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企画班 言語と認知班  
企画者 Christopher Tancredi  
講演者 9月7日 古賀弘毅 (佐賀大学)  
10月26日 David Yoshikazu Oshima (茨城大学)

Over the past two months we have had two meetings of the Semantics Research Group.

On October 26, David Yoshikazu Oshima of Ibaraki University gave a presentation titled *Topichood, Givenness, and the Particle wa in Japanese: Reconsideration and Reconciliation at Hirosaki Gakuin University*. In this talk Professor Oshima presented a semantic analysis of one major function of the particle *wa* in Japanese, an analysis that integrates and reconciles two major approaches: the topichood-based approach and the givenness-based approach. He showed that neither approach on its own can constitute a complete theory of thematic *wa*, but at the same time argued that a combination of the two approaches can yield a potentially adequate theory. He proposed in particular that *wa* marks a topic only when it is associated with certain grammatical functions, such as (direct or indirect) object, while it merely indicates givenness (groundness) when it is associated

others, including subject. In other words, the function of a given occurrence of (thematic) *wa* is determined only in conjunction with the grammatical context surrounding it.

On September 7, Hiroki Koga of Saga University gave a presentation at Keio University titled *A Grammar of Tense and Verb Morphemes with the Standard Japanese and the Saga Dialects as Its Initial Scope*. In this talk Professor Koga presented a grammatical analysis of tense and verbal morphology in Saga dialects. He argued for a reanalysis of Saga morphology based on two central ideas: (i) that the so-called tense morpheme /u/ does not indicate the time of an event but is rather timeless; and (ii) that a verb-final /r/ selects a base verb form as its complement. He showed how these two ideas could be used to account for syntactic, phonological, phonetic and semantic peculiarities of the Saga dialects. (Christopher Tancredi)