

Sulla codificazione linguistica del rapporto di possesso
In italiano e in giapponese

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Abstract

This paper deals with the encoding of *possession* in Italian and Japanese. While *possession* seems to be quite straightforward in its cognitive extent, it does not seem to be as univocal in terms of linguistic encoding. Specifically, the Japanese language shows different structures which in Italian request the use of *avere* (“to have”). Such structures may be existential predicates (which require a lexical selection between animate and inanimate existentials), copular predicates (which previous studies seem to convey into the existential ones), and the *motte-iru* construction (i.e. the durative-resultative form of the Japanese verb *motsu* “to hold”). Although *motte-iru* is usually considered to be the lexical item corresponding to *avere*, it is by no means the *default* or basic encoding form as it seems to be in Italian (or other languages). On the other hand, *avere* does not exclusively represent a relationship of *possession*. Taking into consideration both theoretical aspects and data shown by the acquisition process, this paper tries to shed some light on the underlying criteria for the selection of the structures requested by the two languages, and inquires whether such criteria may represent a useful tool when teaching Italian as a Foreign Language to Japanese learners.