

## Mimetics of Quantity in “Movement” Contexts

Certain mimetics in Japanese convey information to the effect that a theme argument consists of some mass-like form. This study focusses on such mimetics in the context of what have been described as “motion” (Toratani 2012) or “movement” (Kageyama 2007) events. Typical mimetics in this category include *zorozoro*, *wansawansa*, *uzyauzya*, and *uyouyo*. In addition to conveying the notion of “mass,” *zorozoro* is distinctive in that, as Toratani (2012) explains, it also encodes information about the “path” an entity takes, in this case, a linear movement. Collocational patterns of host verbs for these mimetics suggest that there are two basic patterns: the first group, represented by *zorozoro* and *wansawansa*, tends to collocate with verbs of limited, often unidirectional movement (*atumaru* ‘assemble’, *dete iku* ‘emerge’, *dete iru* ‘be out’, *haiagaru* ‘crawl up’, *haitte iku* ‘enter,’ *idoo suru* ‘move about’, *kuridasu* ‘sally forth’, *narande iru* ‘be lined up’) to describe events of the sort denoted by what Levin (1993) characterized as “Herd”-type verbs, which include *aggregate*, *assemble*, *gather*, and *mass*. The second group, represented by *uzyauzya* and *uyouyo*, tends to collocate with verbs that denote emergence in the context of natural phenomena, or Levin’s “Appear”-type verbs (*dete kuru* ‘emerge from the ground’, *hassei suru* ‘grow’, *hatuga suru* ‘sprout’), as well as verbs denoting ‘massing’ (*atumaru*), and simply ‘being’ (*iru*), to express events of the sort that Levin (1993) characterizes as “Swarm”-type verbs, which include *abound*, *crawl*, *swarm*, *teem*, and *throng*.

Data collected from the internet (mainly blogs) suggests that the two classes of mimetics outlined above tend to likewise form two different patterns in pairing with *suru* to create a predicate, and function as superordinate verbs. Mimetics of the *zorozoro* type form “Herd”-type predicates with *suru*, while mimetics of the *uzyauzya*-type form “Swarm”-type predicates. In each case, however, the property of directional movement is no longer present; only the properties of mass (or “quanta,” in Toratani’s 2012 terms) and path (linear form, mass cluster) remain. Based on this analysis of mimetic verb types, some modifications to Kageyama’s (2007) “Lexical Conceptual Structure” framework for analyzing the semantics of mimetic verbs are proposed. Of Kageyama’s delineated seven types of mimetic verbs, Type 3 and Type 6 are the most likely candidates to account for the “Lexical Conceptual Structure” of these two types of mimetic verbs. Kageyama’s Type 3 verbs (“manner of motion verbs”) are members of a set of verb types sharing the properties of animate agents or experiencer subjects with self-controllability. Kageyama’s Type 6 verbs (“physical perception verbs”) are members of a set of verb types sharing the properties of inanimate theme subjects that are lacking in controllability. The *zorozoro*-type mimetic verbs pose a problem for inclusion in Kageyama’s Type 3 verbs because the subject, while animate, is always a plural one, lacking in controllability, the configuration of which is dependent on the perceiver/speaker. Kageyama’s Type 6 verbs entail a perceiver, but the *uzyauzya*-type verbs pose a problem for inclusion in that they have animate theme subjects.