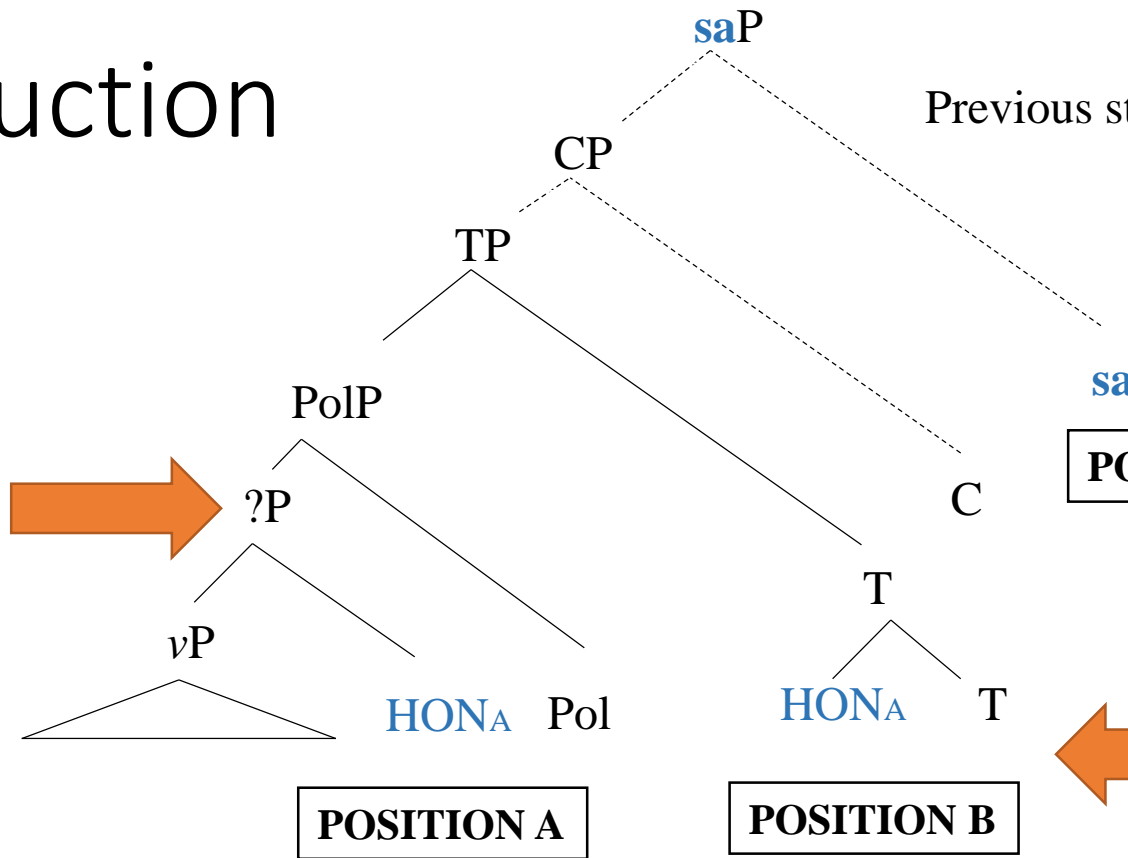# Historical developments/variations of Japanese addressee-honorific markers and economy principles

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1 Introduction

saP

CP

TP

PolP

Previous studies (Miyagawa 1987, 2012, 2017, Slocum 2016)

Korean *-supnita*
Thai   *-khrap*

sa

POSITION C

Question A
Where could this lower position be?

?P

C

*v*P

T

HON$_A$ Pol

HON$_A$ T

Question B-1
Why is an element in T affected?

POSITION A

POSITION B

Question B-2
Why was there a variation?

(3) [$_{CP}$ [$_{TP}$[$_{PolP}$ *pitopito* *motii-**sooraw**-azu*] [$_T$ *soora(w)-iki*]]].   Middle   Japanese   (MJ)
        people   use-HON$_A$-NEG   HON$_A$-PST

(4) [$_{CP}$ [$_{TP}$[$_{PolP}$ *minna*   *motii-**mas**-en*]   [$_T$ *des-ita*]   ]].   Heisei   Japanese   (21stC)
        people   use-HON$_A$-NEG   COP.HON$_A$-PST

(5) [$_{CP}$ [$_{TP}$[$_{PolP}$ *minna*   *motii-**mas**-en*]   [$_T$ ***kat**-ta*]   ]].   Meiji   Japanese   (19stC)
        people   use-HON$_A$-NEG   COP.PLAIN-PST

'People did not use (it) [polite register].'
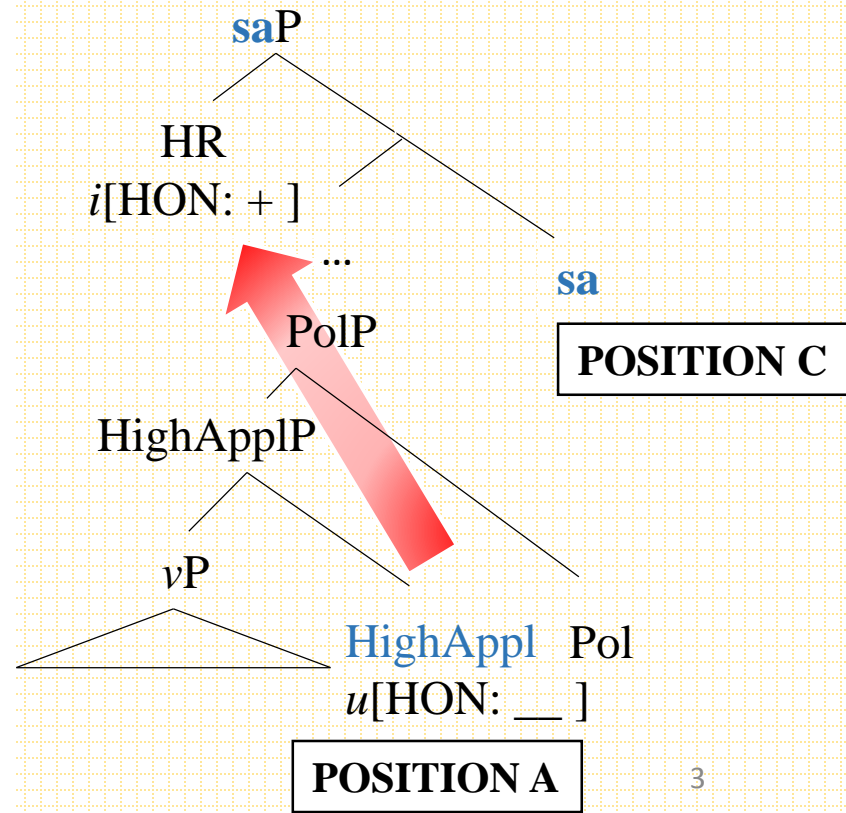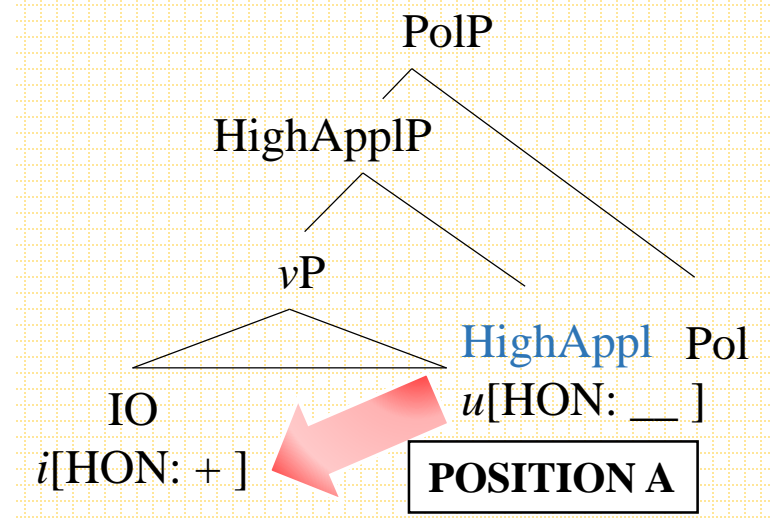
2 Position A High-ApplicativeP

Fact: Addressee-honorific markers used to be an object-honorific marker.

Claim 1: As a historical reminiscent property, the AH-marker *-mas* continues to appear in the Head, High-ApplP, just like *-ma(w)iras/marasur*.

[saP HR… [HighApplP [vP IO DO teach (verb)]-***marasur-***] … sa]
[saP HR… [HighApplP [vP IO DO teach (verb)]-***sauraw-***] … sa]

Claim 2: From downward-agree to upward-agree.

[saP HR… [HighApplP [vP IO DO teach (verb)]-***marasur-***] … sa]
[saP HR… [HighApplP [vP IO DO teach (verb)]-***sauraw-***] … sa]

PolP
HighApplP
vP
HighAppl Pol
IO
i[HON: +]
u[HON: __]
POSITION A

saP
HR
i[HON: +]
sa
POSITION C
…
PolP
HighApplP
vP
HighAppl Pol
u[HON: __]
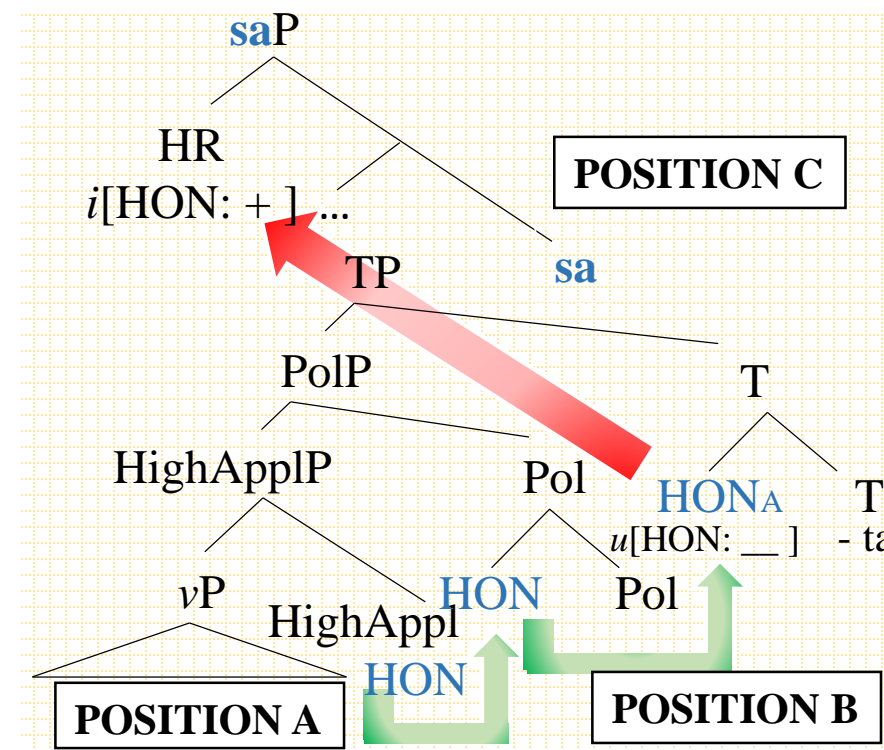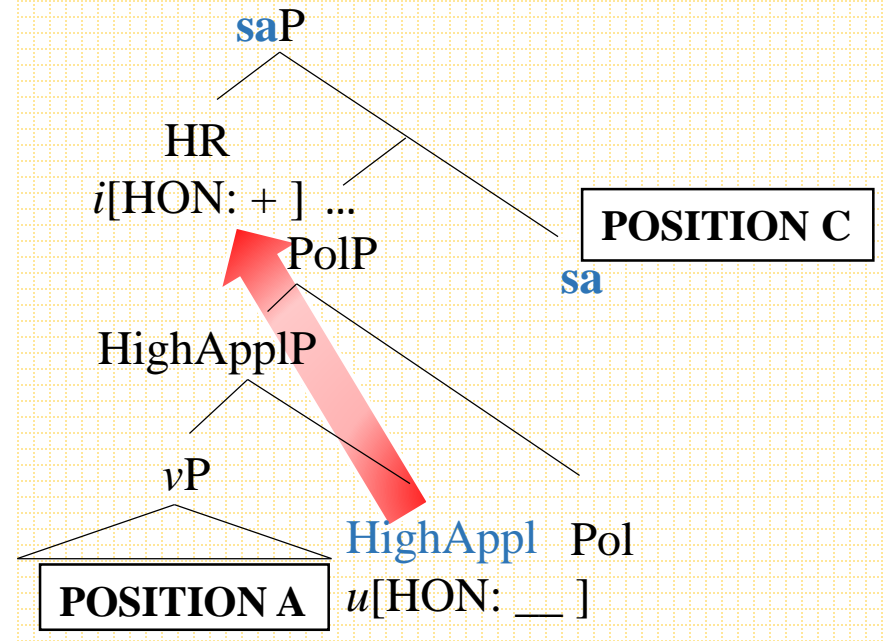**POSITION A**

3

Position B — Economy principles

Fact: OH-constructions do not have Position B elements. Position B elements appear only after they became a full-fledged AH-marker.

Claim 1: Economy Principle #1
Preference for an agreement within short-*er* distance: when one has a valuation of the unvalued feature, the shorter the Probe-Goal distance, the better.

Claim 2: Economy Principle #2
Multitasking: when there are more than two problems to solve during the derivation, the most economical solution is to fix all the problems at once, rather than solving these problems one by one using different solutions (*cf.* Van Urk and Richards 2015).

References

Bjorkman, B., & Zeijlstra, H. (2014). *Upward agree is superior.* **Miyagawa, S.** (1987). LF affix raising in Japanese. *Linguistic Inquiry,* 18(2), 362-367. **Miyagawa, S.** (2012). Agreements that occur mainly in the main clause. **Miyagawa, S.** (2017). *Agreement beyond phi.* Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. **Pylkkänen, L.** (2008). *Introducing arguments.* MIT press. **Slocum, P.** (2016). *The Syntax of Address.* **Van Urk, C., & Richards, N.** (2015). Two components of long-distance extraction: Successive cyclicity in Dinka. *Linguistic Inquiry,* 46(1), 113-155. **Wurmbrand, S.** (2014). The Merge Condition: A syntactic approach to selection.