
Aim
I analyze particles such as yo and ne as verum focus operators (Höhle 1992, Romero & Han 2004).

Research Questions
- What are the lexical categories and meaning of sentence-final particles?
- Is subcategorization, e.g. 3 yo-da: S2 the right way to go?
- Should semantics of questions and focus be reflected in types and categories (Hamblin 1973, 1986)?
- What about direct compositionality (Barber & Jacobson 2007)?
- Curry-Howard Isomorphism (Correspondence between categories and types here)

Steedman (2000): Prosodically Annotated Categories

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<th>particle(s)</th>
<th>Masuoka&amp;Takubo (1992)</th>
<th>Chino (2001)</th>
<th>proposal</th>
<th>categories</th>
<th>types</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. no</td>
<td>question/command</td>
<td>a question marker / a polarity focus operator (Höhle 1992, Romero &amp; Han 2004)</td>
<td>S/SS-(S)</td>
<td>S/S(SS)</td>
<td>IS,IT(T)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. no</td>
<td>agreement/affirmation</td>
<td>an admission of correctness which is of type I(T)</td>
<td>S/SS-(S)</td>
<td>S/S(SS)</td>
<td>IS,IT(T)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. yo</td>
<td>notification</td>
<td>a request for action or request for certainty</td>
<td>S/SS-(S)</td>
<td>S/S(SS)</td>
<td>IS,IT(T)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. na</td>
<td>agreement/affirmation</td>
<td>a question marker / an exclamatory marker</td>
<td>S/SS-(S)</td>
<td>S/S(SS)</td>
<td>IS,IT(T)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. ke</td>
<td>affirmation of memory</td>
<td>a question marker</td>
<td>S/SS-(S)</td>
<td>S/S(SS)</td>
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<td>6. kashira</td>
<td>uncertainty or question/requirement</td>
<td>a question marker</td>
<td>S/SS-(S)</td>
<td>S/S(SS)</td>
<td>IS,IT(T)</td>
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Meaning of Sentence-final Particles

In harmony with their syntactic position, semantically speaking, all Japanese sentence-final particles take the entire proposition in its scope. The sentence-final particles take a proposition as the argument and return a set of propositions functions from a proposition to another proposition.

Polarity (verum) focus operator: an epistemic operator that indicates the epistemic belief of the speaker, whether the speaker is certain or uncertain, whether the proposition is true or false.

1. No
No can be either a question marker or a (verum) focus marker such as really or indeed in English, with which the speaker assures the affirmative answer (Kinsui 1992, Romero & Han 2004).

2. Yo
Yo can be either a question marker or a polarity (verum) focus marker such as really or indeed in English, with which the speaker assures the affirmative answer (Kinsui 1992, Romero & Han 2004).

3. Yo
Yo indicates information that is novel to the hearer or information not directly available to him.

My proposal
In both usages, yo strengthens the deliberate force of the proposition such that the addition of yo informs the addresser what he does not know.

(12) a. Notifying
...Past(Believe(p)(s)) & New(Believe(p)(s))

b. Alerting
Past(Believe(p)(s)) & New(Believe(p)(s))

(13) yo / S/S(SS) S/S(SS) IS,IT(T)