

THE COUNTERPART IDENTIFIER OF THE UTTERANCE TIME IN JAPANESE

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This paper is an attempt to give a discourse management account of a deictic time noun 'imagoro ('now'+ 'time identifier')'. It is claimed that 'imagoro' serves to identify the counterpart of 'ima (now)' in a parallel mental space. I will first examine the uses of 'imagoro' in cases where it combines with periodic deictic time nouns such as 'asita (tomorrow)', 'rainen (next year)', e.g. 'asita no imagoro (tomorrow about this time)', 'rainen no imagoro (next year about this time)'. I argue that the use of 'imagoro' in these cases is licensed by the presence of a parallel temporal structure definable on a periodic time scale. For 'imagoro' to get the value corresponding to the utterance time in the counterpart space, the counterpart space must contain a temporal structure parallel to the base space, accounting for the restriction of 'imagoro' to periodic time nouns. It will further be demonstrated that the licensing conditions based on the parallel structure can be extended to the cases of 'imagoro' in modal structure and conditionals, suggesting that they also involve a parallel temporal structure.

