

Hokkaido dialect “～sarū” expression

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- meaning of “-saru”
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- experiment toward young generation
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Our actions and conversation

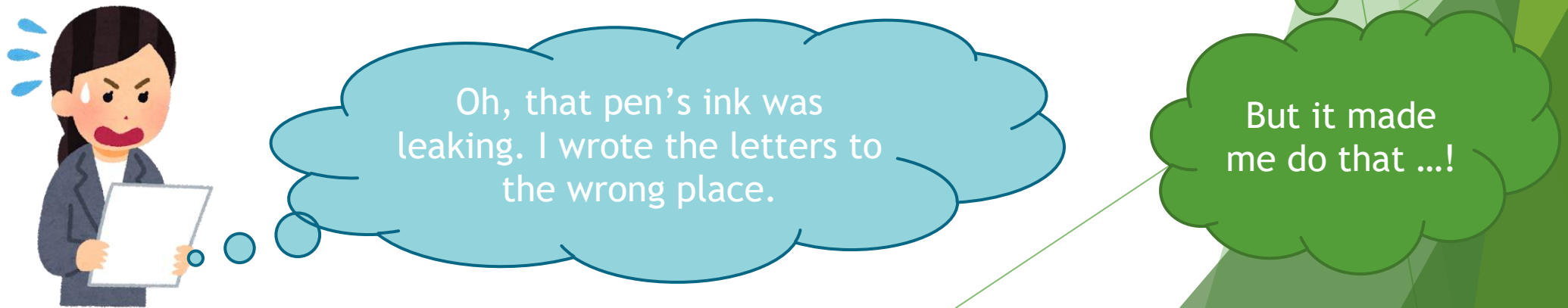


Our actions are usually intended.

How would you describe this situation?



or...



Expressions for unintended actions

0.1 I pushed the button.

↓

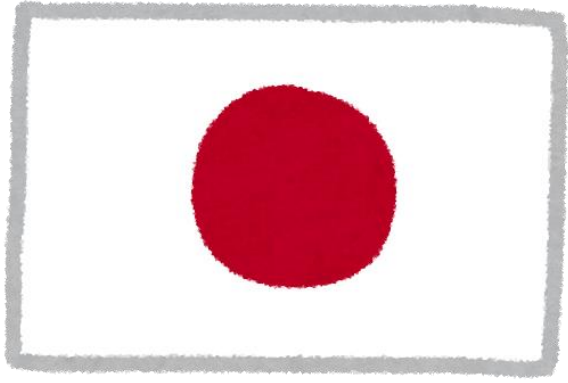
0.2 I pushed the wrong button!



I didn't mean to, but
because of the pen, I
wrote to the place
where I shouldn't
have, and %\$#&"\$....

I shouldn't have, but
I ate snacks...





In Hokkaido, there is an expression that can express these kinds of actions simply



“～sarū”

Ex. ボタン が 押ささる。Botan ga osa**sarū**.

1.1 ボタン が 押ささった。Botan ga osa**satta**. (The button was pushed unintendedly.)

1.2 文字 が 書かさった。Moji ga kaka**satta**. (The letter was written unintendedly.)



I didn't mean to...

Negated form

2.1 ボタンが押ささらない。

Botan ga osasaranai. (The button doesn't get (=can't be) pushed even I'm pushing it.)

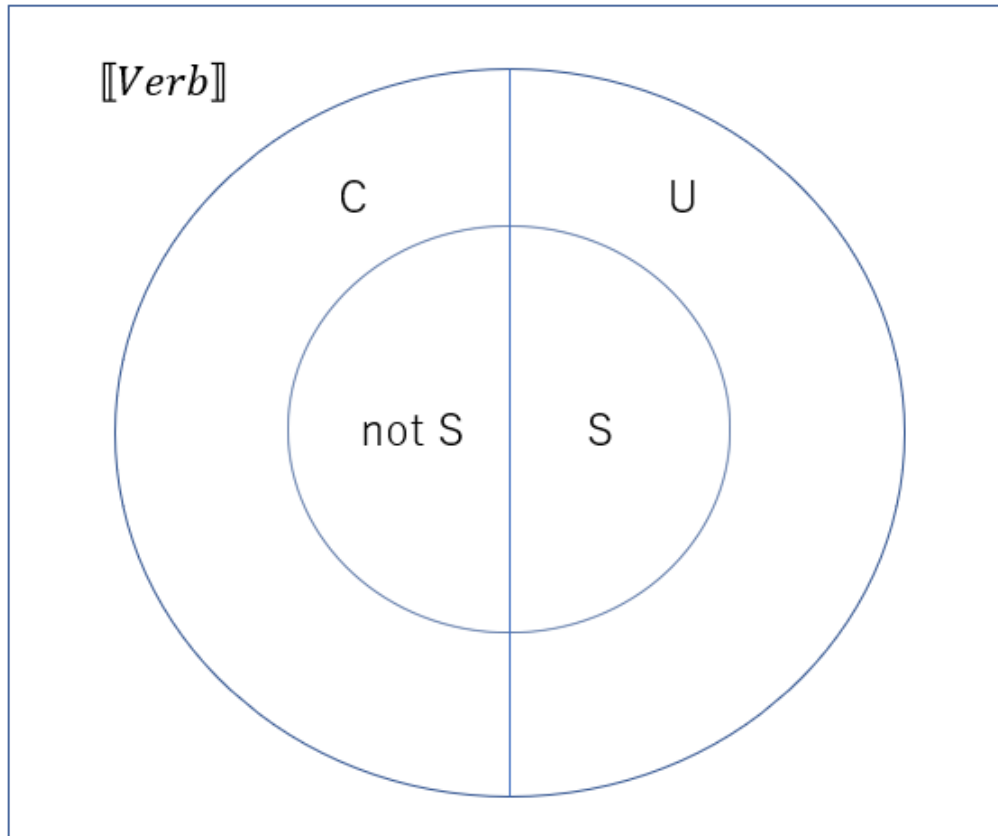
2.2 文字が書かさらない。

Moji ga kakasaranai. (The letter can't be written because of some reasons, even I'm trying to.)



Formular

$$V \cap U = S$$
$$V \cap C = \text{not } S$$



- V= verb
- **Saru S** can be said if there is an **unintendedly motion U**.
- If the motion was done **consciously C**, expression **saru S** can't be used.

Negated form

2.1 ボタンが押ささらない。

Botan ga osasaranai. (The button doesn't get (=can't be) pushed even I'm pushing it.)

2.2 文字が書かさらない。

Moji ga kakasaranai. (The letter can't be written because of some reasons, even I'm trying to.)



Meaning of possibility

1.1 ボタンが押ささった。Botan ga osa**satta**. (The button could be pushed.)

1.2 文字が書かさった。Moji ga kaka**satta**. (The letter was able to be written.)



Everything is going well.

“-Saru” Meaning



Unintended motion



Possibility

Previous Research

小野(Ono) (1999)

- 1 Auxiliary verb of **spontaneous**
- 2 Auxiliary verb of **possibility**

山崎(Yamazaki)(1994)

- Usage→**spontaneous**, **possibility**, **result** (toward non-living things)
- Feature→
 1. Make the verb connected to “-(ra)saru” **involuntary** verb
 2. Emphasize the involuntary verb
 3. Focus on the consequence of motion and action

石垣(Ishigaki)(1990) ● Express the natural **emotion** of imminent

川村(Kawamura)(2012) ● **Subclassification of Spontaneous**

1. Formed perception, olfactory, recognition **without intention**
2. Adherent action connected to physiological phenomenon, affection, emotion
3. **Unintended** action

“-Saru” Meaning

Spontaneous

Possibility

Result

Maiko Shu's research (2016)

Result of her survey (Usage of “-saru”, toward 57 people from Hokkaido)

Young generation → result > spontaneous

Elder generation → meaning of spontaneous still remains

Hypothesis

- Young generation uses “-saru” in usage of result, especially in the situation that **they want to make it clear in order not to be blamed.**



Questionnaire “Which phrases do you use?”

1. Botan ga osasatta. (ボタン が 押ささった) (=The button was pushed unintendedly.)
2. Gohan ga oishikute taberasaru. (ご飯 が 美味しくて 食べらさる) (= I eat rice because it is delicious.)
3. kono pen ha kakasaru. (この ペン は 書かさる) (= This pen can write letters.)
4. Kono hon ha omoshirokute yomasaru. (この 本 は 面白くて 読まさる) (= I read this book because it is interesting.)
5. Gohan ga takasatta. (ご飯 が 炊かさった) (= The rice was cooked.)
6. Jikan ga semattekite aserasaru. (時間 が 迫ってきて 焦らさる) (= I rushed because I was running out of time.)
7. Kanashi eiga wo mite tuitui nakasatta. (悲しい 映画 を 観て ついつい 泣かさった) (= I cried because I watched sad movie. [Shu(2019)])
8. Pen no futa ga hazurete kakasatta. (ペン の 蓋 が 外れて 書かさった) (= The pen cap was taken off and the ink spread out unintendedly.)
9. Houtte oitara korasatta. (放って おいたら 凍らさった) (= I left it there and it froze unintendedly.)
10. Ano kuruma ha mada hashirasaru. (あの 車 は まだ 走らさってる) (=The car is still be able to run.)

Result of the questionnaire

(25 college students in Hokkaido)

Questions/ Answers	YES	NO	Yes rate (%)
Q.1 Botan ga osasatta	24	1	96%
Q.2 Gohan ga oishikute taberasaru	2	23	8%
Q.3 kono pen ha kakasaruru	6	19	24%
Q.4 Kono hon ha omoshirokute yomasaru	2	23	8%
Q.5 Gohan ga takasatta	10	15	40%
Q.6 Jikan ga semattekite aserasaruru	3	22	12%
Q.7 Kanashi eiga wo mite tuitui nakasatta	2	23	8%
Q.8 Pen no futa ga hazurete kakasatta	20	5	80%
Q.9 Houtte oitara korasatta	14	11	56%
Q.10 Ano kuruma ha mada hashirasaru	2	23	8%

After Research

Irreplaceable?

Q.1 Botan ga osasatta	96%
Q.8 Pen no futa ga hazurete kakasatta	80%
Q.9 Houtte oitara korasatta	56%

Q1, Q8, Q9 is usage of result
(especially situation possible to be
blamed.)

Q.5 Gohan ga takasatta	40%
Q.3 kono pen ha kakasaruru	24%

Q5 is result (possibility not to be
blamed.)
Q3 is usage of possibility.

Q.6 Jikan ga semattekite aserasaru	12%
Q.2 Gohan ga oishikute taberasaru	8%
Q.4 Kono hon ha omoshirokute yomasaru	8%
Q.7 Kanashi eiga wo mite tuitui nakasatta	8%
Q.10 Ano kuruma ha mada hashirasaru	8%

Q2, Q4, Q6, Q7 is spontaneous
(unintended/forced power).
Q10 is possibility.

Conclusion

- Hokkaido dialect “-(ra)saru” has meaning of...

Spontaneous, **Possibility** and **Result**

- Usage of the dialect could be declining in some meaning, but still the usage of “**result**” (**especially avoiding the situation to be blamed**) is remained in young generation.

Once they get used to the convenient expression which doesn't have in common Japanese, it is difficult to forget that!



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Analysis of “deshita”

Phone Call Expression in Hokkaido Dialect

About Hokkaido

The northern part of Japan

Most of Current inhabitants have roots in Wajin from other islands(Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu).

Most of Wajin immigrated after Meiji period(19C).

About Hokkaido

Wajin has lived in Hokkaido for only 300 years.

Each families have different roots



People try to speak standard language to communicate each other



Hokkaido Dialect (has many things in common with standard Japanese language)

Hokkaido Dialect ... “deshita” in the phone call

“Deshita?” Why past tense...?



Hypothesis: Past Tense Brings Politeness

Temporal distance brings psychological distance, and make it polite (Lyons, 1977)

ex)

“Can you~?” + politeness -> “Could you?”

“Will you~?” + politeness -> “Would you?”



Hypothesis: Past Tense Brings Politeness

Example in Hokkaido Dialect

“Obandeshita”...meaning: “Good Evening!”

“O”...prefix to make noun more polite

“ban”...meaning: “Evening”, “night”

Hypothesis: Past Tense Brings Politeness

“deshita” might have an effect to make it more polite

“Obandesu” + politeness -> “Obandeshita”

“佐藤desu”+ politeness -> “佐藤deshita”

“Yoroshikattadeshouka?”

“Gochu-mon wa ijou de Yoroshikattadeshouka?”

“Will that be all?”



“Yoroshikattadeshouka?”

“Gochu-mon wa ijou de Yoroshikattadeshouka?”

Hypothesis 1: “Yoroshideshouka” + politeness -> “Yoroshikattadeshouka”



“Yoroshikattadeshouka?”

“Gochu-mon wa ijou de Yoroshikattadeshouka?”

Hypothesis 2: “Yoroshikatta” refers to something in the past(Kitahara, 2004)

Q: What is the past thing “Yoroshikatta” refers to ?

-> Order which customer has just completed



Difference between “Yoroshikattadeshouka” and “deshita” in the phone call

“Yoroshikatta” asks the order or something was good or not.

<- the quality, sufficiency can be changed

“deshita” in the phone call refers to Person’s name.

<- person’s name cannot be changed easily

Examples of “deshita” Usage

“Yonezu Kenshi de “Lemon” deshita.”

...”Music we played is “Lemon” by “Yonezu Kenshi.””

The reason of “deshita” usage

×The name of the music get changed from “Lemon” to something else

○Music ended

Examples of “deshita” Usage

“Seikai wa “Suisai” deshita.”...”The correct answer is “Mercury.””

Reason of “deshita” usage

×The correct answer get changed from “Mercury” to something else

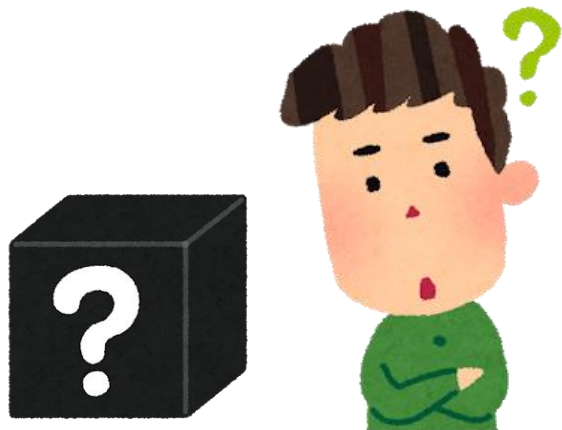
○The correct answer for the Question asked a little moment ago is “Mercury”

Reason of “deshita” Usage at Quiz (my analysis)

When you show something which had been hidden, you sometimes use past tense.

The thing had already existed, just was not so clear.

Question: What is this?



after a moment

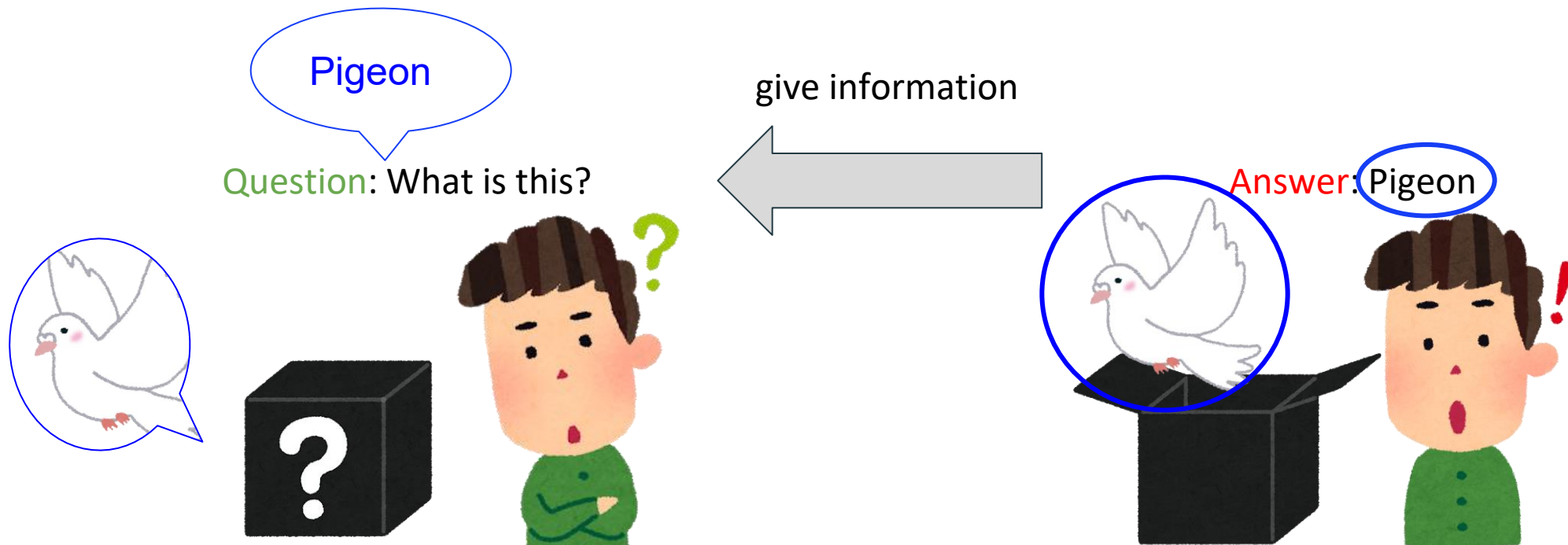


Answer: Pigeon



Reason of “deshita” Usage at Quiz (my analysis)

“deshita” gives an answer to the question retroactively

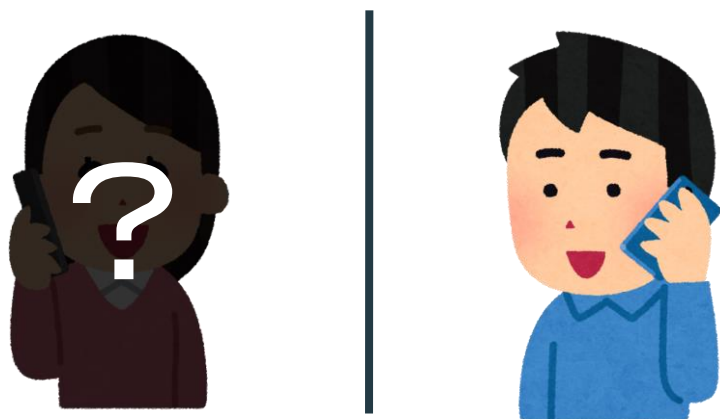


Development from Quiz Example

When you show something which had been hidden, you sometimes use past tense.

The thing had already existed, just was not so clear.

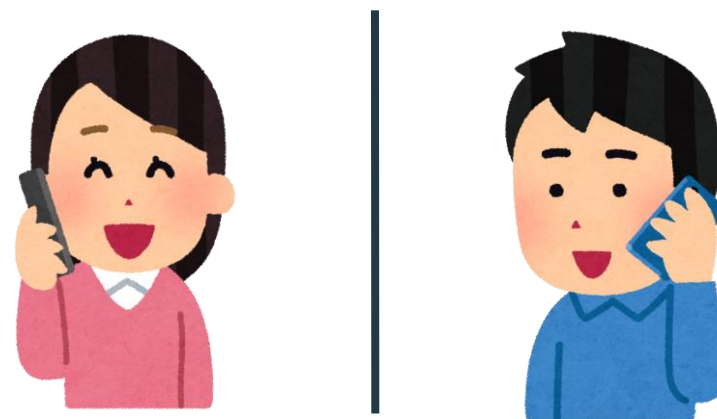
Question: Who is she?



after a moment

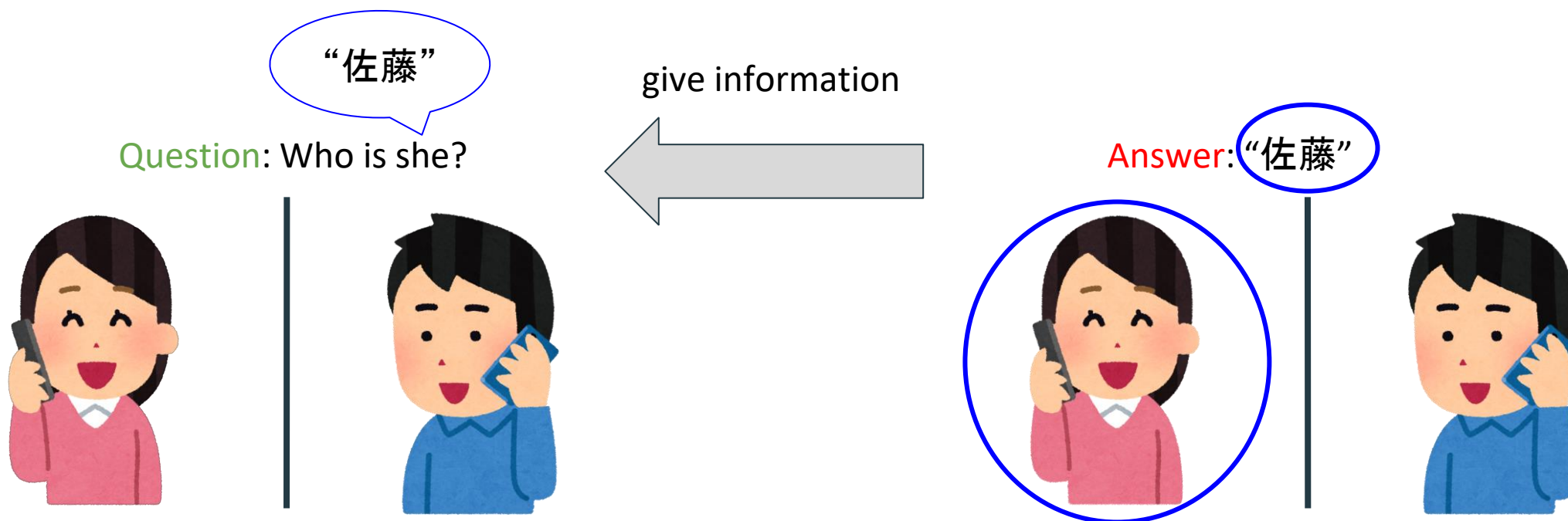


Answer: “佐藤”



Development from Quiz Example

“deshita” gives an answer to the question “Who was she/he ?” retroactively



Plans from now

How do they say...?



Moshimoshi

?? deshita

Plans from now



Q: How do they say...?

1. Mom
2. Baby

Plans from now

Learn more about mood, aspect, and modality

Compare “deshita” with “ta” of discovery (Sadanobu, 2004)

Connect “ta” of discovery with the case of Quiz program

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Shifty Indexicals in Chinese

Lu Guo

1 Pronouns

2 Tense Adverbs

3 Location

4 Conclusion

Pronouns

(1) 昨天/李/说/我（你他她）/前天/种的/花/开了

Yesterday /Li/said/I(you/he/she)the day before yesterday /planted/the flower/bloomed.

“Yesterday ,Li said the flower I (you/he/she) planted the day before yesterday bloomed”

✓ The flower was planted by Li

✓ The flower was planted I

The agent 我(wo) “I” is shifted in the scope of 说(shuo) “say”. It is ambiguous and depends on contexts.

(2)班长/说/他/被通知了/明天/去/你的/办公室/开会。

The monitor/said/he/was informed/tomorrow/to go to/your office/for a meeting

“The monitor said he was informed to go to your office for a meeting tomorrow.”

✓ The people who was informed is monitor

✓ The people who was informed is someone else

In English, the pronoun *he* is ambiguous between a bound and free pronouns, that is , he can be the monitor or someone elsesalient in the context. In chinese, 他 (*he*) also means monitor or someone else dominated by the conversation

(3) 妹妹_i / 说 / 她_i / 他_j 昨天 / 种的 / 花 / 开了。

Little/sister/said/*she or he*/yesterday/planted/flower/bloomed

“Litter sister said the flower *she/he* planted yesterday bloomed.”

When “*他(he)*” is used in the sentence :

✓ The flower was planted by a man

When “*她(she)*” is used in the sentence :

✓ The flower was planted by a woman

✓ The flower was planted by little sister

The subject sister can only have a bound pronoun *she*. So, *he* is not ambiguous. The sentence with *he* has only one meaning. On the other hand, *she* is Ambiguous and can be bound by the agent my sister

Tense Adverbs

(4) 昨天/李/说/我/前天/种的/花/开了

Yesterday /Li/said/I/the day before yesterday /planted/the flower/bloomed.

Yesterday ,Li said the flower I planted the day before yesterday bloomed

✓ The flower was planted 2 days ago(from now)

* The flower was planted 3 days ago(from now)

In English, these adverbs like *yesterday*, *the day before yesterday*, *tomorrow* etc. are not shifted even when there is another tense adverb in the sentence. In Chinese, in this sentence, 前天 (*qian tian*) “*the day before yesterday*” can only mean “two days ago from ‘yesterday’”. In Chinese, the reference of 昨天 (*zuo tian*) “*yesterday*” is dominated by the timing of conversation.

(6) 李/刚才/说/武/现在/得/去/老师的/办公室。

Li /just/said/Wu/now/have to/go to/ teacher's/office

“Li just said Wu have to go to teacher's office now.”

✓ Wu/have/to/go/to/teacher's/office/3minutes/ago.

✓ Wu have to go to teacher's office right now

Now is shifted by just in this sentence. Just means a past time, but now a very long time ago, i.e., 3 minutes ago. In contrast, now means the time speaker said his sentence.

(7) 上周一早上说他现在在打篮球。

Li/last Monday/morning/said/he/now/was/playing/basketball

“Last Monday morning, Li said he was playing basketball now.”

✓ Li was playing basketball last Monday's morning.

* Li is playing basketball now.

Now only means last Monday morning.

Location

(8)李/说/他/昨天/在/这/种的/花/开了。

Li/said/he/yesterday/here/planted/the flower/bloomed.

Li said the flower he planted here bloomed.

✓ Li planted flower in my balcony.

* Li planted flower in his balcony.

In this sentence, “*here*” can only mean the place the speaker

Is standing now. If the speaker standing in my balcony now ,the conversation happened in Li’s balcony.

Conclusion

For pronouns, words like *I, you, me, he, his*, can be ambiguous and determined by context in Chinese.

As for tense adverbs, words like *yesterday, tomorrow*, are shiftable when there is another tense adverb in the sentence. Temporal adverbs may be shifted in Chinese.

Location adverbs like *here* and *there* are shiftable in Chinese.

Application

AI translator/interpreter