

Adjective and verb morphology: Further issues

- (1) Consonant-root versus vowel-root verbs: How can we tell?
- Which inflectional forms are most useful to look at?
 - What vowels can a vowel-root verb's root actually end in?
- (2) Irregular verbs (see data set) — very small number in Japanese
- (3) Negative forms and /(-)na-/: What have we here?
- (a) The irregular negative form of /ar-/ 'exist'
- nai 'does not exist' nakatta 'did not exist' | what is the word class?
- (b) Negative adjectives
- akakunai 'is not red' akakunakatta 'was not red'
- Formal form: akaku arimasen 'is not red (FORMAL)'
 - Contrastive focus construction: akaku wa nai kedo... 'it isn't *red*, but...'
 - Adverb/combining form is free-standing: akaku 'red and...', 'red (as result of V)'
 - Conclusion: These forms are A-ADV plus a form of /ar-NEG/
—> actually *two independent words*: akaku nai
- (c) Negative verbs
- Vowel-root verbs: tabe-nai 'does/will not eat' tabe-nakatta 'did not eat'
- Cons-root verbs: yom-anai 'does/will not read' yom-anakatta 'did not read'
- Formal form?

tabe-masen, yom-imasen * tabe arimasen, *yom(i) arimasen
 - Contrastive focus construction?

tabe wa sinai, yomi wa sinai *tabe wa nai, *yom(i) wa nai
 - What comes before /-na/ is not consistently a free-standing form: *yom(a)
 - Conclusion: The verb NEG suffix is a bound morpheme, distinct from /ar-NEG/
—>actually *one (complex) word*: tabenai, yomanai

(4) Morphological analysis of the formal forms of verbs

	<i>nonpast</i>	<i>neg nonpast</i>	<i>volitional</i>	<i>imperative</i>	<i>past</i>
'eat' /tabe- + .../	tabe-masu	tabe-masen	tabe-maçoo	(tabe-mase)	tabe-maçita
'read' /yomi- + .../	yom-i-masu	yom-i-masen	yom-i-maçoo	(yom-i-mase)	yom-i-maçita

- (a) This suffix itself inflects (conjugates) like a verb: consonant verb or vowel verb?
- (b) One of the inflectional forms of this suffix is irregular — which one?
- (c) Advanced analysis: We can treat the /i/ that shows up in the consonant-root verbs before this suffix as a "stem-forming" morpheme (vowel-root verbs have a *zero morpheme* for their stem-forming morpheme); more on this when we look at honorifics