

An Attempt at Japanese
Grammar Tests and Practice
in View of Discourse
Structures

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One of the objectives of the Japanese preliminary education is to prepare learners for studies in universities and colleges, especially in their skills in reading and writing. Therefore, learners in intermediate or advanced courses will be required to get used to a logical and comprehensive grasp of various language material, as well as to learn more complicated structures, more affective expressions and so on.

With this in mind, we attempted to prepare a book of grammar practice in which learners can check their readiness for future studies in academic institutions. This Japanese Grammar Tests and Practice characteristically aims to provide learners with a variety of grammar practice in discourse structures, where they will learn various means of maintaining cohesion in discourse and be able to acquire a higher level of reading and writing abilities.

We gathered about 150 pieces of discourse from newspapers, magazines, books, and so on, and analyzed them in terms of logical development in typical Japanese discourse structures. Based on this analysis, we tentatively classified them into five larger groups, each containing examples of different

logical developments.

Examples:

1. Giving examples about a matter:

Matter → Classification → Examples

Issue → Examples → Explanation → Conclusion, etc.

2. Stating reasons for opinions, propositions, etc.

Belief → Reason → General Opinion → Objection

Proposition → Explanation → Reason, etc.

This classification appears in the end of the book as "Preliminary Analysis in Discourse Patterns" which may be of use for writing instructions in the classroom.

There are also "Keys to Solution" and "Hints" provided in the book for use both in the classroom and for the learner working independently.

We also examined and arranged "Lists of Advanced Sentence Patterns" in the end of the book to be made use of by both learners and teachers as a check list.