] [wareware-e-no THEME GOAL
   that data-Nom he-Gen theory-Nom mistaken be Comp us-to-Gen syoomei]-o site-iru
   proof-Acc doing-be (Grimshaw and Mester 1988: 224)
- (54) a. Karera-wa soko-e [sono bussi-no yusoo]-o suru rasii
   GOAL THEME
   they-Top there-to the goods-Gen transport-Acc do seem
   'It seems that they will transport the goods there.'
  - b. Karera-wa **sono bussi-mo [soko-e-no** yusoo]-o suru rasii THEME GOAL

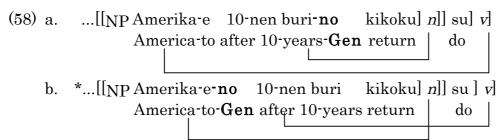
they-Top the goods-even there-to-Gen transport-Acc do seem 'It seems that they will transport the goods there, too.'

(Matsumoto 1996: 118)

# 5.2 Distribution of Genitive-Marked Elements and Non-Genitive -Marked Elements

- (55) a. John-ga [amerika-e 10-nen buri-ni kikoku]-o suru rasii
  John-Nom [America-to after 10-years return]-Acc do seem
  'It seems that John will return to his country, the United States, after 10 years of absence.'
  - b. John-ga [amerika-e 10-nen buri-no kikoku]-o suru rasii
     John-Nom [America-to after 10-years-Gen return]-Acc do seem
  - c. \*John-ga [amerika-e-no 10-nen buri-ni kikoku]-o suru rasii John-Nom [Americak-to-**Gen** after 10-years return]-Acc do seem
  - d. John-ga [amerika-e-no 10-nen buri-no kikoku]-o suru rasii John-Nom [America-to-Gen after 10-years-Gen return]-Acc do seem
- (56) a. John-ga [10-nen buri-ni amerika-e kikoku]-o suru rasii
  John-Nom [after 10-years America-to return]-Acc do seem
  'It seems that John will return to his country, the United States, after 10 years of absence.'
  - b. John-ga [10-nen buri-ni amerika-e-no kikoku]-o suru rasii
     John-Nom [after 10-years America-to-Gen return]-Acc do seem
  - c. \* John-ga [10-nen buri-**no** amerika-e kikoku]-o suru rasii John-Nom [after 10-years-**Gen** America-to return]-Acc do seem
  - d. John-ga [10-nen buri-**no** amerika-e-**no** kikoku]-o suru rasii John-Nom [after 10-years-**Gen** America-to-**Gen** return]-Acc do seem

- (57) a. There is a dependency between *n* and a genitive-case-marked element.
  - b. There is a dependency between *v*/C and a non-genitive-case-marked element.



#### 6. Some Speculations on Verbal Nouns

- (59) The Root Hypothesis (Pesetsky 1995, Marantz 1997)
   A root is category-neutral; its category is determined by a syntactic environment where it appears.
- (60)  $\{\alpha, \{\text{destroy}, OBJ\}\}$
- (61) The notion of accessible domain based on PF-phasehood is crucial for determining the category of a root.

(e.g.)

- a. If a root appears in the accessible domain of *v*, it becomes a verb.
- b. If a root appears in the accessible domain of *n*, it becomes a noun.
- (62) John-ga Bill-to(-no) aiseki-o sita koto-ga nai
  John-Nom Bill-with(-Gen) table-sharing-Acc did Comp-Nom Neg
  'John has never shared a table with Bill.'
- (63)  $\begin{bmatrix} vP & [vP & nP & John & [vP & Mary-to(-no) & aiseki] & n] & su] & v \end{bmatrix}$ John Mary-with(-Gen) table-sharing do

## 7. Conclusion

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