

# Comparing constructions – the case of the Japanese construction *-te kuru* and English construction *come to V*

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The presentation has two basic aims. The first one is to demonstrate the complexities involved in comparing constructions across languages and the importance of a balanced usage-based approach (Diessel, H., Dąbrowska, E., & Divjak, D. (2019)). The second aim is more practical and consists of the comparison of the two constructions: Japanese *-te kuru* and English *come to V* and their use.

The presentation starts with the comparison of the lexical verb *kuru* and its English counterpart *come*, which are the essential part of the compared constructions. It is demonstrated that the two verbs bear extremely comparable lexical meaning and are used in a parallel fashion. In the next step, I will consider the inner structure of the compared constructions concluding that it is also practically identical. The theoretical scrutiny of the compared constructions will conclude with an attempt to translate individual uses of the Japanese construction *-te kuru* as defined by Morita (1999) using English *come to V* constructions. We will see that the translations are grammatical and seemingly fine, all pointing to the fact that the two constructions are based on the theoretical assumptions very much comparable.

However, the following section will focus on the actual usage of the two constructions. There will be three corpora searches presented, the first two make use of corpora of written language (BCCWJ for Japanese, Brown family and BNC for English) and the third uses Japanese-English parallel corpus built by Czech National Corpus. The first one is an analysis of the verbs collocating with the given constructions, the second is the analysis of the frequency of the individual types of uses of the constructions and the third is a search of the *V-te kuru* construction and its counterparts in the parallel corpus. The corpora studies reveal that despite the seeming match of the two constructions their actual use differs tremendously.

The final part of the presentation will attempt to explain the motivation and causes of the detected disparities in the use of the two constructions. I will show that the construction is used primarily to express aspectual characteristics in Japanese and as a tool of information structure modulation in English. Moreover, I will link this difference to the differing tendencies in the semantic structure of verbs in the two languages, namely the tendency of Japanese verbs to express imperfective meaning (Kageyama, 1998) and the tendency to stress the manner of motion in English, being satellite framed language (Talmy, 2000).

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