

A discourse analysis –Focused on the expressions

nante, nanka and nado–

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While *nante* and *nanka* “*toritate*” particles should be learned at the intermediate level, the learners seem to tend to avoid using them. As a result of research into former studies and teaching materials on these expressions, it was found that the explanations of their characteristics were not given sufficiently. It was mainly described that both *nante* and *nanka* were colloquial forms of *nado*, and occurred with negative predicates.

In order to clarify the characteristics and usage of these three expressions -*nante, nanka* and *nado*- and the accuracy of these descriptions in former studies, the research on how native speakers of Japanese language use them would be necessary.

Thus, this paper will describe how these expressions are classified, what their main functions are, and if there are interchangeabilities between these expressions in natural conversations.

The data used is the transcript of conversations by 174 people -women and their co-workers- from the book *Josei no kotoba shokuba-hen* -the conversations among working women-, in total 552 minutes.

The research was conducted as follows.

Firstly, all instances of *nante, nanka* and *nado* in the material were extracted.

Secondly, examples where the items were used as adverb and filler, and changed from “*nani+te*” “*nani+ka*” were excluded.

Thirdly, these extracted items were classified according to their roles in the sentences, and analyzed for their interchangeabilities with one another.

According to this research, the following findings were revealed.

1) 61 *nante* sentences and 59 *nanka* sentences were found, but *nado* was not found in the material.

2) *Nante* and *nanka* could be categorized into the following three types.

Type 1: which were changed from postpositional particles and *wa*.

(13 *nante*, 24 *nanka*)

Type 2: which were changed from *to* – a particle which marks a quotation- and including it. (47 *nante*, 4 *nanka*)
Type 3: which were newly put in the sentences. (1 *nante*, 30 *nanka*)

Concerning Type 2, four sentences including it were found, despite the fact that *nanka* does not have a quoting function (Yamada 1995:343).

As a result of this analysis, the following points are suggested.

1) *Nante* is mainly used as the function of Type 2, and *nanka* is mainly used as Type 3.

In case of Type 1, both *nante* and *nanka* are used.

2) *Nante* and *nanka* are interchangeable in case of Type 1.

However, in one case, it was observed that *nanka* cannot be changed to *nante*, when *nanka* is put in the noun modifier.

Nante cannot be changed to *nanka* in case of Type 2, and *nanka* cannot be changed to *nante* in the case where it is put in between noun and particle of Type 3, because of the syntactical features.

3) It does not seem that *nado* is a colloquial form.

Considering its syntactical features, *nado* can be used in Type 1 and 3, and *nado+to* or *nado+toiu* can be used in Type 2, but *nado* was not found in the data.

4) It is generally described that *nante* and *nanka* are usually used with negative predicates, but there were a few, 9 *nante* and 2 *nanka* sentences in the data.

It is necessary to analyze each example in this data in detail, and to compare with other data of natural conversations, in the future. And the influences of the social elements -for example the difference of individual style in speech, age and situation- should be considered.

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