

An Analysis of Japanese Verb *Tomeru* as Polysemy

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Abstract—This study attempts to investigate the basic meaning of verb *tomeru*, and the meaning of the variant expansion of *tomeru*, and the relationship between those meanings. The study was conducted using a descriptive method. The data were collected from Japanese novels published in the 2000s and online newspapers in Japanese. The data collected were arranged and classified. The findings showed that the basic meaning of the verb *tomeru* is to stop, whereas the meaning of the expansion of the verb *tomeru* is to remove (stopping the pain), to hold (holding the cough), to prohibit (no entry), to prevent (prevent the departure), to pin (pin with needle), to nail (nailing with a safety pin onto the shirt), to note (recorded in memory), to stay (a one-night stay), and to give shelter (I was given a place to stay at home uncle). The relationship between those meanings can be described using two figurative languages: metaphors and metonyms. The use of these two figurative languages is part of cognitive linguistics. In this study, which was expanded metaphorically is the meaning of ‘holding the cough’, ‘no entry’, ‘a one-night stay’, and ‘I was given a place to stay at home uncle’. Meaning that expanded metonymically is the meaning of ‘stopping the pain’, ‘prevent the departure’, ‘pin with needle’, ‘nailing with a safety pin onto the shirt’, and ‘recorded in memory’. Meanwhile, the meaning of synecdoche is not found.

Keywords: Japanese, meaning, polysemy, *tomeru*

I. INTRODUCTION

Japanese language has certain characteristics that can be observed from its letters, vocabulary, pronunciation system, grammar, and various language uses (Sudjianto and Dahidi, 2009). For Japanese language learners, vocabulary is one of the important things that must be learned besides writing with different letters. Its words also have different meanings compared to the Indonesian language. Such differences sometimes create difficulties to translate Japanese words into Indonesian. These difficulties arise often when finding a word in Japanese when translated into Indonesian

In Japanese, the study of science that discusses the meaning is called *imiron* (semantics) and the difficulties above, called *tagigo* (polysemy). Kunihiro (as cited in Sutedi 2011) stated that polysemy (*tagigo*) is a word that has a meaning more than one and each meaning that there is linkage to. An example for the word polysemy is *agaru* (上がる) means rise. Besides, *agaru* also has the meaning of advanced, continue, and found. The meaning can be seen from one of the example sentences (Sutedi, 2011) 大学に上がる (*Daigaku ni agaru*). It has the meaning of continuing to study at university, while the meaning of homonym (*do-on-igigo*) are several words with the same sound,

but different meanings and among these meanings there is absolutely no linking, an example of the homonym word is *kumo* (雲) which means cloud. The meaning is completely unrelated.

In this study, the topic of the problem that to be studied is the Japanese language which has a polemic which is seen in terms of the kanji in the *jinobun* which has the meaning *tomeru* but only different meanings. According to Machida and Momiyama (as cited in Sutedi, 2011) there is three ways to find out a word that have polysemy or not selection of meaning (*imi-kubun*), determining the basic meaning (*kihongo no nintei*) and describing the relationship between meanings through three types of figure of speech (metaphor, metonymy, and synecdoche).

In the sentence contained in the Japanese language newspapers, there are examples of sentences that has a different *kanji* and different meaning but readings just the same, namely *tomeru*. Here's an example of a sentence in a newspaper in the Japanese language:

(1) タイミングを合わせて光を止める『フラッシュザウルス』 (<http://www.asahi.com>)

Taimingu o awasete hikari o tomeru (furasshu zaurusu)

"Flash Zaurus" to stop the light by matching the time.

(2) 自宅の空き部屋などに旅行者を泊める民泊のルールを定める「民泊新法」案の概要が固まった。 (www.asahi.com)

Jitaku no aki heya nado ni ryokou-sha o tomeru minpaku no ruuru o sadameru minpaku shinpou-an no gaiyou ga katamatta.

In rules guide for set an empty private room accommodation for lodged travelers has been established.

(3) 警官が私に車を停めるように命令した。 (<http://www.tangorin.com>)

Keikan ga watashi ni kuruma o tomeru youni meirei shita.

The police told me to stop the car.

(4) 私は『電波を停める』と言ったことは一度もありません。 (<http://webronza.asahi.com>)

Watashi wa denpa wo tomeru to itta koto wa ichido mo arimasen.

I never told you "to stop radio waves" .

In examples (1), (3) and (4) show that the meaning of *tomeru* with the kanji 止める, 留める, 停める are 'stop'. Example (2) shows that the meaning *tomeru* with kanji 泊める is 'lodged'. Example (3) shows that *tomeru* means 'stop' as well.

Based on examples, *tomeru* has many meanings that it needs to be known by the Japanese learner so they do not experience difficulties in learning Japanese, therefore the author will conduct research on the meaning of the verb *tomeru* as polysemy terms of its' kanji. When searching in the dictionary, the meaning of the word *tomeru* is commonly used as "to stop". The meanings contained in the meaning of *tomeru* are cited based on (Chandra, 2011).

So, the meaning of the verb *tomeru* not only has the meaning of 'stop', but also has many meanings based on the classification of the kanji.

1. 止める: meaning stop; dismiss; stop.
2. 停める: meaning stop; dismiss; stop.
3. 留める: means to hold, prevent, stem, close, forbid, install, attach, assign.
4. 泊める: means to superimpose; accept a ride; told to stay overnight.

In translating Indonesian into Japanese or vice versa, we do not translate to Indonesian language rules, especially this new word because when translated into Japanese, it will contain inappropriate meaning. Therefore, the importance of knowledge about the changes and differences in meaning, concerning that it can lead to difficulties in understanding and translation for Japanese language learners.

The general objective of this study is to find out the meanings contained in the verb *tomeru* so that it does not cause errors in using or translating the word in Japanese sentences. The specific objectives of this study are:

1. Describe the basic meaning of the verb *tomeru*.
2. Describe the extended meaning of the verb *tomeru*.
3. Describe the relationship between the basic meaning and the extended meaning of the *tomeru* verb.

In this study, the relevant theory used is a theory that is seen from the perspective of cognitive linguistics, by outlining semantic notions, meanings of definition (*tomeru*), types of meaning, changes in meaning in Japanese (Japanese in everyday language) understanding polysemy, style of language with polysemy, how to analyze polysemy, cognitive linguistics, the results of previous research, and research on polysemy.

II. METHOD

This research was conducted to describe the relationship between the meaning of *tomeru* verbs as polysemy. Therefore, the method used in this study is a descriptive method, used to determine, describe, provide phenomena that occur naturally without experimental manipulation/abuse.

To analyze polysemy according to Machida and Momiyama (as cited in Sutedi, 2008) there are three main steps, namely (1)

selection of meaning; (2) determination of basic meaning; (3) describing the relationship between meanings. The author will use this method in the discussion chapter.

Tomeru verb object is the object of this study as a polysemy, because not many Japanese learners know the meanings contained in the verb *tomeru*. Most Indonesian learners know that *tomeru* means stop only and one *kanji* only, but in fact, it is not like that. If a learner does not know the meanings contained in *tomeru* verb based on its' *kanji*, the learner will be confused and there will be a misunderstanding when translating.

The main data sources in this research are including Japanese newspapers accessed from the internet, various Japanese novels starting in the 2000s such as "Suzumiya Haruhi No Kyougaku" by Tanigawa Nagaru 2011, novel "Kaze No Uta O Kike" by Haruki Murakami 2004, novel "Tantei Galileo by Higashino Keigo (2002)", and "Blue Sky novel by Sakuraba Kazuki (2005)", and other examples (*jitsurei*) from the internet. These data sources were chosen because they meet the data needed by the study. In addition, the sentences or expressions in the data source are often used in Japanese daily life so that they will be easily understood by Japanese language learners. The data is collected during the meaning classification process, to find out whether the meanings that have existed in the source are actually used in native Japanese speakers.

The technique used for data collection is the note-taking technique, a technique of capturing data by recording the results of data listening on a data card. But in this study, the authors did not use data cards, but the authors modified this data collection technique. In this study, the authors solicited data from newspapers in Japanese accessed from the internet as the main source. After that, the authors record data in the form of sentences that contain the meaning of verb *tomeru* to be analyzed.

The next step that the author will do is data processing by the steps of conducting a preliminary study of the meaning of the verb *tomeru* as a polysemy, collecting data in the form of sentences (*jitsurei*) that can be used as sources or material instruments, collecting polysemic sentences both related or not, analyzing data for known *kanji* that has the meaning of the verb *tomeru*, and draw conclusions.

III. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In polysemy research, there are three steps that must be taken by the author in order to produce the right research conclusions. According to Machida & Momiyama (as cited in Sutedi, 2011) the three steps are the classification of meaning (*imi-kubun*), determination of basic meaning (*kihon-gi no nintei*), and description of the relationship between meanings in the form of polysemic structure (*tagi-kouzou no hyougi*). The authors have taken the first step in the research of *tomeru* verb polysemy, namely the classification of meaning (*imi-kubun*). In this study, the classification of meaning is done by looking at variations of the equivalent words in Indonesian. Here is the classification of meanings for *tomeru*.

Meaning 1 → Stop (there is a subject that stops)

(1) 車を止める。(Matsuura, 2005)

Kuruma o tomeru.

Stopping a car.

The first meaning is "stop" which is the basic meaning. The meaning of 2 to 10 is the meaning of expansion.

Meaning 2 → Eliminate

(2) 痛みを止める。(Matsuura, 2005)

Itami o tomeru.

Relieve pain.

The 2nd meaning is "eliminate" which extended from metonymy 1 with metonymy form. Because it eliminates the pain caused by stopping the pain that is experienced.

Meaning 3 → Hold

(3) 咳を止める。(Matsuura, 2005)

Seki o tomeru.

Hold cough.

The 3rd meaning is "hold". Coughing on this sentence can be expanded with metaphorical speech because it has similarities to the basic meaning.

Meaning 4 → Prohibit

(4) 外出を止める。(Matsuura, 2005)

Gaishutsu o tomerareru.

No entry.

The 4th meaning of 4 is "prohibit". Prohibited entry is a rule made so that people are not allowed to violate these rules. For this reason, the relationship between prohibiting belongs to the metaphorical form because it has similarities to the basic meaning.

Meaning 5 → Prevent

(5) 行くのを止める。(Matsuura, 2005)

Yuku no o tomeru.

Prevent departure.

The 5th meaning is "prevent". As explained that preventing the departure has the meaning of expanding metonymy because it has cause and effect with a basic meaning.

Meaning 6 → Pin

(6) 針で留める。(Matsuura, 2005)

Hari de tomeru.

Pinning with a needle.

The 6th meaning is "pin". Pinning with a needle is the same as tying a thread that is inserted into a needle and this sentence

has an expanded metonym meaning because it has a causal effect on the basic meaning sentence.

Meaning 7 → Tack

(7) うわぎを留める。(Matsuura, 2005, p.1089)

Uwagi o tomeru.

Tacking with a safety pin to the top of the clothes.

The 7th meaning is "tack". The sentence tacking a pin on a shirt is the same as putting a pin on a shirt and has the meaning of expanding metaphor because it has similarities to the basic meaning.

Meaning 8 → Take note

(8) 記憶に留める。(Matsuura, 2005, p.1089)

Kioku ni tomeru.

Taking notes in memory.

The 8th meaning is "taking notes". Recording with memory is a matter that stops the memory which stops at a memory and has the meaning of expanding metonymy because of the effect so as not to forget that it must record.

Meaning 9 → Stay (overnight)

(9) 友達を一晩泊める。(Matsuura, 2005, p.1089)

Tomodachi o hito ban tomeru.

Stay overnight at friend's.

The 9th meaning is "stay". It has the meaning of expanding metaphor because it has similarities with the basic meaning, the basic meaning of stopping and staying at a friend's house and not going home.

Meaning 10 → Give a place to stay (lodge)

(10) 私はおじの家に泊めてもらった。(Matsuura, 2005)

Watashi wa oji no ie ni tomette moratta.

I was given a place to stay at my uncle's house.

The 10th meaning is "giving a place to stay". It has a metaphorical expansion meaning because it has a similarity to the meaning of the basic meaning.

Based on the analysis that has described in the previous chapter, the writer concludes that there are at least ten meanings of the word verb *tomeru*, based on the search results from Kenji Matsuura's dictionary there are ten meanings. Those ten meanings are: 「止める」 *tomeru* which use this kanji firstly means "Stop". The example sentences usually use subjects such as stopping cars, motorcycles and can also stop an event, etc. Secondly, this *kanji* means "Eliminates", which the example sentences mostly are situations or something that originally existed became nothing or disappeared. Thirdly, this *kanji* means "Hold", which used as in example such as holding an event so it won't happen. Fourthly, this *kanji* means "Prohibit" with the example sentences such as in a command sentence or as a rule that something should not be done. *Tomeru* also means "Prevents" which such as in preventing something not good that

must be prevented. The other meanings of *tomeru* is using this *kanji* 「留める」 which firstly means “Pinning” which used usually for items like pinned sharps. It also means “Tack” which has the same meaning as pinning, which *tomeru* using this *kanji* also means “Take notes” as in a way to remember so you don't forget. While *tomeru* using this *kanji* 「泊める」 means “Stay (Overnight)”, as the act of staying at someone else's home or at a hotel). It also means “Gives a place to stay (lodge)” as in giving someone a “lodging” residence.

IV. CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this study that the basic meaning of the verb *tomeru* is to stop, while the expansion of meaning as already described above. For example, in the first meaning, which is to stop, research can be done furthermore because, in the first *kanji* and the first meaning, the writer finds more examples of sentences. However, due to the authors' limited knowledge, for now, the material evidence to declare this is still lacking, because the sample sentences of meaning are only a few. So for now, the meaning of the word *tomeru* is still considered to be only ten meanings. At the end of the analysis of this research, there is a relationship between the basic meanings and expansion meanings, there are 4 meanings which contain into the metonymy form and there are 5 meanings

contained in the metaphorical form, where is in the synecdoche form there is no relationship between the basic meanings and the expansion meaning of *tomeru* verbs. This *tomeru* verb polysemy study can also be further investigated, as to how verb *tomeru* is used in conversation or in the classroom, or compared to another language for further analysis.

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