Japanese internally headed relatives, three potentially homophonous constructions, and how to tell them apart

ABSTRACT

Japanese internally headed relative clauses (J-HIRCs) are potentially homophonous with three other constructions: [i] (certain types of) adverbial clauses, [ii] (certain types of) complement clauses, and [iii] (certain types of) 'gapless' externally headed relative clauses (EHRCs), specifically, those with the pronominal 'light' head -no. The twin goals of the talk are to provide criteria for distinguishing each of the 4 constructions from the other 3, and to defend the existence of seven properties of IHRC that have been challenged in the literature.

The views I will defend are expressed by the reduced versions of [1]-[7], and the challenges, by the full versions.

[4] J-IHRCs are (not) always construed as definite descriptions. – [Kubota & Smith 2007]
[5] J-IHRCs with definite referential IHs are (not) infelicitous. – [Kitagawa 2005]