

Some Theoretical Implications of Two Intersubjective Viewing Arrangements:

A New Look at Japanese Cognitive Grammar

Akira MACHIDA

Hiroshima University
akimachida@hiroshima-u.ac.jp

20230807

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The Outline of the Presentation

1. Basic Observations
2. Proposals
3. Theoretical Implications
4. Conclusion

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Basic Observations

- Japanese permits a lot of tacit nominals and implicit grounding.

(1) *ureshii!* (*I am happy!*)
happy

(2) Speaker A: *kono hon doushita no?* (How did you get this book?)
Speaker B: *kinou katta.* (*I bought it yesterday*)
yesterday bought

(3) *kagi mi-naka-tta?* (Did you see *the* key?)
key see-NEG-PST

(1) = Subjective construal of the trajector

(2) = Zero anaphor

(3) = Implicit grounding

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Basic Observations

- Even English permits a lot of tacit nominals and implicit grounding under some circumstances.

- (4) a. I want you to put the canned tomatoes on the top shelf of the pantry.
b. Put the tomatoes on the top shelf of the pantry.
c. Put them on the top shelf.
d. Tomatoes, top shelf.
e. On the top shelf.
f. On top.

(Langacker 2008:54)

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The Aims of this Research:

- to propose a unified model on intersubjectivity and its related notions within the framework of Cognitive Grammar. (cf. Langacker 2008)
- to suggest a fresh perspective on Japanese Grammar.
- to offer an evolutionary perspective of cognitive linguistic typology.

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2. Proposals

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Two Communication Stances

Face-to-Face Stance:

Suppose the speaker is sitting across the table from the hearer in a coffee shop.

The speaker sees the hearer, and vice versa,

which forces the speaker to be aware of how s/he is seen from the hearer.



Side-by-Side Stance:

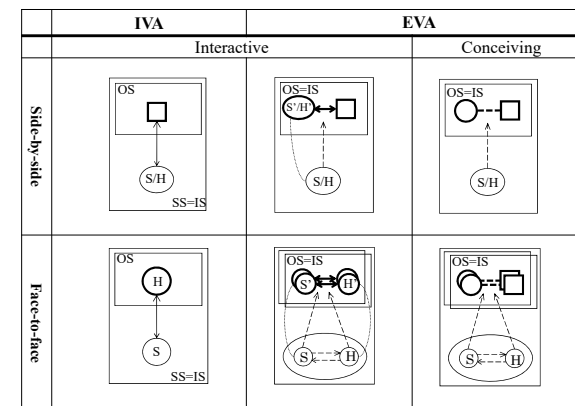
Suppose the speaker is sitting next to the hearer in a movie theater.

While watching the film, the speaker does not see the hearer, who is on the speaker's side, which makes the speaker feel as if s/he is sitting alone, forgetting the presence of the hearer.



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Six Types of Viewing Arrangements



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Event-internal Viewing Arrangements (or IVA)

Face-to-Face Stance in an activity:

Suppose the speaker is fighting with the hearer.

The speaker sees the hearer, and vice versa,
but the speaker cannot see him/herself.



Side-by-Side Stance in an activity:

Suppose the speaker is riding on a roller coaster with the hearer.

While riding the coaster, the speaker believes that s/he is
experiencing with the hearer the same activity with the
same feeling in the same way.



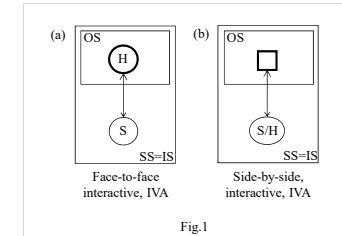
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Event-internal Viewing Arrangements (or IVA)

Face-to-Face Stance, interactive, IVA:

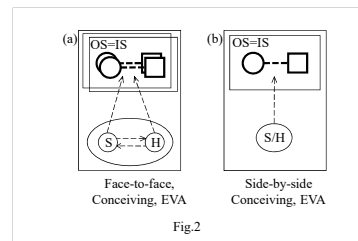


Side-by-Side Stance, interactive, IVA:



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Event-external Viewing Arrangements (or EVA)



Face-to-Face Stance, conceiving, EVA:

There are two distinct perspectives with distinct OSs and profiles.

Side-by-Side Stance, conceiving, EVA:

There is one perspective with one OS and profile.

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Objectification

Objectification:

Put some aspect of the subject of conception onstage

Two ways of Objectification of the subject of conception

- I. Objectification through introspection or self-examination (Langacker 1990)
We objectify ourselves by introspecting about what we are experiencing.
- II. Objectification through simulation of other's perspectives (Langacker 2015)
We objectify ourselves by assuming how others see us.

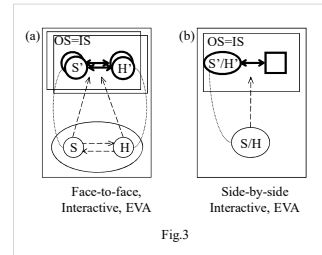
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Event-external Viewing Arrangements (or EVA)

Face-to-Face Stance, interactive, EVA

Side-by-Side Stance, interactive, EVA

These viewing arrangements are attained through objectification

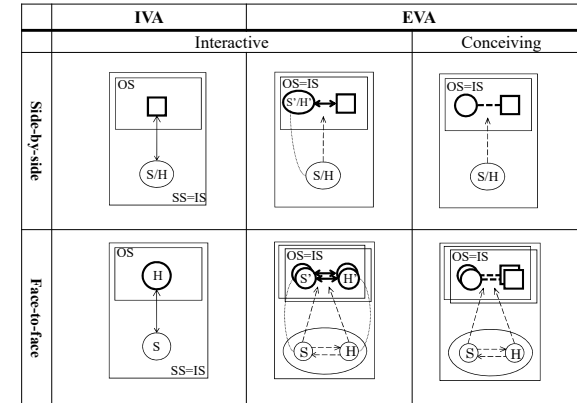


(5) a. How are we feeling today? (paternal *we*)

b. We mentioned this issue in Chapter 4. (editorial *we*)



Six Types of Viewing Arrangements



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Intersubjectivity

These different types of communication stances establish two different intersubjectivity.

cf. Intersubjectivity:

the sharing of experiential content (e.g. feelings, perceptions, thoughts, and linguistic meanings) among a plurality of subjects. (Zlatev et al. 2008:1)

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Two Types of Intersubjectivity

D-Intersubjectivity (Intersubjectivity by dissimulation of others' perspective):

When in face-to-face stance, the speaker dissimilates others' perspectives, based on a sense of self-other discrepancy, which keeps two distinct vantage points.

※ D-Intersubjectivity makes expressions more "objective" in the ordinary sense.

A-Intersubjectivity (Intersubjectivity by assimilation of other's perspective):

When in side-by-side stance, the speaker assimilates his/her personal perspective with others', based on a sense of self-other identification, which makes one united vantage point.

※ A-Intersubjectivity makes expressions more "subjective" in the ordinary sense.

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An Evolutionary View from Intersubjectivity

Language is intersubjective in nature.

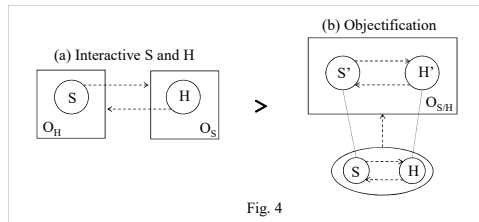
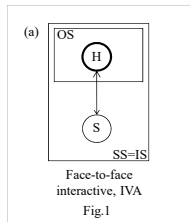
In an early stage of the history of a language, its speakers chose either D-Intersubjectivity or A-Intersubjectivity as a baseline for building up the whole system of the language.

- The grammatical system in English has developed based on D-Intersubjectivity.
(Intersubjectivity over dissimulation of others' perspective)
- The grammatical system in Japanese has developed based on A-Intersubjectivity.
(Intersubjectivity with assimilation of other's perspective)

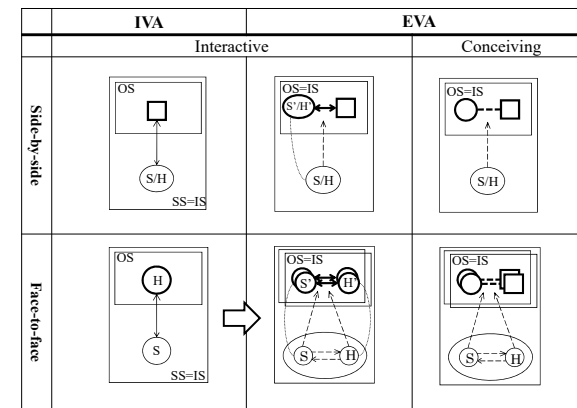
3. Theoretical Implications

Why English requires explicit subjects?

In face-to-face stance, interaction with distinct subjects of conception inevitably causes objectification of themselves.



Six Types of Viewing Arrangements

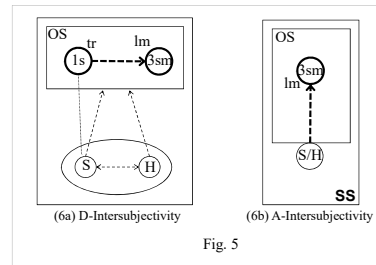


A-Intersubjectivity in English

- (6) a. I don't trust him. (EVA)
b. Don't trust him. (IVA)

(7) Expressions like these correlate with lesser formality, as they invite the hearer to construe the situation from the speaker's own vantage point.

(Langacker 2008: 468-9).



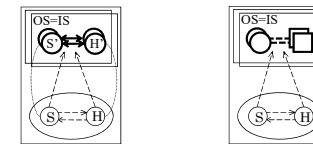
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Explicit Grounding

- (8) Through nominal grounding (e.g. *the, this*) the speaker directs the hearer's attention to the intended discourse referent,

(Langacker 2008:259)

- D-Intersubjectivity requires the speaker to adjust the hearer's attention to the intended referent.



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Implicit Grounding and Zero Anaphora

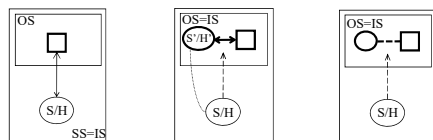
- (9) In the context of an ongoing discourse, the matter is usually clear: So if anything is problematic, it is the redundancy of an English-type system, where explicit indication has to be given of something apparent on other grounds.

(Langacker 2008:496)

(10) The communicative logic of zero:

- a. Anaphoric: Predictable information need not be mentioned.
b. Cataphoric: Unimportant information need not be mentioned.

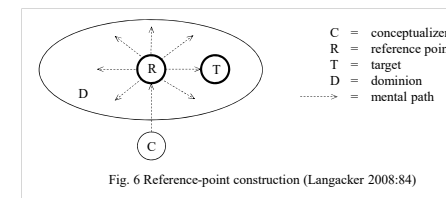
(Givón 2017:3)



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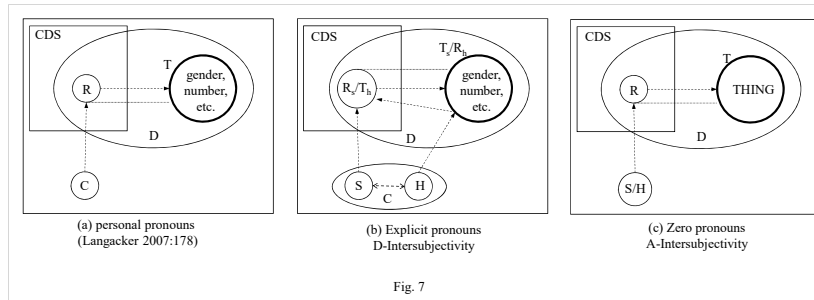
Reference-point Construction

- (11) a. Of considerable grammatical importance is a particular type of scanning called a reference point relationship. ... the reason for scanning along this path is primarily to find or identify the element ultimately arrived at.
b. In (25)(a) *Do you see that boat out there in the lake? There's a duck swimming right next to it,* for instance, the speaker wants to direct the hearer's attention to the duck, but from a distance the boat is easier to pick out. Once the hearer has located the boat, the duck can be found by searching in its vicinity. (Langacker 2008:83)



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Reference-point Constructions in Personal Pronouns



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Our answers to Basic Observations

- Japanese permit a lot of tacit nominals and implicit grounding.

(12) *ureshii!* (*I am happy!*)
happy

(13) Speaker A: *kono hon doushita no?* (*How did you get this book?*)
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(14) *kagi mi-naka-tta?* (*Did you see the key?*)
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(12) = Subjective construal of the trajector ← IVA

(13) = Zero anaphor ← A-Intersubjectivity

(14) = Implicit grounding ← A-Intersubjectivity

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Our answers to Basic Observations

- (15) a. I want you to put the canned tomatoes on the top shelf of the pantry.
b. Put the tomatoes on the top shelf of the pantry.
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(Langacker 2008:54)

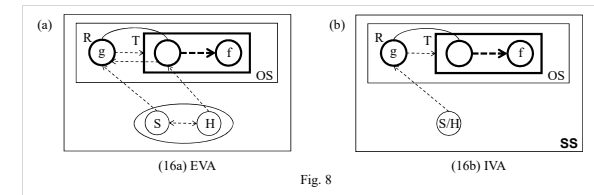
- Even English permits a lot of tacit nominals and implicit grounding to the extent of the degree of A-Intersubjectivity.

- The more the speaker can assimilate the hearer's experience, the less conceptual content will be verbalized.

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Topic Construction (cf. Langacker 2009:48)

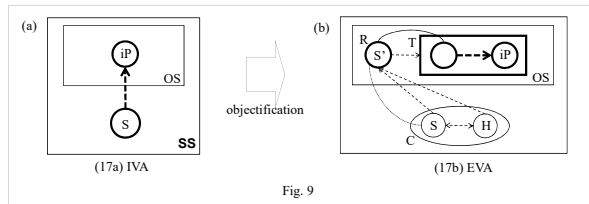
- (16) a. Girls, they wanna have fun. (*Girls Just Want to Have Fun*, Cyndi Lauper)
b. Onnanoko-tachi wa, { \emptyset /*kanojyo-tachi ga} tanoshii koto wo shitai.
girl-PL TOP, { \emptyset /*they} fun NML ACC want.



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Objectification with Reference-point Construction

- (17) a. iPhone ga hoshii. (I want iPhone.)
 iPhone NOM want.
- b. Watashi wa iPhone ga hoshii. (I want iPhone.)
 1st:sg TOP iPhone NOM want



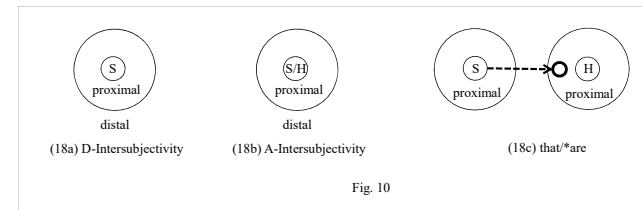
→ It leads to the double-subject constructions.

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Distal/Proximal Deixis in D-Intersubjectivity and A-Intersubjectivity

(see Hasegawa 2015 in detail)

- (18) a. *that* (distal) vs. *this* (proximal)
 b. *are* (distal) vs. *kore* (proximal)
 c. (pointing to the hearer's vicinity) *that* / **are*



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4. Conclusion

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Two Types of Intersubjectivity

D-Intersubjectivity (Intersubjectivity by dissimulation of others' perspective):

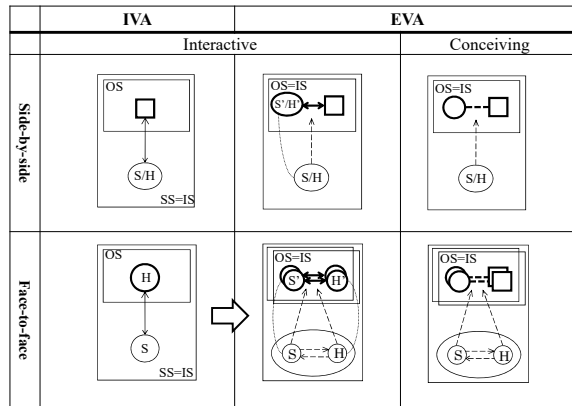
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A-Intersubjectivity (Intersubjectivity by assimilation of other's perspective):

When in side-by-side stance, the speaker assimilates his/her personal perspective with others', based on a sense of self-other identification, which makes one united vantage point.

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Six Types of Viewing Arrangements



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