The Synchronic and Diachronic View on the Motivation for the use of Suspended Dangling Participles in English and Japanese
Naoko HAYASE
(OSAKA Univ. JAPAN)

Dangling Participles: Notorious but Well-Attested
(1) ??Jogging around the park, a brilliant idea occurred to me. (Declerck 1991)
(2a) Leaving the bathroom, the immediate lobby is fitted with a pair of walnut wall cabinets. (BNC)
(2b) Moving further north, the United States has rather fewer volcanoes [...]. (BNC)

Some motivations?—YES!

Constructional Meaning: Hayase (2011)

COGNIZANCE SCENARIO

<AGENTIVE> Agentive ACTION

of the CONCEPTUALIZER’S

<MAIN CLAUSE> Non-CAUSATIVE / STATE

perceived by the CONCEPTUALIZER

(2) Leaving the bathroom, the immediate lobby is fitted with a pair of walnut wall cabinets.

Dangling Participial Construction
(a) Moving further north (event1), the United States has (event2)

Conceptualizer = Speaker at the speech time

Relation to Langacker’s Subjectivity/Objectivity

• Subjective Viewing: Speaker involved
  – (a) Vanessa is sitting across the table.
  – (b) Entering the hotel, the lobby is on the left.

• Objective Viewing: Speaker=Observer
  – (c) Vanessa is sitting across the table from Veronica.
  – (d) Entering the hotel, he ordered a cup of coffee.

Dangling Participial Construction From Subjective to Intersubjective

• the constructional meaning is highly subjective (cf. Langacker (1990)) in that it is closely related to the Ground, i.e., a speaker at the time of speech.

• Some dangling participles, a part of the construction, come to imply intersubjectivity (cf. Verhagen (2005), Traugott (2003)).
Dangling Participles and Intersubjectivity

Moving on, the next issue is ...

**Supposing** you were alone?

- DIRECT Hearer to the Speaker’s construal
- INVITE Hearer’s response/action

\[S \rightarrow H \]

**Supposing** (conj. 1843～(OED))

- (a) **Supposing** it is so, it should be troublesome.
- (b) **Supposing** it is so, how do you cope with it?
- (c) **Supposing** that’s the general prevailing mood in the country?

**Supposing** in Soap Opera Corpus (2000-)

- SOAP Corpus: Dialogue in Dramas
- Surrounded by Interrogatives (20/29)
  - Supposing S, Q? (13/20)
  - Supposing S? (4/20)
  - Q? Supposing S. (3/20)
- Expects/Invites hearer’s response
- \(\rightarrow\) AN INDICATOR OF INTERSUBJECTIVITY

**Supposing S, + INTERROGATIVES**

- (a) **CARLY**: Ok. Ok, ok, ok, ok. **Supposing** that I do eat the lamb chop and the broccoli – **SONNY**: All right. **CARLY**: What are my chances of getting a little -- (phone-rings) **SONNY**: A little? (2003)
- (b) **Supposing** people are wrong, **supposing** money can actually buy you happiness, **is it possible I’d snap it up after waiting so long?** (2009)

- COGNIZANCE SCENARIO
- Conceptualizer = speaker → hearer

**[Supposing S.+] + INTERROGATIVES**

- (a) **Supposing** a kid was molested today. **What should he or she do? How should he or she handle it and be believed?**
- (b) **Supposing** Morgan grew up to be wonderful like Jax and -- and Michael made a mess of his life. **Would you abandon him? Or would you protect your child no matter what?** (2007)
Supposing S?

- **Supposing** that’s the general prevailing mood in the country?
- “But supposing I had been discovered, and the money proved false?”
- “And supposing you’re suspected?”

Supposing ... triggering the answer

- **KING**: Supposing President Obama say, General, be my secretary of Defense.
- **POWELL**: You know, when a president asks you to do something, you have to listen and consider it. But I’m not interested in another government position. And I think that the president has many options out there, both for chief of staff and for secretary of Defense.
- **KING**: But knowing you, you would consider?
- **POWELL**: I would have to listen to him. But I’m not interested in another government job.

Summary: Supposing

- partly used as an indicator of intersubjectivity
- To signal the hearer to think over and give some opinion
- Reminder of the original dangling participial construction <COGNIZANCE SCENARIO>

S1. Kangae-te-miru-to S2 (1)

- **S2**: Speaker’s epistemic conclusion
  - (a) Although A4-size is coming to be the standard paper size, almost no personal planners are of that size. **Kangaete-miru-to, it is weird.**
  - **S2 : thus no mere facts allowed**
    - (b) **Kangae-te-miru-to**, he is now 12 years old.
    - (c) **Kangae-te-miru-to**, he is a doctor.
  - **S2 : thus no interrogatives**
    - (d) **Kangae-te-miru-to**, is he a doctor?/where did he go?

S1. Kangae-te-miru-to S2 (2)

- **S2 is OK as long as it depicts sp’s epistemic conclusion**
- **OK only if S2 is rhetorical question.**
  - (a) **Kangae-te-miru-to**, is there any festivals like x? **One will soon notice that there isn’t any such thing.**
  - **OK only if S2 induces further conclusion**
    - (b) **Kangae-te-miru-to**, he is now 12 years old. **He is mature enough to be sensible.**

Japanese Counterpart

- TO-Linkage roughly corresponds to English dangling participles
- Often combined with TE-MIRU (+and see)
  - (e.g.) Kangae-te-miru-TO **Considering ...**
  - “Consider and see”
  - (e.g.) Shi-te-miru-TO **Supposing (the situation)...**
  - “Do and see”
- Their environmental pattern can be extracted.
S1. Kangae-te-miru-to S2 (3)

- **S2**: meta-level description
  - <CHARACTERIZATION of facts>
    - (a) Miyuki walked with Mr. Matsuura. Kangae-te-miru-to it turned out to be the first time that she had ever shared an umbrella with the man.
    - <CONTRAST>
      - (b) Today that kind of programs would never be broadcast, because they must be blamed for aggravate bullying problems. *Kangae-te-miru-to*, TV programs of the past were quite daring.

**Sum: Kangae-te-miru-to**

- DISCOURSE FUNCTION:
  - To signal metalinguistically that the speaker is about to state his/her own epistemic conclusion from a slightly different perspective
  - ...reflects semantics of Dangling Participial Construction <COGNIZANCE SCENARIO>
  - However; Subjective but NOT Intersubjective
    - Conceptualizer of KANGAE-TE-MIRU-TO = mainly Speaker
    - Not invite any reaction from the hearer

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**Different levels of Encoding: construal/Report layers**

Ikegami (2004,2005)

- English is dialogue (or report)-oriented language
- Japanese is monologue (or construal)-oriented language

Hirose (2012)

- English: Today is Sunday. (Sp’s Construal / Report to H)
- Japanese: <Today is Sunday> (Sp’s Construal)
  - Today is Sunday DA(NE/YO) (Report to H)

English can use the same form for both CONSTRUAL and REPORTING, while Japanese cannot, requiring some additional INTERSUBJECTIVE elements when REPORTING.

**English Dangling Participles**

Supposing...?

**JAPANESE Dangling Participles**

Kangae-te-miru-to

**Conclusion**

- The meaning of dangling participial construction is subjective and affects further semantic change of its parts.
- (inter)subjectivity comes to be involved when conceptualizer is identical with the speaker (and the hearer) at the speech time.
- Contrast between English and Japanese suggests a possible idiosyncrasy of encoding in construal/interpersonal layers.
References