

IMPLICATION FOR THE STATUS OF THE KEDO-FORM IN JAPANESE SYNTAX-FOR-CONVERSATION

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In grammar, *-kedo* connects two contrastive clauses, and is attached to the end of Clause 1 and projecting Clause 2. It is often translated as ‘although’, ‘though’, ‘but’, and ‘however’ in English. Even though the main syntactic function of *-kedo* is to connect two clauses, phrases or words, *-kedo* sometimes appears at the end of a sentence, especially in spoken interaction. It is usually agreed that a sentence final *-kedo* also projects an implied a clause, phrase, or word after *-kedo* (Chino 1991:90 & Kaiser et al 2001:210). Numerous linguists have analyzed sentence final *-kedo*. Moreover, although linguists like Mizutani & Mizutani (1988) discuss recipient designed speech, they rely on arguments about speaker intentions rather than examining other aspects of interactions in which *-kedo* is used. These studies only examine part of the interactional role of *-kedo* since they focus only on the nature of the turn in which *-kedo* is used and do not consider the whole sequential position of *-kedo* including what proceeds and follows it. This means that studies to date have not identified how recipients are able to know that a turn is designed to end with *-kedo* and so, how speaker change is organized in such turns.

This paper will examine sentence final *-kedo* from the perspective of syntax-for-conversation. The analysis indicates that although *-kedo* is used to project further talk, cases of speaker change immediately following *-kedo* with no gap or overlap are common in Japanese conversation. Moreover, the projectability of the next item appears to provide an interactional resource which allows *-kedo* to be recognized as a possible completion point at which speaker change may occur. It would appear that speaker change at this point allows the recipient to display quick up-take of the speaker’s meaning (Schegloff 2002 & Liddicoat 2004). *-Kedo* signals that further talk is projected, but the projected talk is not always produced. Speaker change may occur after *-kedo* with no gap or overlap, but it does not seem that this is simply the result of *-kedo* being designed as an incomplete turn at talk. Instead speaker change after *-kedo* is achieved collaboratively by participants and speaker change appears to claim early recognition of the projected item, and often an affiliative agreement with it. *-Kedo* provides a site at which speaker change may be locally managed and incompleteness can be interactionally accomplished by participants rather than being a design feature of turns.

Liddicoat, AJ 2004, ‘The projectability of turn construction units and the role of prediction in listening’, *Discourse Studies*, vol. 6, no. 4, pp. 449-471.

Schegloff, EA 2002, ‘Opening sequencing’, in *Perpetual Contact: Mobile Communication, Private Talk, Public Performance*, eds JE Katz & M Aakhus, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, pp. 325-385.

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