Research about Causative Sentence in Modern Japanese
-The relationship between form and function of V-saseru in a sentence and the causative meanings-

The meaning of the Japanese causative sentence 「X {causer} -ga Y {causee}-ni Z {object of action} -wo V-saseru」 has been frequently discussed. However, in investigations of the meaning of causative sentences, no attention has been drawn to the form and function of the causative verbs V-saseru in a sentence. This research deals with cases of causative where both causer and causee represent a human being, like in the example “Taro(causer) ga Hanako(causee) ni soji wo saseru”, and is conducted from the assumption that, by concentrating on the form and function of the causative verbs V-saseru in the mid-sentence position, certain characteristics of the meaning of causative sentences can be seen. The research is based on a corpus of examples.

In this research I have concentrated on the form and function of V-saseru from two main standpoints. One is the function of V-saseru in a sentence and the other one is forms in which an auxiliary verb adheres to the conjunctive form (–te form) of V-saseru.

Firstly, I have observed the cases where V-saseru has the function of a predicative modifier and is in continuative (renyo) form (V-sasete, V-sase, V-sasenagara), the function of a hypothetical conditional clause and is in the conditional form (V-saseruto, V-sasereba, V-sasetara), the function of the predicate of a sentence and is in terminal (shushi) form; and have thought about the characteristics of the meaning of causative in each of the cases. Secondly, I have observed the cases where auxiliary verbs yaru/ageru/kureru, oku, shimau) adhere to V-saseru, which has been pointed out as related to the meaning of the causative in previous research.

Following that, I have concentrated on these forms and functions and thought about the meaning of the causative from two standpoints. One standpoint has often been pointed out in previous research and emphasizes the way a causer is involved in a causee’s action; the other one was pointed out by Yamada (1908) and Hayatsu (2006) and refers for whom was the causee’s action realized for. These two standpoints are equivalent to the 《aspect of cause/preceding aspect》 of realization of an action and the 《aspect of consequence/succeeding aspect》 of realization of an action, brought up in Hayatsu (2006). I have named these as `standpoint Ⅰ` and `standpoint Ⅱ` in my research and classified the meaning of causative as
Below I will list the matters that have become clear by this research, concentrating on the content from chapter 3 to chapter 8, which is my main discourse.

In the third chapter I have conducted an investigation about three forms of V-saseru in a sentence, which have the function of predicative modifier and are in continuative form (V-sasete, V-sase, V-sasenagara). I have understood that most of these forms express the meaning of 《inducing》 or 《exploitation》. Moreover, I have understood that the situation expressed by the subordinate clause where the three forms appear is closely related to the situation in the main clause.

In the fourth chapter I have conducted an investigation about V-saseru in conditional forms that have the function of hypothetical condition, V-saseruto, V-sasereba, V-sasetara. Although I have found very few cases in which V-sasetara expresses 《noninterference》 and one example in which V-saseruto expresses 《permission》, these forms express 《inducing》 in most of the cases. However, having observed these forms from the standpoints of 《exploitation》 and 《guidance》, I haven’t found any noticeable trend because both of these causative meanings were present equally.

In the fifth chapter I have observed V-saseru in the function of predicate of a sentence in its terminal form. Seventy percent of the sentences in which V-saseru appears in the terminal form were not simple sentences but complex ones. Also, in cases where V-saseru was the predicate of a complex sentence, it was most frequently accompanied by a subordinate clause in continuative form V-sasete or V-sase. Moreover, the situation expressed by the subordinate clause can be divided on a large scale into a sort of causer’s influence on the causee and the actions of the causer himself/herself which are not related to the causee. However, in most cases both are actions related to the realization of the situation in the main clause marked by V-saseru.

Speaking of the meaning of causative V-saseru in terminal form accompanied by a subordinate clause in continuative form, I have found out that in most cases the situation in the subordinate clause is an action performed by the causer, which, therefore, expresses 《inducing》. On the other hand, having observed these from the standpoints of 《exploitation》 and 《guidance》, I have found that there are more cases of 《exploitation》 but the situation in the accompanying subordinate clause will differ depending on whether it is 《exploitation》 or 《guidance》 in question.

I have investigated the cases where auxiliary verbs adhere to conjunctive form (–te form) of V-saseru from the sixth chapter to the eighth chapter.

In the sixth chapter I have investigated what meanings of the causative are expressed by the conjunctive form (–te form) of V-saseru followed by auxiliary verbs –yaru/ageru/kureru (V-saseteyaru, V-saseteageru, V-sasetekureru). It has been pointed out in previous research that when V-saseru expresses the meaning of 《permission》 it often appears in these forms. However, according to the examples I have used as the
corpus of this research, there are more cases that can be interpreted as 《inducing》 rather than 《permission》, as well as cases where it is difficult to decide whether it is 《inducing》 or 《permission》 in question. On the other hand, after having observed these forms from the standpoints of causative of 《exploitation》 and causative of 《guidance》, I have noticed a clear tendency of expressing 《guidance》 exclusively. Therefore, I have concluded that it is more valid to name the form V-saseteyaru/ageru as such which expresses the causative meaning of 《guidance》 rather than 《permission》.

In the seventh chapter I have investigated the cases where auxiliary verb –oku adheres to the conjunctive form (–te form) of V-saseru (V-saseteoku). It is considered in previous research that V-saseru often appears in the form V-saseteoku when it expresses the meaning of 《noninterference》. In fact, having analyzed the examples of V-saseteoku, I could see that, compared to other forms, there have been many cases where it expresses 《noninterference》 but also many cases where it expresses 《inducing》. Furthermore, having observed this form from the standpoint of causative of 《exploitation》 and causative of 《guidance》, I could see that in most cases when V-saseteoku expresses 《inducing》 it expresses 《exploitation》 as well, and when it expresses 《noninterference》 there are many cases in which it is difficult to decide whether 《exploitation》 or 《guidance》 is in question.

In the eighth chapter I have investigated about the cases where auxiliary verb –shimau adheres to the conjunctive form (–te form) of V-saseru. A tendency of causer`s influence being unintentional can be seen in V-saseteshimau which expresses 《inducing》 or 《noninterference》. This is related to the fact that many of the verbs which combine with –saseteshimau are non-volitional verbs.

Furthermore, I have concentrated on the verbs which combine with V-saseteyaru/ageru, V-sasetekureru, V-saseteoku and with V-saseteshimau. I have understood that few transitive verbs which express change of an object appear with these forms.

Throughout the entire research I could confirm that 《inducing》 is the most present meaning of causative for each of the forms and functions and that there are few examples which express 《permission》 or 《noninterference》.

This research has analyzed the meaning of causative sentence in Modern Japanese concentrating on forms and functions of causative verbs V-saseru in a sentence from standpoint I and standpoint II. These two standpoints are, in fact, closely related to each other and cannot be regarded separately. A lot of research has been done about the meaning of causative sentence in Japanese up to the present but I consider it necessary to conduct this investigation by paying attention to the forms and functions of V-saseru and incorporating in it both standpoints about the meaning of causative mentioned above.