

## The Function of the Japanese Discourse Markers daroo and janaika as an Evocation of Shared Knowledge

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Daroo and janaika are Japanese discourse markers roughly equivalent to English question tags such as "y'know" or "isn't it". Although daroo and janaika differ in etymology and in their inherent function, in some cases they can be used interchangeably. This paper tries to explain why this is possible.

The basic use of daroo is as an epistemic modal that expresses the speaker's inference and judgment. Janaika, on the other hand, is derived from a rhetorical question that appeals for or declares the acceptance of the new information.

Daroo and janaika are used interchangeably when the speaker is seeking agreement between the hearer's knowledge status and his own. That is, either daroo or janaika can be used when the speaker is trying to achieve the same cognitive status as the hearer. He does this by telling or reminding the hearer of the knowledge that he assumes they share. I shall tentatively call this use an evocation of shared knowledge.

The types of knowledge "evoked" by the use of daroo and janaika are similar semantically. One example is the knowledge that the speaker and the hearer share through past experience. Another is the knowledge that the speaker and the hearer perceive through senses at the discourse site, such as sound and vision. A third example is commonsense knowledge and the natural or necessary conclusion drawn from it. This knowledge is that shared by most members of a society, and so the speaker takes it for granted that it is familiar to the hearer.