

An experimental investigation of a three-way classification of the Japanese reflexive *zibun*: A preliminary study

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The ultimate goal of the present study is two-fold: (i) to clarify the interpretation process (grammatical vs. extra-grammatical) of the Japanese reflexive *zibun* based on data obtained by eye-tracking experiments conducted with Japanese native speakers; (ii) to provide empirical grounds for acquisition of reflexive expressions by comparing the data collected from Japanese native speakers with those from L2 Japanese learners and heritage speakers.

As is well known, *zibun* allows both local and long-distance (LD) binding interpretations. Some previous work treats *zibun* as a lexical anaphor which can be bound by a local or LD antecedent by undergoing LF operator raising, (e.g., Katada, 1988; Aikawa, 1993). In another proposal, *zibun* is claimed to have two kinds, one is a reflexive anaphor and the other is as a logophoric pronoun (Abe, 1997). In a more recent analysis, *zibun* is categorized into three different types: reflexive *zibun*, which is locally bound as a coargument of its antecedent, empathic *zibun*, which is bound by the participant the speaker empathizes with and identifies with the most, and logophoric *zibun*, bound by a logophoric individual (e.g., Hirose, 2002; Oshima, 2004; Kishida, 2011).

What we cover in this talk is preliminary, tentative and loose-ended, but it attempts to outline the road to the above mentioned goal. We discuss the three-way classification of *zibun* and report the results of preliminary offline tasks investigating native speakers' interpretations of empathic *zibun* and logophoric *zibun*. The results reveal that empathy and logophoricity, which involve extra-grammatical processes, play a role in the interpretation of *zibun*.

#### References

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