

Independence of Vocatives from Arguments: Based on Observation of Second Person Pronouns from Rakugo

Abstract

It has been pointed out that the vocative is continuous with an argument contained in the predicate of a sentence, since in many cases “wa” can be added. This paper, however, argues that vocatives and arguments are not continuous but independent. First, the author will review previous studies on the continuity of vocatives and arguments, as well as research by Hayashi, Mizuguchi, and Ogawa (2005), to explore the problems and propose a claim and an improved classification for vocatives. Next, using Rakugo as a medium in which many second person pronouns appear, the author will observe the behavior of second person pronouns that appear in Rakugo based on the new classification. This analysis supports the existence of the function of calling attention which is independent from an argument. In addition, the author will show that the effect of the invocation is different depending on the position of the vocative and the object of attention, which leads to the conclusion that vocatives and arguments occupy different dimensions.