On the rise of *douride* ‘no wonder’ as a projector and the reformulation of discourse sequential relations in Japanese

This study examines the discourse function of *douride* (or *dooride*) ‘no wonder’ from the late nineteenth through the early twenty-first centuries. *Douri* stands for ‘reason, truth’ and the particle –*de* is the continuative form of *da*, an auxiliary or copulative verb that can be considered to have emerged in the late fifteenth century (Frellesvig 2010: 400). The form *douride* can be witnessed in the middle of the eighteenth century (Kitahara 2006); however, it seems not to be used frequently enough because neither Fujimoto and Takada (2015) nor Ichimura (2015) includes crucial examples. Furthermore, this particular expression has not come under close scrutiny (see Kudo 2016) not least in terms of theoretical frameworks (e.g. Traugott and Trousdale 2014). Therefore, this study probes deeper into the later stages of Japanese, using *Taiyo Corpus* (1895, 1901, 1909, 1917, 1925) and *Balanced Corpus of Contemporary Written Japanese (=BCCWJ*, the genre of book, 1971-2005), and investigates the development of *douride* in the eyes of ‘projector constructions’ in Interactional Linguistics (e.g. Laury et al. 2014; Günthner 2016; Shibasaki).

The findings suggest that *douride* develops from its older nominal predicate use such as *douri-nari/da/dearu/desu* ‘is no wonder’ as in (1) to an adverbial or conjunctive expression as in (2), a syntactically stand-alone expression.

Along with the syntactic expansion, the flow of information changes as follows. Around the turn of the twentieth century, the nominalized clause is topicalized by the topic marker *wa* and immediately followed by the nominal predicate *douri-nari* as in (1); the thematic clause with *wa* is accompanied by the rhematic *douride*-predicate. This self-contained sentence structure is predominant around this period. On the other hand, the usage of *douride* around the twenty-first century goes beyond one sentence structure and into a larger discourse unit, connected by *douride* appearing between sentences, as in (2), where *douride* becomes syntactically independent and implies a decline in the degree of its nouniness. In tandem with the syntactic-semantic change, *douride* is used sentence-initially so that the speaker/writer can introduce in the following statement his/her own idea, opinion, speculation, view, etc. on the preceding discourse. Accordingly, the newly emergent *douride* at the beginning of sentence enables the addressee/reader to expect more to come in a subsequent stretch of discourse. The reformulated flow of information facilitates interaction in a more effective way; more than 53% of the examples in BCCWJ (46 out of 86 tokens, the genre of book) exhibit this usage.

In Interactional Linguistics, the term ‘projector’ stands for a set of expressions that anticipate upcoming discourse (Hopper and Thompson 2008: 105) while relating it to the preceding information as in the use of *douride* (cf. Gentens et al. 2016 and Günthner 2016). In other words, *douride* undergoes the formal change from a nominal predicate to an adverb and the functional change from a rhematic predication in one sentence to a projecting connector serving between sentences. What can be emphasized here is that language users reinvent available grammatical structures to realize their communication either written or spoken (Du Bois 2003: 49).
Examples

(1) Kyonen no koto o omoidashi-te kanashiku omou no wa douri-da
last.year GEN thing ACC remember-and sad think NML TOP no.wonder-be
‘(It) is no wonder that (we) feel sad when (we) remember what (happened) last year’
(1895 Azumanishikie; Taiyo)

(2) Ore no sugata demo maeni mita no daroo ka.
I GEN figure PT before see-NML I.suppose PT
Douride nani mo shinakatta wake-da
no.wonder what PT do.not.PST no.wonder-be
‘(He) might have caught sight of me before, (I) suppose. No wonder, (he) didn’t do anything
to me’ (2002 Ijime no gyakushu; BCCWJ)

References


Corpora

Balanced Corpus of Contemporary Written Japanese (BCCWJ).
(http://www.kotonoha.gr.jp/shonagon/)