On the Semantic Structure of the Korean Auxiliary Verb [-e/ko pota]

This study aims to suggest a new criterion for the analysis of the Korean auxiliary verb [-a/e pota]([-e pota] below) and [-ko pota]. Although a large number of studies have been made on [-e/ko pota], it is still not clear what kind of semantic structure it has and what causes the vagueness between the two.

In past studies of the Korean language, [-e pota] has been traditionally considered to have the meaning of trial or experience, while [-ko pota] contains the meaning of strong tendency toward completion of the action preceded. Although we still need to figure out what kind of process is going on to acquire the meanings mentioned above, it seems the meaning of the auxiliary verbs in question are rather clearly categorized in sentence endings. However, we often notice that it is not easy to draw a clear distinction between [-e/ko pota] when they appear in complex sentences.

Examples below show the vagueness between [-e/ko pota] most notably.

e.g. (1) a. chagmwun-ul {yel-ko/yel-e} po-ni nwun-i o-ko iss-essta
   (I opened the window, 【I aware(realize) [+as a result]】 it was snowing.)
(2) a. pap-ul {mek-ko/mek-e} po-ni mas-i kwaynchanh-asssta.
   (I ate rice, 【I aware (realize) [+as a result]】 it was tasty.)
   b. pap-ul {mek-ko/*mek-e} poni, ai-ka poi-ci-l anh-sssta.
   (I ate rice, 【I aware (realize) [-as a result]】 the kid was disappeared.)

In this paper, I would like to reconsider this matter in the perspectives of the interaction between one of the polysemic meanings of the Korean visual verb [pota] and the Korean conjunction [-e/ko].

I assert that: 【1】 [-e/ko pota] is semantically related to the lexical verb [pota], and the meaning of ‘awareness’ which is one of the polysemic meanings of [pota] contributes to form the meaning of [-e/ko pota] mentioned above. 【2】 In the [E1 e/ko pota-CONJ E2] construction, presented in e.g. (1) and (2), [-e/ko pota] seem to have some similarities and differences in their semantical acceptability in complex sentences. To give a clearer vision to this problem, I point out that the main elements to control the acceptability of [-e/ko pota] are the fundamental differences in the way of connecting two events by the Korean conjunctive forms [-e/ko] and the meaning of ‘awareness’ of [pota]. In other words, the semantic structure of [-e/ko pota] relies on (the) reinterpretation led by the interaction between the traditional function of [-e/ko] and the polysemic meaning of [pota] and the differences in acceptability in complex sentences of [-e/ko pota] based on the semantic correspondence between E1 and E2 motivated by [-e/ko pota].
References

구종남 (2013) 『보조 용언의 의미와 문법』 도서출판 경진
서 정수(1996) 『현대 국어문법론』 한양대학교 출판원
손세모듈 (1996) 『국어보조용언연구』 한국문화사
송 효빈 (2002) 「동사 ‘보다’의 인지적 연구」 『한국언어문학 49 권』 585-601
이기종(2001) 『우리말의 인지론적 분석』 도서 출판 역락
임홍빈・홍경균・장숙인(2003) 『외국인을 위한 한국어 문법』 연세대학교출판부
호광수 (2003) 『국어보조용언연구』 도서출판 역락

Ikegami[池上嘉彦] (1975) 『意味論』 大修館書店
Kunihiro[国広哲弥] (2006) 『日本語の多義動詞 理想の国語辞典II』 大修館書店


Japanese/ Korean Linguistics Vol. 9 :225-238


Morita[森田良行] (1994) 『動詞の意味論的文法研究』 明治書院

Ohori[大堀壽夫] (2002) 『シリーズ言語科学-3 認知言語学II：カテゴリー化』 東京大学出版会

Ramstedt, G. J. (1939)  A Korean grammar, Anthropological Publications
Sato[佐藤信夫] (1978) 『レトリック感覚』講談社