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**Abstract:** Saito and Murasugi (1990) provide an NP-deletion analysis for Japanese. In some dialects, such as Nagasaki Japanese (NJ), however, pro-forms such as *to* appear. In this presentation, I show that Hiraiwa's (2016) light noun analysis directly represents data found in the dialect of Nagasaki city (NC) and on the nature of the pro-form.

## Background

It has not been fully established whether Japanese has NP (Noun Phrase)-ellipsis.

The example of NP-ellipsis in English

(i) Haruna's attitude was better than Mariko's ~~attitude~~.

The pro-form one-construction

(ii) Haruna's attitude was better than Mariko's negative one.

The controversial Japanese example (Standard Japanese)

(1) Haruna-no taido-wa Mariko-**no** yorimo rippadatta.  
Haruna-Gen attitude-Top Mariko-Gen than good

Issue:

Does 'Mariko-no' involve ellipsis or the pro-form construction?

(i) Haruna's attitude was better than Mariko's ~~attitude~~.

(ii) Haruna's attitude was better than Mariko's negative one.

NP-ellipsis analysis: Saito and Murasugi (1990),  
Maeda and Takahashi (2016) etc.

Pro-form analysis: Bae (2012), Hiraiwa (2016) etc.

Nagasaki J

(2) Haruna-n taido-wa Mariko-n **to** yorimo rippayatta.  
Haruna-Gen attitude-Top Mariko-Gen.one than good  
'lit. Haruna's attitude was better than Mariko's one.' (M&T 2016)

Haplology, deleting one of the consecutive *nos*

(3) a. Mariko-no taido → b. Mariko-no no →c. Mariko-no  
Mariko-Gen attitude Marko-Gen one

M&T(2016)

The pro-form *to* (*no*) is an -n head containing what Merchant (2001) calls the E(llipsis)-feature.

The n head *to* instructs PF not to pronounce its complement.

(4) a. [<sub>DP</sub> Mariko-n [<sub>D'</sub> [<sub>nP</sub> [<sub>NP</sub> ~~taido~~N ] *to*<sub>n</sub> ] D ]] (NJ) (M&T 2016)  
b. [<sub>DP</sub> Mariko-no [<sub>D'</sub> [<sub>nP</sub> [<sub>NP</sub> ~~taido~~N ] *no*<sub>n</sub> ] D ]] (SJ)

Hiraiwa (2016)

- a light noun analysis
- Light nouns, including *no* (*to* in NJ), occupy n position.

(5) [<sub>DP</sub> [<sub>D'</sub> [<sub>nP</sub> XP *n* ] D ]] (Hiraiwa 2016)

(6) a. [<sub>DP</sub> [<sub>D'</sub> [<sub>nP</sub> Mariko-n *to*<sub>n</sub> ] D ]] (NJ)  
b. [<sub>DP</sub> [<sub>D'</sub> [<sub>nP</sub> Mariko-no *no*<sub>n</sub> ] D ]] (SJ)

## Proposal

Hiraiwa's (2016) light noun analysis directly represents data found in the dialect of Nagasaki city (NC) and on the nature of the pro-form, while M&T's analysis requires an additional explanation regarding data in NC.

## Data

• In NC, only when the head noun is a light noun (such as *toki*, *tokoro*, and the pro-form *to*), the genitive marker must be *-n*.

• When the head noun is an abstract noun (such as *taido* "attitude"), the genitive marker should be *-no*.

NC

(7) Haruna-**no** taido-wa Mariko-**n** **to** yorimorippayatta.  
Haruna-Gen attitude-Top Mariko-Gen.one than good  
'lit. Haruna's attitude was better than Mariko's one.'

(8) the case where *-n* is used in NC (see also Saruwatari 2016)

a. Hanako n/\*no toki b. Hanako n/\*no tokoro  
Hanako Gen time Hanako Gen place  
'Hanako's time' 'Hanako's place'  
c. Osaka n/\*no mon d. Kobe n/\*no niki  
Osaka Gen person Kobe Gen around  
'Osakan' 'around Kobe'

If *to* were the realization of the E(llipsis)-feature and instructed PF not to pronounce its complement *taido*, the genitive marker preceding *to* would be *no* in NC, and it would not need to be *n* here.

M&T's (2016) analysis requires an additional explanation for the *-n* genitive and its connection to other light nouns.

## Conclusion

I presented a set of data from NC that Hiraiwa's (2016) light noun analysis accounts for but for which M&T (2016) would require an additional explanation.

## Selected References

- Bae, S.-H. (2012). *NP languages do not have NP-Ellipsis: examination of Korean and Japanese*. Ms. Harvard University.
- Hiraiwa, K. (2016) "NP-Ellipsis: A Comparative Syntax of Japanese and Okinawan," *NLLT* 34(4), 1345–1387. Maeda, M. and D. Takahashi (2016) "NP-Ellipsis in the Nagasaki Dialect of Japanese," *J/K Linguistics* 23, 119-132. Merchant, J. (2001) *The Syntax of Silence: Sluicing, Islands, and the Theory of Ellipsis*, Oxford University Press, Oxford. Saito, M. and K. Murasugi (1990) "N'-Deletion in Japanese" *The University of Connecticut Working Paper in Linguistics* III, 87-107. Saruwatari, A (2016) *Nominative and Genitive Cases in Japanese: From Dialectal and Cross-Linguistic Perspectives*, Doctoral dissertation, Osaka University.