Verbal/Adjectival Predicate Clauses and Nominal Predicate Clauses in Japanese and Korean: A Contrastive Linguistic Approach
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Summary

In Japanese, nominal predicate clauses can normally be used on behalf of verbal/adjectival predicate clauses, which are sometimes regarded as unnatural, as shown in (1) and (2).

(1) a. mamonaku tokyoo eki ni tootyaku desu.
soon Tokyo station at arrival COP:POL
(Lit.) ‘(It) is soon the arrival at Tokyo Station.’ (Inoue and Hasoo Kim 1998: 457)
b. mamonaku tokyoo eki ni tootyaku-si-masu.
soon Tokyo station at arrival-do-POL
‘(We) will soon arrive at Tokyo Station.’ (Inoue and Hasoo Kim 1998: 457)

(2) a. kyoo wa ii tenki da.
today TOP good weather COP
(Lit.) ‘As for today, (it) is a good weather.’ (Inoue and Hasoo Kim 1998: 463)
b. kyoo wa tenki ga ii.
today TOP weather NOM good
(Lit.) ‘As for today, the weather is good.’ (Inoue and Hasoo Kim 1998: 463)

In Korean, on the other hand, the use of nominal predicate clauses results in unacceptable expressions; verbal/adjectival predicate clauses are normally used, as shown in (3) and (4).

(3) a. ??? kot tongkyeng-yek-ey tochak-i-pni-ta.
soon Tokyo-station-at arrival-COP-POL-IND
(Lit.) ‘(It) is soon the arrival at Tokyo Station.’ (Inoue and Hasoo Kim 1998: 457)
b. kot tongkyeng-yek-ey tochak-ha-keyss-supni-ta.
soon Tokyo-station-at arrival-do-INT-POL-IND
‘(We) will soon arrive at Tokyo Station.’ (Inoue and Hasoo Kim 1998: 457)
In this way, nominal predicate clauses are more frequently used in Japanese than in Korean. Focusing on nominal predicate clauses, there exist nominal predicate clauses including a general noun in both Japanese and Korean in the same way, as shown in (5) and (6).

(5) a. Japanese
   *kaigi o kaisai-suru yotei da.*
   meeting ACC holding-do schedule COP
   (Lit.) ‘(It) is the plan to hold a meeting.’

   b. Korean
   *hoyuy-lul kaychay-ha-l yeyceng-i-ta.*
   meeting-ACC holding-do-RL:PRS schedule-COP-IND
   (Lit.) ‘(It) is the plan to hold a meeting.’

(6) a. Japanese
   *koosoo mansyon o kensetu-suru keikaku da.*
   high-rise apartment ACC building-do plan COP
   (Lit.) ‘(It) is the plan to build a high-rise apartment.’

   b. Korean
   *kochung aphathu-lul kensel-ha-l kyeyhoyk-i-ta.*
   high-rise apartment-ACC building-do-RL:PRS plan-COP-IND
   (Lit.) ‘(It) is the plan to build a high-rise apartment.’

However, as for nominal predicate clauses involving a formal noun, a variety of them can be found in Japanese, as shown in (7)-(11), whereas they are extremely limited in Korean, as shown in (12).

(7) *kare wa isya ni nat-ta no da.*
he TOP medical.doctor DAT become-PAST thing(formal noun) COP
‘He became a medical doctor.’
The above-mentioned fact on nominal predicate clauses leads to a piece of evidence for a fundamental principle that grammaticalization occurs more frequently in Japanese than in Korean.