

The Japanese Compound Verb ~ kakeru (~ かける): It's Meaning and Formation

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Abstract. This study examines " $\sim kakeru$ ($\sim t$) t δ) Compound Verbs in Japanese Sentences." This study describes the structure and meaning of the compound verb kakeru in Japanese sentences. The data used by the researcher come from diverse sources, including books, dictionaries, and sentences written by the researchers themselves. It utilizes library resources to collect the necessary data. Then, the form and meaning of the compound verb kakeru are determined using the distributional method and the basic direct element technique. Based on the data analysis, it can be concluded that the meaning describes the activity's initiation and its state. In addition to being attached to activity verbs and punctual verbs, the form of the compound verb kakeru can also be attached to stative verbs. In sentences containing the compound verb kakeru, that state just before an activity begins and activities that have been ongoing for some time.

Keywords: Kakeru, Compound Verb, Japanese

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1 Introduction

Humans use language as a communication and interaction tool to convey their thoughts, ideas, and concepts to one another. In various situations, language can convey the speaker's ideas to listeners or the writer's ideas to readers. Humans can express their thoughts, ideas, and emotions through language, allowing for verbal and written communication (Susanti, 2012). In order for our social life to run smoothly. The nature of language is dynamic in that it evolves and changes following the socio-cultural growth of the language user. Different worlds' lingua francas are distinctive. Every language has a set of agreed-upon rules which must be followed in its use. This demonstrates that each language possesses a distinct individuality.

Similar to Japanese, which is currently being studied by many foreign language students around the globe, it has its individuality. One can be found in the system of word formation. A word is a unit of language with meaning or comprehension, but it is not the smallest unit in terms of meaning. In linguistics, the system of word formation is discussed through the study of

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morphology and syntax (tougoron). One of them is currently combining words, which will result in the occurrence of the word's meaning and influence the sentence. Various verbs are frequently combined in Japanese sentences or compound verbs. Based on their structure, Japanese verbs are categorized as singular verbs (tanjundoushi) and compound verbs (fukugoudoushi). This study examines the compound verb (fukugoudoushi) kakeru, which has multiple definitions in the dictionary, including "to hang up, to put on." Therefore, its usage is frequently challenging for Japanese language students, particularly in Indonesia. Because not all meanings of the compound verb kakeru are accepted, and not all have the meaning 'to cease,' Sometimes, the combination of these verbs produces new meanings that are distinct from the meanings of their constituent parts. Compound verbs (fukugoudoshi) are formed by combining two words treated as a single word.

Learning about aspects when analyzing the meaning of verb formation would be beneficial. The use of aspects in Japanese significantly impacts meaning and usage. Aspect is the internal formation of time in a state, situation, or event. This study applies the perfective aspect to the compound verb *kakeru*. The perfective aspect depicts activities and changes from the beginning to the end of an action. In studying Japanese, particularly the compound verb *kakeru*, the researcher discovered indications that *kakeru* has its usage pattern. This peculiarity makes it challenging for Japanese language learners to use compound verbs containing the ~kakeru element. The case that occurred in the compound verb *kakeru* is intriguing to discuss. Therefore, this study was titled "*kakeru* Compound Verbs in Japanese Sentences." The following problem statements will direct this investigation: (1) What is the form of the Japanese compound verb *kakeru*? Moreover, (2) what is the meaning formed from the compound verb *kakeru*?

2 Literature Review

Verbs, compound verbs, *kakeru* compound verbs, semantics, morphology, and aspects are all explained in this literature review section, which is devoted to discussing topics connected to the topic under investigation.

2.1 **Verb**

According to Sutedi (Sutedi, 2011, p. 44), the word class divides the types of words or *hinshi bunrui* in Japanese into six major categories: meishi, or nouns, *doushi* or verbs, *keiyoushi*, or adjectives, *fukushi* or adverbs, *jodoushi* or auxiliary verbs, and *joushi* or auxiliary words (particles). In this study, not all word classes will be described; the only word classes related to this study are verbs. Verbs in Japanese are called *doushi* (動詞).

According to Kridalaksana, verbs are a class of words that typically serve as predicates. In other languages, verbs have morphological characteristics such as time, aspect, charm, or number. Sutedi adds that the Japanese verb also experiences *katsuyou*, or 'change of form' (Sutedi, 2011).

Kindaiichi in Sutedi (2011, p. 94) categorizes Japanese aspect-based verb types: *shunkan doushi*, *keizoku doushi*, *joutai doushi*, and *daiyonshu doushi*.

a. Shunkan Doushi (瞬間動詞)

The *shunkan doushi* expresses an activity or state whose changes occur rapidly. The change at issue is "from not... to..." *Shunkan doushi* is called a punctual verb. Example: *shinu* = 'dead', *kekkon suru* = 'married'.

b. Keizoku Doushi (継続動詞)

Keizoku doushi is a verb that describes an activity or event requiring a specific amount of time, and a change takes place at each specified interval. *Keizoku doushi* is known as an action verb. For example: kaku = write, hashiru = run

c. Joutai Doushi (状態動詞)

Joutai doushi is a verb that indicates a situation, when viewed from a particular point in time, will not change at all. Example: aru = exist, kakeru = can write

d. Daiyonshu Doushi (第四種動詞)

Daiyonshu doushi is a verb that expresses the state of something in particular, and it is always expressed in the "is doing (gerund)" form (~te iru). Example: sugarete iru = excellent", nite iru = similar

2.2 Compound Verbs

Compound word combine basic morphemes with basic morphemes, free and bound, to form a lexical construction with a different or new identity (Chaer, 2012). In Japanese, the compound word is *fukugo* or *gokeisei*. Compound verbs are one type of compound word.

Fukugodoushi or compound verbs are formed by combining the first verb (*zenkoudoushi*) and the second verb, according to Matsuoka and Takubo (1989, p. 16). (*koukoudoushi*). While Akimoto (2002) categorizes compound verbs into four categories, these are:

- Noun + Verb A compound verb combination that includes the first element is a noun, while the second element is a verb.
- Verb + Verb This compound verb combination includes the verb as the first element and the verb as the second element.

- Adjective + Verb This compound verb combination includes the first element being an adjective while the second element is a verb.
- Adverb + Verb This compound verb combination includes the first element as an adverb and the verb as the second element.

Compound verbs consisting of verb + verb elements, such as the compound verb *kakeru*, are the most common verbs in Japanese, among the numerous variations.

2.3 Compound Verbs ~kakeru

Kakeru expresses the beginning of a state or activity (Keizoku Doushi). Punctuational (momentary express activity) verbs and action verbs/ activity verbs (Keizoku Doushi) are the types of verbs that can be attached to the compound verb *kakeru* (Morita, 1986, pp. 70–71). The compound verb *kakeru* can be joined to a punitive verb in any circumstance. According to Hideo, the compound verb *kakeru* denotes something that initiates an activity but quickly ends it. Nitta's opinion corroborates this as well.

「しかける」は、変化や動作の直前の段階、あるい は動作に尐し取りかかった 段階を表す。

"~ *kakeru*" shows the stage just before the change or activity, and the activity stage has started some time. (Nitta, 2009)

As depicted in the following figure.

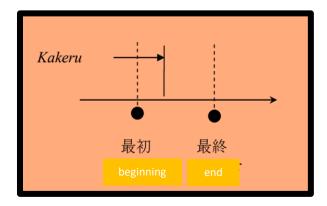


Figure 1. The time at which an action occurs when using the compound verb kakeru

2.4 Semantics

Semantics is a branch of linguistics that studies meaning. Semantics in Japanese is called *imiron* (意味論). According to Chaer (2013, p. 2), semantics is a commonly accepted term for the branch of linguistics that investigates the relationship between linguistic signs and the things they signify. The objects of semantic study consist of the meaning of words, the relationship between the meanings of two or more words, the meaning of phrases, and the meaning of sentences. Sutedi (2011:11) divides the meaning of words into lexical meaning and grammatical meaning. Lexical meaning is the meaning of a word according to its actual reference as a result of sensory observation. Regardless of its grammatical elements, it can also be referred to as a word's original meaning. The lexical meaning in Japanese is called *jishoteki imi* (辞書的意味). The grammatical meaning is the meaning that results from grammatical processes like affixation, reduplication, and composition.

In Japanese, the grammatical meaning is referred to as *bunpoutteki imi* (文法的意味). Semantics is a branch of linguistics that discusses meaning in the form of word meanings, meaning relations, phrase meanings, and sentences in the language, according to some of the opinions presented above. When learning or analyzing a language, semantics is crucial. Based on the preceding theoretical explanation, it can conclude that research on the compound verb *kakeru* pertains to its grammatical meaning, i.e., the meaning of the compound verb *kakeru* that results from processes such as affixation and reduplication, and composition.

2.5 Morphology

Morphology is the study of the structure and formation of words. In Japanese morphology, it is known as *keitairon* (形態論). The term morphology derives from the words *morph*, which means "form," and *logi*, which means "science." Thus, morphology signifies the "science of form" (Chaer 2012). The lowest level of morphology studied is the morpheme.

In contrast, the highest level is complex words (Soeparno, 1993, p. 91). based on the experts' theoretical explanation, it can be concluded that morphology is the branch of linguistics that studies the formation of word forms. This research is also a part of morphology because it analyzes the structure of compound verbs.

2.6 Aspect

Aspect is a perspective on the internal formation of time in a situation, state, event, or process (Chaer, 2012, p. 259). In the meantime, according to Sutedi (2011, p. 93), the activity's aspect indicates that it will be initiated, is in progress, has been completed, or is repeated.

Machida (2004) divides aspects into the perfective aspect (*kanketsusou*) and the imperfect aspect (*kanketsusou*) (*hikanketsusou*). Machida Ken also added an inchoative aspect (*kidousou*) and a terminative aspect (*shuushisou*) to this aspect's discussion.

1. Perfection Aspect

The perfective aspect is an aspect that describes an action as a whole without focusing on the process of its occurrence; it describes a completed action.

2. Imperfective Aspect

The imperfective aspect is an aspect that focuses on the ongoing process of action; that is, it does not see the beginning or end of the action and is an unfinished action.

3. Inchoative and Terminative Aspects

The aspect that indicates the start of action is known as the inchoative aspect. In contrast, the aspect that indicates the end of an action is known as the terminative or aggressive aspect.

3 Discussion

This study consists of qualitative. This study attempts to meticulously record all linguistic phenomena per the original and provide information on the actual language used. Based on this research, a study was conducted to examine the form and meaning of the Japanese compound verb *kakeru* using an interactive model (Miles, Huberman, & Saldana, 2014).

For this study's data, library techniques, specifically data collection from written sources, were used to collect information from multiple sources containing examples of the compound verb *kakeru*. This technique is utilized because it is simpler to retrieve data by reading and analyzing the literature pertaining to the study topic.

The descriptive method is used to analyze the form and meaning. The descriptive method consists of describing or describing the condition of the subject or object of research based on the facts that appear. Following the theory, the researcher analyzes by describing and describing the meaning of the compound verb *kakeru* in the use of Japanese sentences found in the data. The researchers then utilized the *agih* (distributional) method as the culmination of their investigation.

According to Sudaryanto (2015, p. 19), the distributional method is a method whose determining tool is part of the language itself, such as words, syntactic functions (subjects, objects, predicates, etc.), clauses, and others. This method aims to determine the relationship between the meaning of the studied verb and its usage in Japanese sentences.

The final step of this research is the presentation of the findings from the data analysis. The results of the data analysis are presented using simple language and words that are straightforward to comprehend. The results of data analysis that are used as objects in writing are observed, categorized, and described in a paper, after which conclusions are drawn from the data containing the collected research objects. Thus, the structure and meaning of the Japanese compound verb *kakeru* can be known.

In the following section, some examples of sentences that use the compound verb "*kakeru*" are discussed. The compound verb "*kakeru*" was broken down into its parts and examined to explain its form and meaning.

The example sentences demonstrate that the compound verb *kakeru* can be attached to both *shunkandoushi* (punctuation verb) and *keizokudoushi* (relative clause verb/activity verb). This section examines the examples discovered.

(1) あのひとは唇を動かさずにそう<u>語りかけた</u>。

Ano hito wa kuchibiru o ugokasazu ni sō <u>katarikaketa.</u>

That person started to speak without moving his lips.

The *kataru* "to speak" in (1) is an activity verb. Attached to the compound verb *kakeru*, the verb *kataru* expresses the inchoative aspect, which means "to begin speaking." The subject begins speaking without moving his lips in clause (1).

(2) 振動を感じて目を覚ましたとき、電車はスピードを徐々に緩めて駅に<u>停まりかけている</u>ところだった。

Shindō o kanjite me o samashita toki, densha wa supīdo o jojoni yurumete eki ni <u>tomari</u> <u>kakete</u> iru tokorodatta.

When he wakes up and feels the train's vibration, the train has already slowed down and started to stop at the Station.

The verb *tomaru* "stop" is a punctuation verb in a sentence (2). Attached to the compound verb *kakeru*, the verb *tomaru* expresses the inchoative aspect, which means "start to stop." In *tomari kakeru*, the auxiliary verb te iru indicates an ongoing 'stop' activity. Overall, clause (2) indicates that the train has begun to slow down, causing a vibration that awakens the subject.

(3) それぞれにリュックを背負い帽子をかぶり、遠足に<u>出かける</u>小学生 のように賑や かで楽しそうだった。

Sorezore ni ryukku o shoi bōshi o kaburi, ensoku ni <u>dekakeru</u> shōgakusei no yō ni nigiyakade tanoshi-sōdatta.

Each of them had a backpack on their back and a hat, and they looked excited and having fun like elementary school students on an excursion.

The verb *deru* in (3) sentences is a punctuation verb. The attachment of the verb roar to the compound verb *kakeru* expresses the inchoative aspect, which means "beginning." Start out will become go without the need for the preposition start. Therefore, the author has added brackets to the preceding translation. In general, the subjects going on a trip are as excited as elementary school students going on a field trip.

(4) どれほど激しく罵声を<u>浴びせかけられても</u>、そんなものは知れたことだ。 Dorehodo hageshiku basei o **abisekake rarete mo**, son'na mono wa shireta kotoda.

No matter how much scorn people start to say, he doesn't care.

In sentence (4), the *abiseru* verb "to pour" functions as a punctuation verb. Attached to the compound verb *kakeru*, the verb abiseru expresses the inchoative aspect and means "to begin pouring." In the compound verb *abise kakeru*, the auxiliary verb *rareru* expresses the passive voice. The original meaning of sentence (4) is that the subject is subjected to a great deal of angry/crude ridicule. The word 'pour' would be more appropriately translated as 'say,' so the author rewrote sentence (4) accordingly. Overall, sentence (4) indicates that people began to hurl harsh insults at the subject, but he or they either knew or did not care.

(5) それは僕がこの一週間ばかり、繰り返し自分に<u>問いかけて</u>きた疑問 です。 Sore wa boku ga kono isshūkan bakari, kurikaeshi jibun ni <u>toikakete</u> kita gimondesu' to ten ware wa shōjiki ni itta.

That's a question I've started asking myself over and over again in the past week

The punctuation verb *tou* "to ask" is used in the sentence (5). Attached to the compound verb *kakeru*, the verb *tou* expresses the inchoative aspect and means "begin to ask questions." The auxiliary verb *te* us in the compound verb *toi kakeru* indicates a question that comes to the speaker's mind. With the compound verb *kakeru*, the meaning of the compound verb *toi kakete* is transformed into a question that begins to come to the mind of the speaker or starts to ask questions. Overall, sentence (5) expresses the speaker who, during this week, began to wonder about the same topic.

(6) ちょっと<u>くたびれかけて</u>、できれば少し髪が薄くなっているくらい の中年男が彼 女の好みだ。

Chotto <u>kutabire kakete</u>, dekireba sukoshi kami ga usuku natte iru kurai no chūnen'otoko ga kanojo no konomida.

Middle-aged men who are getting worn out and have thinning hair are her favorites.

The verb *kutabireru* obsolete" in the sentence (6) is a stative or state verb. The verb *kutabireru* which is attached to the compound verb ~*kakeru* expresses the inchoative aspect, which means

"begins to wear out." Overall, sentence (6) states that the subject likes middle-aged men who are starting to look worn (looks more), and their hair is white.

(7) 若いひとは彼女の年齢について何かを言いかけたようだったが、ふかえりにじっと見つめられて顔を赤らめ、そのまま言葉を呑み込んだ。

Wakai hito wa kanojo no nenrei ni tsuite nanika o ii kaketa yōdattaga, fuka eri ni jitto mitsume rarete kao o akarame, sonomama kotoba o nomi konda.

The young man seemed to be starting to ask his age, but he was glared at by the girl, and suddenly his face turned red so that he just swallowed his words.

The verb *iu* to say" in the sentence (7) is an activity verb. The verb *iu*, which is attached to the compound verb ~*kakeru* expresses the inchoative aspect, which means "start to say." The meaning of the first clause of the sentence (7) is the young maid seemed to have started to say something about her age ". However, the author translates "started to say something about age" into "started asking about age" because the phrase "asked age" already represents "saying something about age." Overall, sentence (7) states that the subject previously seemed to be asking Fuka-Eri's age. However, before the subject started or before the subject reached the starting point, the subject did not ask.

(8) 山田は持ってきた文庫本を取り出して<u>読みかけた</u>が、少し迷ってやめた。 Yamada wa motte kita bunkobon o toridashite **yomikaketa** ga, sukoshi mayotte ya meta.

Yamada took out the bible he had brought and was about to start reading, but he canceled his intention after hesitating for a bit.

The verb *yomu* to read" in the sentence (8) is an activity verb. The verb *yomu*, which is attached to the compound verb ~*kakeru* expresses the inchoative aspect, which means "start reading." The auxiliary verb ~ta in the compound verb *yomi kakeru* indicates past activity. Overall, sentence (8) states that the subject was going to read the book, but before the subject started his activity or before reaching the starting point, the subject stopped his intention to read the book.

(9) 松本がその指示に従って<u>浮かせかけた</u>腰を下ろすと、相手もそれと 競争するように向かいの一人がけのソファにそそくさと座った。

Matsumoto ga sono shiji ni shitagatte <u>ukase kaketa</u> koshiwoorosu to, aite mo sore to kyōsō suru yō ni mukai no hitori-gake no sofa ni sosokusa to suwatta.

Matsumoto started to stand up to say hello, but the man quickly gestured with his hand, telling Matsumoto to stay seated."

The *ukaseru* verb "to lift" in sentence (9) is a punctuation verb. The *ukaseru* verb, which is attached to the compound verb *kakeru*, expresses the inchoative aspect, which means "to start lifting." Raising up to follow the rules/norms for bowing is the same as standing up to say hello". Overall, sentence (9) states the subject will start to stand up to greet. However, before the subject gave a greeting, the other person stopped him.

(10) 農業の後継者が見つからず、あとに残された老人たちだけでは畑仕 事ができなくて、ほとんど廃村に**なりかけている**村だ。

Nōgyō no kōkei-sha ga mitsukarazu, ato ni nokosa reta rōjin-tachi dakede wa hata tsukamatsu koto ga dekinakute, hotondo haison ni **nari kakete iru** murada.

The village has almost become an abandoned village because no one is looking for a substitute to run the farm, only old people who can no longer afford to garden.

The *naru* verb to be" in sentence (10) is a punctuation verb. The *naru* verb attached to the compound verb ~*kakeru* expresses the inchoative aspect, which means "began to become". The choice of the word "almost/almost" without including the word "start" in the sentence translation (10) is more suitable than using the word "almost starting to become." The word almost/almost" in the sentence (10) already indicates the meaning of something that is just about to start. The auxiliary verb ~te iru in the compound verb *naru kakeru* expresses the situation. Overall, sentence (10) states that there is a village that is progressing in terms of agriculture, but because the villagers who run agriculture are old and unable to farm. No one can continue, and the village begins to become an abandoned village. The compound verb ~*kakeru* and the auxiliary *hotondo* "almost" show the meaning of the abandoned situation that has not yet occurred and has not yet reached the starting point. The compound verb ~*kakeru* expresses the stage at which the activity started for some time (an activity that stopped shortly after the starting point).

(11) あんこという女の子の話を<u>しかけて</u>言いました。

Anko to iu on'nanoko no hanashi o shikakete iimashita.

Earlier we started talking about a girl named Anko.

Suru verb "to do" in sentence (11) is an activity verb. Suru verb attached to the compound verb ~kakeru expresses the inchoative aspect, which means "to start doing." The auxiliary verb ~te ta in the compound verb hanashi o shi kakeru indicates an activity carried out in the past. Overall, sentence (11) states that the speaker had started talking about Anko.

(12) それについて小松に<u>説明しかけた</u>ところで「発作」がやってきて、 話が中断した。

Sore ni tsuite Komatsu ni setsumei <u>shi kaketa</u> tokoro de `hossa' ga yattekite,-banashi ga chūdan shita.

Earlier, when Komatsu was just starting to explain, he was suddenly hit by an attack", and the conversation stopped.

The activity verb *setsumei suru* explain appears in the sentence (12). Attached to the compound verb *kakeru*, the verb *setsumei suru* expresses the inchoative aspect, which means "begin to explain." In the compound verb *setsumei shikakeru*, the auxiliary verb ta *tokoro* indicates an activity that has just ended. In sentence (12), the auxiliary verb ta *tokoro* indicates a starting point that has just ended or begun. Overall, clause (12) indicates that the subject has just begun to explain, but before completing the explanation, the subject is attacked.

(13) そしてボールペン片手に机に向かい、**読みかけて**いた書類をもうー 度手に取った。

Soshite bōrupen katate ni tsukue ni mukai, <u>yomikakete</u> ita shorui o mō ichi-do-te ni totta.

Then he sat down at the table, took out a pen, and retrieved the document he had begun reading.

The verb *yomu* to read" in the sentence (13) is an activity verb. The verb *yomu*, which is attached to the compound verb ~*kakeru* expresses the inchoative aspect, which means "start reading." The auxiliary verb ~*te ita* in the compound verb *yomi kakeru* indicates an activity that was being carried out in the past. Overall, sentence (13) states that the subject rereads the document that the subject has read but has not finished.

(14) 勤務時間が不規則だから、普通の勤め人とは時間が合わないし、それにちょっと **うまく行きかけて**も、私が警察官をしているってわかったとたんに、普通の男ってみんなするする引いちゃうんだ。

Kinmu jikan ga fukisokudakara, futsū no tsutomenin to wa jikan ga awanaishi, so re ni chotto <u>umaku iki kakete</u> mo, watashi ga keisatsukan o shite iru tte waka tta totan ni, futsū no otoko tte min'na surusuru hii chau nda.

My working hours are irregular, not matching the working hours of office staff, although at first things went smoothly, once they found out I was a traffic policeman, the men usually backed off immediately.

The punctuation verb *umaku iku* appears in the sentence (14) and means "runs smoothly." Attached to the compound verb *kakeru*, the *umaku iku* verb expresses the inchoative aspect, which means "begins to run smoothly." Overall, sentence (14) indicates that the relationship between the speaker and the office staff was initially cordial but deteriorated once the office worker learned what the speaker did.

4 Conclusion

The meaning and form of the compound verb *kakeru* are used to conclude the preceding discussion. Several things, including the following, are indicated by the results of this study.

Based on the analysis, the compound verb *kakeru* signifies the start of the activity and the state. The form of the compound verb *kakeru*, in addition to being attached to activity verbs and punctual verbs, can also be attached to stative or state verbs.

A particle ga, the auxiliary verbs *ru tokoro* and *ta tokoro*, the auxiliary verb te mo, and so on are typically present in a sentence containing the compound verb kakeru, which states just before the activity begins and an activity that has already begun.

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