Abstract:

The present thesis maps varied forms of Japanese conditional constructions. This includes morphologically marked conditionals such as *V*-tara, *V*-(r)eba, *V*-(ru/ta)/N(no) nara, *V*-to that have been studied meticulously in the previous research, but also conditionals expressed by auxiliary nouns such as *V*-(ru/ta)baai, *V*-(ru) kagiri, or by larger constructions such as *V*-(ru/ta)to sureba. This thesis is methodologically anchored in principles of Cognitive Grammar, following Mental Space Theory in the sense of Fauconnier (1985) and Construction Grammar in the sense of Dancygier&Sweetser (2005). The qualitative, introspective analysis points to the overlaps in the use of these forms and between other syntactic domains. Overlaps in the use stem from the shared semantic features of the forms, namely temporality, boundness to specific events and sequentiality of events in the clauses and overlaps with different syntactic domains such as temporals which are also observed with less-prototypical forms. Lastly, this thesis observes similarities between major conditional markers and the less-prototypical conditional forms. Two observations are made: Firstly, Japanese explicitly marks epistemic conditionals. Secondly, aspectual morphology may be a crucial factor in the interpretation of Japanese conditionals.