Emphasizing Informality: Usage of –tte Form on Japanese Conversation Sentences

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ABSTRACT
The aim of –tte form research in Japanese sentences is to give more understanding in the meaning of –tte form usage on Japanese informal conversation sentences. The research is doing by analyze the –tte form in radio drama conversation sentences scenario book titled “Nissan, A! Abe Reiji Kyakuhonshuu Vol. 1” which has been broadcasted on Tokyo FM in the year of 2009. To simplify the research, sentences data containing –tte form are divided into 4 classification based on its position in the sentences; the –tte form in the head of sentences, –tte form in the beginning of sentences after subject, –tte form in the middle of sentences, and the –tte form in the end of sentences. Those are lead into the meaning of –tte form usage based on its position in sentences. As the result of the analysis the meaning of –tte form in the head of sentences are concluding as a starter of conversation, topic expander and relation to the topic. The meaning of –tte form in the beginning of sentence after subject is to point on addressed topic or express one of the topic’s definition and the speaker’s appreciation through the topic. Meanwhile, the meaning of –tte form in the middle of the sentences is to state quotation, repeat question and paradox. Lastly, the meaning of –tte form in the end of sentences is also used to express indirect sentences and hearsay, repetition, explanation of a condition, imperative form and oneself quotation.

KEYWORDS: -tte form, informality, conversation, emphasis, semantic study

Every language in the world must consist of two type of languages: written language and spoken language. Japanese language which is known as a flexion language has those two types of language, and its spoken form is known for being rich of conjugation forms. Japanese spoken language is usually marked with a lot of interruption sentences, interjections, indicating word ‘this, that’, particle omission and also contraction forms. We could regularly find the contraction form phenomena used...
in informal conversations in dramas, movies, comics or novels. And one of the contraction forms is called –tte form. See the data below.

(1) 「山田課長って、本当に優しい人ですよ。」

\[\text{Yamada kachoutte, hontouni yasashii hito desu.}\]

‘Mr. Yamada really is a very kind person’

(2) 「駅前のベルって喫茶店、入ったことある？」

\[\text{Eki mae no berutte kissaten, haitta koto aru?}\]

‘Have you ever been to a coffee shop called Bell in front of the train station?’

(3) 「彼はすぐ来るって言ってますよ」

\[\text{Kare wa sugu kurutte iitemasuyo.}\]

‘He said that he will come soon’

(4) 「あの、先生なんですって」

\[\text{Ano hito, sensei nanndesutte.}\]

‘They said that he’s a teacher.’

(Nihongo Bunkei Jiten: 233)

The –tte form above is often used by the Japanese native speakers in daily conversation. Each –tte form presented in those data apparently has different meanings, which are used as a topic marker particle – wa on data (1), as a contraction form from noun pointer particle toiu on data (2), also indicates a quotation or hearsay on data (3) and (4). In this research, the writer aims to re-analyze the usage meaning of –tte form in Japanese conversation so that learners of Japanese can use it in spoken Japanese comprehensively.
THEORY AND METHOD OF THE RESEARCH

At first, –tte form, according to Fujimura (1993) dan Saegusa (1997), is an contraction form from particle –to– which is often used by speakers when they refer to an unknown object. On the other hand, Fujimura and Saegusa had different perspectives in evaluating –tte form meanings. Fujimura (1993) suggested that tte form has meta language usage meaning. In order to clarify –tte form meaning based on the structures, Fujimura compared ‘wa/towa/toiunowa’ particle, substituted those particle in the sentences and determined –tte form meaning boundaries. Meanwhile, Saegusa (1997) studied the usage meaning of –tte form by determining –tte form origin which is supposed to derive from tote particle, so it has the same meaning as tote does. The basic meaning in tote are ‘quotation’ and ‘contradiction’. But, in both opinions the –tte form based on its position in the sentences has not been analyzed thoroughly. Hence, the writer decided to classify –tte form usage meanings based on the position in the sentences; the –tte form in the head of sentence, –tte form in the beginning of sentences after subject, –tte form in the middle of sentences, and the –tte form in the end of sentences.

The method used in this research is an analysis descriptive method and the data used is taken from a radio drama scenario book titled “NISSAN! A, Abe Reiji Kyakuhonshuu Vol. 1” (2007). The research started with collecting data which has –tte form in the sentences then classified them into four types based on its position in the sentences. After that, analyzing data then taking conclusion. And there are 1128 datas containing –tte form collected, with the detail listed as follows: the –tte form in the head of sentence are 145 sentences, –tte form in the beginning of sentence after subject are 412 sentences, –tte form in the middle of sentence are 307 sentences, and the –tte form in the end of sentence are 264 sentences.
FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Meaning of –tte Form

After analyzing collected datas, –tte form based on its position on sentences can be categorized in four types below.

–tte Form in the Head of Sentences

–tte form in the head of sentence is usually appears in the beginning of a sentence and also followed by a complete sentence (affirmative sentences, interrogative sentences and invitation sentences). See the datas below.

(5) (オフィスで、パソコンのキーボードをぱちぱちと打っている飯野)

Abe   : tte omae, PC de nani miten no?
Iino  : E? Kore? Netto de dekiru uranaissu

(6) (NISSAN!あ、安部礼司脚本集Vol.1 : 431)

(While Iino typing the PC keyboard at the office)

Abe   : ‘Hey, what are you doing with the PC?’
Iino  : ‘Er? This one? Just trying the fortune-telling application on the internet’
ダル履いてるよ！」

（NISSAN!あ、安部礼司脚本集Vol.1：261）

Abe : Gomen, gomen, sa, ikouka.

Iino : tte¹ senpai senpai! Ashi! Hodashi!

Abe : Uwaa! Kutsu haku no wasuretekita!

Iino : Konna no maji arienaissu yo!

Abe : tte² baka! Sonna koto aru wake nai darou! Chanto sandaru haiteru yo!

(НИSSAN! A, Abe Reiji Kyakuhonshuu vol. 1: 261)

Abe : ‘Im so sorry, okaay, let’s go now!’

Iino : ‘But¹, Reiji wait! Your foot! They’re bare foot!’

Abe : ‘What?! Just forgot to put on my shoes!’

Iino : ‘Oh, God! I just can believe this!’

Abe:‘Sshh², you stupid! You know its impossible! ‘Cause I put on my sandals anyway!’

On data (5) above, we could see from the conversation’s situation that the speaker used –tte form in the head of the sentence when he wanted to start a new topic in a conversation. Meanwhile, on data (6-1), the speaker used –tte form to change the conversation topic, to explain somethings which has just came up in mind or to interrupt listener’s statement. On data (6-2), the speaker used –tte form in order to express relation to the topic.

–tte Form in the Beginning of a Sentence after Subject

–tte form which is shown after subject in the beginning of a sentence usually follows word or noun phrase which is a topic of a sentence.
Abe: "If I could be honest to you, actually I... really have no idea how to use this PC as well, because I do not know exactly how to use it. If somehow they knew that I am not good at this, I'm afraid they'll think that I'm the worst staff."

Kurahashi: "'Onyuu'... Maa, sounann desu kedo... Kyou wa toku ni, Ebi-chan wo ishiki shitan desu!"

(Anbu: '実を言うと俺って... PCの使いこなし方とかも、未だ完全に把握していないのが、みんなにバレたらどうしようとか思ってる、そんなベルのダメ社員な訳で..."

(Abe Reiji Kyakuhonshuu, Vol. 1: 16)

Abe: "Ka, kawaii ne... Nandaro, sono fuku, hyouttoshite onyuu kai?"

Kurahashi: "'Onyuu'itte... Maa, sounann desukedo... Kyou wa toku ni, Ebi-chan wo ishiki shitan desu!"

(NISSAN! あ、安部礼司脚本集 Vol. 1: 17-18)
Abe : E, Ebi chan?

Kurahashi : Sou, Abe san shittemasu? E, bi, cha, n!

Abe : Ebi-chan tte are desh... NHK no, Ebijonil no koto deshoo?

Kurahashi : ......Haaa?

(AISSAN! A, Abe Reiji Kyakuhonshuu vol. 1: 17-18)

Abe : ‘How lovely... What is it, err... those clothes, are they new?’

Kurahashi : ‘What you mean “New”?.... Well, yeah they’re new...

Actually today I’m wearing new fashion of Ebi-chan.’

Abe : ‘E, Ebi-chan?’

Kurahashi : ‘Right, Do you know? E, bi, cha, n!’

Abe : ‘You mean Ebi-chan the NHK former journalist – Ebijonil, right?’

Kurahashi : ‘.......Whaat?’

(11) 安部「ワンセグ」だよ、飯野くん」

飯野「はい、先輩」

安部「ところで」

飯野「はい」

安部「ワンセグ」って何だ？」

(AISSAN!あ、安部礼司脚本集Vol.1 : 40)

Abe : ‘Wansegu’ dayo, Iino-kun!

Iino : Hai, Senpai!

Abe : Tokorode

Iino : Hai

Abe : ‘Wansegu’tte nanda?

(AISSAN! A, Abe Reiji Kyakuhonshuu vol. 1: 40)

Abe : ‘Its ‘Wansegu’, Iino!’
Iino : ‘Roger!’

Abe : ‘Anyway’

Iino : ‘Yes?’

Abe : ‘What is ‘Wansegu’?’

The –tte form on data above, has different kind of usage meaning with –tte form in the head of the sentence. On data (9) dan (10-2) –tte form is used to give a definition and appreciation through topic. On the other hand, on data (10-1) and (11) –tte form is used when speaker or even listener is asking about something they do not know or do not understand.

–tte Form in the Middle of the Sentences

–tte form which appears in the middle of a sentence usually connected with noun modifier and non-noun modifier to explain one’s action or situation. Refer the datas below.

(12) 安部「でさあ、お前ウチ来る前って、ドコ勤めたの？」

飯野「え？旅行会社っス」

(NISSAN!あ、安部礼司脚本集Vol.1：20)

Abe : De saa, Omae uchi kuru maette, doko tsutometa no?

Iino : E? Ryokou gaishassu

(NISSAN! A, Abe Reiji Kyakuhonshuu vol. 1: 20)

Abe : By the way, where were you working at before you’re joining our company?

Iino : Er? I worked for a travel agency.

(13) 安部「でもお前が着られないんだったら、俺も無理だよ！」

刈谷「どうして！」

安部「どうしてって、俺もお前もビールが大好きだからだよ！」
刈谷「それじゃ理由にならんだろ！ブランド物が格安で手に入るチャンスなんだぞ！

（NISSAN!あ、安部礼司脚本集Vol.1:272）

Abe : Demo Omae ga kirarenain dattara, Ore mo muri dayo!
Kariya : Doushite!
Abe : Doushitette, ore mo Omae mo biiru ga daisuki dakara dayo!
Kariya : Sorejya riyuu ni narandaro! Burando mono ga kakuyasu de te ni hairu chansu nandazo!

(NISSAN! A, Abe Reiji Kyakuhonshuu vol. 1: 272)

Abe : ‘If you couldn’t wear it, so neither I am!’
Kariya : ‘Why is that?’
Abe : ‘You said why is that? It’s obvious because we both like beer, aren’t we?’
Kariya : ‘That’s no make sense! That’s the only time we can get a branded stuff with a low price, you know!’

(14) 安部 「ほらあ！どう見たって飲みすぎただよ～～」
飯野 「よ、考えと思って、水分取ったらつもりなのに．．．胃が．．．」

（NISSAN!あ、安部礼司脚本集Vol.1:394）

Abe : Horaa! Dou mitatte nomisugitadayo...
Iino : Yo, yokare to omotte, suibun toota tsumori nanoni… i…ga....

(NISSAN! A, Abe Reiji Kyakuhonshuu vol. 1: 394)

Abe : ‘Hey! Like I just said, you’re drinking too much!’
Iino : ‘I just thought it’ll good for my stomach so I took a sip, but my stomach….’
–tte form which is shown on data (12) used as a state quotation when the speaker expresses his thought. On data (13), it clearly shown that the speaker repeats listener’s utterance in order to emphasize his argument or certain reason to listener. Meanwhile, on data (14), –tte form is used to express a paradox.

–tte Form in the End of the Sentences

–tte form which appears in the end of a sentence commonly follows a clause and complete sentence. See the data below.

(18) 飯野「ところで」
倉橋「ん？」
飯野「先輩、どこ行ったんですかね」
倉橋「そうね、コンビニ行って来るって」
飯野「そのまま帰ったのかな？」

(NISSAN!あ、安部礼司脚本集Vol.1: 457)

Iino : Tokorode

Kurahashi : n?

Iino : Senpai, doko iitan desukane

Kurahashi : Soune, kombini ittekurutte

Iino : Sono mama kaettano kana?

(NISSAN! A, Abe Reiji Kyakuhonshuu vol. 1: 457)

Iino : ‘By the way’

Kurahashi : ‘Yeah?’

Iino : ‘Where did Abe go?’

Kurahashi : ‘Well, he said he’s going to the convenience store’

Iino : ‘Then he just went home after that?’
(19) 安部「飯野、人格、変わってない？」

飯野「いいえ、変わってないっすよ」

安部「いや、変わった」

飯野「変わっていないっすって」

（NISSAN!あ、安部礼司脚本集Vol.1 : 329）

Abe : Iino, Jinkaku, kawattenai?

Iino : Iie, kawattenaiissuyo

Abe : Iya, kawatta

Iino : Kawatteinaissutte

(20) 大場「ほら、タクシーが、メーター倒すの忘れて、戻っちゃったっ

て」

安部「あ、ああ、はいはい」

（NISSAN!あ、安部礼司脚本集Vol.1 : 216）

Ooba : Hora, takushii ga meetaa taosuno wasurete, modochattatte.

Abe : A, aa, hai hai.

(21) 安部「刈谷は？」

Ooba : ‘Hey, the taxi driver looks forgot to put down the taximeter, I said
he’s returning back.’

Abe : ‘Oh, okay.’
刈谷「僕？」

安部「芸能人で言ったら、誰がタイプなんだよ？」

刈谷「でも僕結構マニアックだから、知らないカモよ～」

安部「いいから言ってみろって！」

（NISSAN!あ、安部礼司脚本集Vol.1 : 99）

Abe : Kariya wa?

Kariya : Boku?

Abe : Geinoujin de itara, dare ga taipu nandayo?

Kariya : Demo boku kekkou maniakku dakara, shiranai kamoyo

Abe : Ikara ittemirotte!

（NISSAN! A, Abe Reiji Kyakuhonshuu vol. 1: 99）

Abe : ‘What about you?’

Kariya : ‘Me?’

Abe : ‘Who’s your favorite comedian?’

Kariya : ‘Since I am a little maniac, I think I don’t have a favorite one’

Abe : ‘Oh God, come on just say it!’

(22) 安部 「ださあ、お前ウチ来る前って、どこ勤めてたの？」

飯野 「え？旅行会社っス」

安部 「旅行会社？」

飯野 「でも結構転勤多くて、あやうく東京から地方に飛ばされそうになっちゃって、それで思い切って転職しようかなって 」

（NISSAN!あ、安部礼司脚本集Vol.1 : 20）

Abe : De saa, Omae uchi kuru maette, doko tsutometa no?

Iino : E? Ryokou gaishassu
**Abe** : Ryokou gaisha?

**Iino** : Demo kekkou tenkin ookute, ayauku toukyou kara chihou ni

*Tobasaresouni nacchatte, sorede omoikitte tenshoku shiyoukanatte*  
(NISSAN! A, Abe Reiji Kyakuhonshuu vol. 1: 20)

**Abe** : ‘By the way, where were you working at before you’re joining our company?’

**Iino** : ‘Er? I worked for a travel agency.’

**Abe** : ‘Travel agency?’

**Iino** : ‘Yeah, but i moved a lot, so I was barely transferred from Tokyo to a small city. Then I’ve started to think about finding a new company.’

On data (18), the speaker used –tte form to quote the third person’s statement so that he could convey the message to listener. On data (19), –tte form is used to emphasize utterance that he wanted to convey to the listener so that he would listened. On data (20), we could see that the speaker trying to explain a condition to the listener. On data (21) the speaker is giving instructions informally to the listener. On data (22) the speaker expresses his thought and will indirectly to the listener.

**CONCLUSION**

**–tte Form Classification**

This study has found that there are four groups of –tte form. Based on the discovery of the –tte form in sentences taken from scenario books, this research suggests that the –tte form which is usually categorized into three groups of meaning in the past, now be updated into four groups. The analysis shows the meaning of –tte form in the head of sentences include as a starter of conversation, topic expander and relation to the topic. The meaning of –tte form in the beginning of sentence after subject is to point on addressed topic or express one of the topic’s definition and the
speaker’s appreciation through the topic. Meanwhile, the meaning of –tte form in the middle of the sentences is to state quotation, repeat question and paradox. Lastly, -tte form in the end of sentences is also used to express indirect sentences and hearsay, repetition, explanation of a condition, imperative form and oneself quotation.

–tte Form in the Head of the Sentences

–tte form which comes in the head of sentence is something new brought by this research and had never been discovered in any research before. This –tte form is the abbreviation from –teiuka, which was used for the first time around 1990. So what actually makes young people really like using the –teiuka form or its abbreviation –tte form in their conversations? One of the reasons is that it expresses politeness of the speaker and the interlocutor in vagueness level.

–tte Form in the End of the Sentences

According to Saegusa (1997), there are four meanings of the –tte form in the end of sentence; hearsay, order, repeating questions, and complaint, but this research has found that there are five meanings of the –tte form in the end of sentence; indirect sentence and hearsay, repetition, explanation of a condition, imperative form and oneself quotation. Even there are differences between the number and the term which its used, the writers want to emphasize that ‘explanation of a condition’ and ‘oneself quotation’ meanings are the newest discovery of the –tte form in the end of sentence’s meaning.

The Originality of a Spoken Language

There are so many sentences in the radio drama scenario book that use –tte form. We can conclude the fact that written language is not enough to be language studies main references. By this research we can see the prove that the –tte form is
often used in the head of sentences, in the beginning of sentence after topic, in the middle of sentence and in the end of informal Japanese language conversation.

Looking at those phenomena, we can also state that even though the spoken language is limited by certain written language standardization, spoken language does not have any dependency on written language. In fact, spoken language gives a new meaning in language application. It would happen because there are certain sentence form selections to express based on the purpose of the conversation and its connection between, also the situation and any contexts linked to the interlocutors in conversation. It is different from written language, which is limited factors and does not have any significant transformation along with the time.

Indeed the –tte form which shown in the head of sentence, is probably something new on expression. The –tte form shown in the head of sentence which is unidentified until nowadays is coming show it performance on the last 10 years. This form is gradually accepted and used mostly by young people naturally without feeling awkward on having conversation one to another. The conclusion came up with the prediction that the spoken language will keep going to produce its expressions number along with the time.

**Meaning of the Research**

The research of –tte form classification based on its position on sentences and usage meaning has been thoroughly analyzed. The 1128 datas has been used for this research has proven that –tte form has been increasingly used in Japanese informal conversation at present time more than the past. Through this research we could easily find out that –tte form has more various usage meaning nowadays and used in daily conversation in every situation to emphasize informality. –tte form is usually used to express the speaker’s thought and idea, but it also used to express the speaker’s and
listener’s feeling in order to understanding one’s and other feelings, thoughts and will.

So that the conversation between the speaker and the listener could run smoothly. This research also has led to a new discovery in the usage meaning of –tte form and it means that this research has given a contribution to Japanese conversation vocabulary.

REFERENCES