

## Two Types of Result Verbs

Result verbs are a class of verbs that describe events that have a result state. In this talk, I argue that result verbs come in two types, following the observation made in von Stechow (1996) and Kusumoto (2001). Verbs like *aker-u* 'open' and *kowas-u* 'break' belong to one class; the result state of such verbs is identified solely in terms of their theme argument (theme result verbs). On the other hand verbs like *kaw-u* 'buy' and *wasure-ru* 'forget' belong to a different class; the agent argument as well as the theme argument enter into the description of the result state of such verbs (agent-theme result verbs).

Semantically, the two classes of verbs behave differently with respect to the interpretation of the so-called adjectival, non-past *-ta* (Kusumoto 2001) and that of *mata* 'again'. Morphologically, theme result verbs enter into transitivity alternation (e.g. *aker-u* vs. *ak-u*) while agent-theme result verbs do not. I argue that the two types of result verbs are represented structurally differently, and that this gives rise to the observed semantic and morphological differences between the two classes.

### References

- Kusumoto, Kiyomi: 2001. 'The Semantics of Non-Past *-ta* in Japanese', to appear in *Formal Approaches to Japanese Linguistics* 3, MITWPL, MIT, Cambridge, MA.
- Stechow, Arnim von: 1996. 'The Different Readings of *Wieder* 'Again': A Structural Account', *Journal of Semantics* 13: 87-138.