Humanities and Language

International Journal of Linguistics, Humanities, and Education Volume 1 Issue 1, December 2023

E-ISSN 3031-5670



The Meaning and Formation of the Japanese Compound Verb ~tomeru (~留める)

Taulia1* & Muhammad Yusuf 2

^{1,2}University Harapan Medan, Medan, Indonesia.

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:

Tomeru; Compound Verb; *Japanese*

Article history:

Received 11 October 2023 Revised 21 November 2023 Accepted 29 November 2023 Available online 31 December 2023

©**①** CC BY 4.0 DEED

licensed under <u>CC BY 4.0</u>

ABSTRACT

This study discusses "Compound Verbs ~tomeru (~留める) in Japanese Sentences." The purpose of this study is to describe the structure and meaning of the compound verb tomeru as it appears in Japanese sentences. The data consists of a variety of sentences containing the compound verb ~tomeru that were taken from a Japanese news website. This study collects data through the use of library techniques. The structure and meaning of the compound verb tomeru were then analyzed using the apportion method (agih) in conjunction with the basic technique for direct elements. The data analysis indicates that the compound verb tomeru is most frequently associated with progressive verbs. Volitional verbs can also be attached to the compound verb ~tomeru. The compound verb ~tomeru has seven meanings which are divided into five meanings that express the progressive aspect and two meanings that express the perfective aspect.

How to cite:

Taulia, & Yusuf, M. (2023). The Meaning and Formation of the Japanese Compound Verb $^{\sim}$ tomeru (\sim 留める). Humanities & Language: International Journal of Linguistics, Humanities, and Education, 1(1), 22-34.

1. Introduction

Language is a means of communication and interaction between humans, used to convey thoughts, ideas, and concepts. Language can also be used to communicate ideas between speakers and listeners or between writers and readers in a variety of situations. We as humans can communicate our thoughts, ideas, and feelings through language, allowing us to communicate both orally and in writing (Susanti, 2012). To ensure the smooth operation of our social lives. Language is dynamic; it evolves and changes in response to the socio-cultural development of the language user. Languages in various worlds each have their own distinct characteristics. Each language has its own set of rules, and its use must adhere to the rules agreed upon in the language's rules. This demonstrates that each language is distinct from the others.

As with Japanese, which is currently being studied by a large number of foreign language learners worldwide, it has its unique characteristics. One of them is found in the system of word formation. A word is a language unit that has meaning or comprehension but is not limited in terms of meaning to the smallest unit. The wordformation system is examined in linguistics as part of the study of morphology (*keitaron*) and syntax (*tougoron*). One of them is the act of combining words, which results in the occurrence of the word's meaning and thus affects the sentence. Different verbs are frequently combined in Japanese sentences, and this is referred to as compound verbs.

^{*}Correspondence author: taulia@unhar.ac.id

In Japanese, verbs are classified as singular verbs (tanjundoushi) and compound verbs (fukugoudoushi). The compound verb (fukugoudoushi), more precisely tomeru, which means 'to stop,' is of particular interest in this study because its use is frequently difficult for Japanese language learners. Because not all interpretations of the compound verb tomeru are accepted, and not all interpretations include the meaning 'to stop.' Combining these verbs occasionally results in new meanings that are distinct from the elements of the word from which they are formed. Compound verbs (fukugoudoshi) are verbs formed by combining two words considered to be one.

It would be beneficial to learn about aspects while studying the meaning of verb formation. The way aspects are used in Japanese significantly impacts its meaning and usage. Aspect is the internal organization of time in a state, situation, process, or event. The compound verb ~tomeru is included in this study's perfective aspect. The perfective aspect depicts the activities and changes that occur from the beginning to the end of the activity. While studying Japanese, particularly the compound verb tomeru, it has been discovered that the compound verb has its usage pattern. This uniqueness frequently presents difficulties for Japanese language learners, particularly when compound verbs containing the ~tomeru element are used. The case in which the compound verb ~tomeru occurs is extremely interesting to discuss. As a result, a study titled "The Japanese Compound Verb ~tomeru" was conducted. This study will be guided by the following problem formulations: (1) What is the structure of the compound verb ~tomeru in Japanese sentences? (2) What does ~tomeru's compound verb mean in Japanese sentences?

2. Literature Review

2.1. Verb

Sutedi (Sutedi, 2011, p. 44) categorizes the types of words in Japanese as meishi or nouns, doushi or verbs, keiyoushi or adjectives, fukushi or adverbs, jodoushi or auxiliary verbs, and joushi or auxiliary words (particles). This study will not discuss all word classes; only verbs will be discussed. In Japanese, verbs are referred to as doushi (動詞).

According to Kridalaksana, verbs are a class of words that are typically used as predicates; in some other languages, verbs have morphological characteristics such as time, aspect, charm, or number; and the majority of verbs represent semantic elements of actions, circumstances, and processes (Kridalaksana, 2009, p. 254). Additionally, Sutedi notes that the verb *katsuyou*, or 'form change,' occurs in Japanese (Sutedi, 2011).

There are numerous theories about how verbs should be classified. As a point of reference, Matsuoka and Yukinori's theory is used. According to Matsuoka and Yukinori (Matsuoka & Takubo, 1989, p. 12), Japanese verbs fall into three categories:

1. Progressive Verbs (動態動詞 Doutaidoushi) — Stative Verbs (狀態動詞 Joutaidoushi) Progressive verbs (動態動詞 doutaidoushi) are verbs that show activity and movement, such as taberu 'eat', nomu 'drink', aruku 'walk', taoreru 'drop', taosu 'fall', hanasu 'talk'. While the stative verb (狀態動詞 joutaidoushi) is a verb that shows a state, ability, need, possession, and relationship concept. Example: aru or iru 'is there', dekiru 'can', iu 'said', iru 'need', kotonaru 'different'

- 2. Intransitive Verbs (自動詞 Jidoushi) Transitive Verbs (他動詞 Tadoushi) Intransitive verbs (自動詞 Jidoushi) are intransitive verbs or verbs that do not require an object. Usually marked with a particle marker ga. Example: tomaru 'stop', iku 'go', and neru 'sleep'. On the other hand, transitive verbs (他動詞 tadoushi) are transitive verbs or verbs that require an object. Usually marked with a o particle marker. Example: (ramen o) taberu 'to eat' (ramen) and (saifu o) sagasu 'to seek' (wallet).
- 3. Volitional Verbs (意思動詞 Ishidoushi) Non-Volitional Verbs (無意志動詞 Muishidoushi) Volitional verbs (意思動詞 ishidoushi) are verbs that indicate someone's desire or will to do an activity. Examples: aruku 'walking,' yomu 'reading,' akeru 'opening,' kangaeru 'thinking,' and benkyou suru 'learning'. On the other hand, non-volitional verbs (無意志動詞 muishidoushi) do not indicate someone's desire to do an activity. Example: taoreru 'dropped', oiru 'aged', ushinau 'lost'. However, there are times when a non-volitional verb in Japanese can become a volitional verb when expressed in a declarative sentence.

2.2. Compound Verbs

Compound words are formed by combining basic morphemes, both free and bound, to create a construction with a distinct or new lexical identity (Chaer, 2012, p. 185). The compound word in Japanese is *fukugo* or *gokeisei*. One form of a compound word is a compound verb.

Matsuoka and Takubo (1989, p. 16) revealed that *fukugodoushi* (複合動詞) or compound verbs are formed by combining the first verb (*zenkoudoushi*) and the second verb (*koukoudoushi*). While Akimoto (Taulia & Gapur, 2022; Zamrotin, 2021) classifies compound verbs into four forms, namely

- 1. Noun + Verb. The combination of compound verbs that includes the first element is a noun, while the second element is a verb.
- 2. Verb + Verb. This compound verb combination includes the verb as the first element and the verb as the second element.
- 3. Adjective + Verb. This compound verb combination includes the first element being an adjective while the second element is a verb.
- 4. Adverb + Verb. This compound verb combination includes the first element as an adverb and the verb as the second element.

Among the numerous forms of variation, compound verbs composed of verb + verb elements are the most frequently encountered in Japanese.

2.3. Compound Verbs ~tomeru

When looking in a dictionary, the commonly used meaning of the word *tomeru* is "stop". This meaning is contained in the meaning of *tomeru*, which is quoted based on the dictionary. However, the meaning of the verb *tomeru* not only has the meaning of stopping but also has many meanings based on the classification of kanji. (Rahma et al., 2017, p. 161)

- 1. 止める: means to stop; dismiss; stop.
- 2. 停める: means to stop; dismiss; stop.

- 3. 留める: means to restrain, prevent, stem, close, prohibit, install, attach, stipulate.
- 4. 泊める: means to superimpose; receive a ride; ordered to stay.

The verb *tomeru* studied in this study was *tomeru* with the kanji at position 3. Due to the variety of meanings associated with *tomeru* in this kanji, the meanings formed in compound verbs can also vary.

2.4. Semantics

Semantics is a subfield of linguistics concerned with the study of meaning. In Japanese, semantics is referred to as *imiron* (意味論). According to Chaer (Chaer, 2013, p. 2), semantics is a term that has been agreed upon to refer to the branch of linguistics that studies the relationship between linguistic signs and the objects they signify. The semantic study is concerned with the meaning of words, their relationship to one another, the meaning of phrases, and the meaning of sentences. Sutedi (2011, p. 11) divides the meaning of words into lexical and grammatical meanings. Lexical meaning is the meaning of a word as determined by its actual reference as determined by sensory observation, regardless of its grammatical elements; it is also referred to as the word's original meaning. In Japanese, this is referred to as *jishoteki imi* (辞書的意味). While grammatical meaning refers to the meaning that results from grammatical operations such as affixation, reduplication, and composition.

In Japanese, this is referred to as *bunpou teki imi* (文法的意味). According to some of the opinions expressed above, semantics is a subfield of linguistics concerned with the meaning of words, meaning relations, phrase meanings, and sentences in the language. When studying or analyzing a language, semantics is critical. According to the theoretical explanation provided above, the study of the compound verb *tomeru* falls under the category of grammatical meaning, more precisely, the meaning of the compound verb *tomeru* as a result of affixation, reduplication, and composition.

2.5. Morphology

Morphology is a subfield of linguistics concerned with the structure and formation of words. In Japanese morphology, this is referred to as *keitairon* (形態論). The term morphology derives etymologically from the words *morph*, which means 'form,' and *logy*, which means 'science.' Thus, morphology literally translates as 'science of form' (Chaer, 2012). The morpheme is the simplest unit of study in morphology, while complex words are the most complex (Soeparno, 1993, p. 91). According to the theoretical explanations provided by experts, morphology is a subfield of linguistics that studies word forms and their formation. This study also falls under the category of morphology, as it examines the form of compound verbs.

2.6. Aspect

Aspect is a lens through which we can view the internal formation of time in a situation, situation, event, or process (Chaer, 2012, p. 259). Meanwhile, Sutedi (2011, p. 93) states that the aspect indicates that an activity will be initiated, carried out, completed, or repeated. According to Chaer, there are numerous aspects derived from various languages, including:

- 1. The continuous aspect, namely the aspect that states that the action continues. This aspect in Indonesian is usually marked by the lexical element continuously, always, or a verb that uses the suffix -i.
- 2. Inceptive aspects, namely aspects that state events or events that are just starting. This aspect marker is a new lexical element.
- 3. Progressive aspect, namely the aspect that states the action is in progress. Medium lexical elements characterize this aspect in Indonesian.
- 4. Repetitive aspects, namely aspects that state that the action occurs repeatedly, usually in Indonesian are marked by a verb with the suffix -i.
- 5. The perfective aspect, namely the aspect that states the action that has been completed. Lexical elements have been and have often been used to express this aspect in Indonesian.
- 6. Imperfective aspect, namely the aspect that states the action lasts for a while. In Indonesian, the marker for this aspect is a verb with the suffix men-.

The perverted aspect is the aspect that states the ending of the action. The marker in Indonesian is usually the lexical element that has been completed or has been completed.

3. Method

This study includes qualitative research. This study tries to carefully record all linguistic phenomena according to the original and tries to provide data on the language used. Based on this type of study, the study was conducted to study the form and meaning of the compound verb "tomeru in Japanese with an interactive model (Miles et al., 2014).

The first step in presenting data in a study is data collection. The data for this study came from a variety of sources that included sentences containing the compound verb tomeru. The study made use of library techniques, specifically data collection through written sources. This technique is used because it is easier to obtain data by reading and studying the literature related to the study's subject. This study will make use of materials, specifically data in the form of sample sentences culled from only official Japanese websites, such as www.asahi.com. These official websites include a variety of sentences that use the compound verb ~tomeru. The data for this study were gathered from a variety of sources in order to increase the diversity of the sentences used as data. Once the data containing the study object is located, it is recorded and classified so that it is clear which data pertains to the study. The data will be sorted according to the study's specifications, and then classified and analyzed at a later stage.

Data analysis is the process of elucidating and classifying data (Mahsun, 2012, p. 279). The descriptive method is used to analyze the structure and meaning of the text. The descriptive method is used to describe or characterize the state of a subject or object of study using the facts that emerge. The analysis by describing and defining the compound verb *tomeru* in the context of Japanese sentences is found following the theory. Then, at the study's peak stage, the *agih* method (apportion) was used. According to Sudaryanto (Sudaryanto, 2015, p. 19), the *agih* method is one in which the determining tool is a component of the language, such as words and syntactic functions (subjects, objects, predicates, and so on), and clauses. This method aims to ascertain the relationship between the studied verb's meaning in Japanese sentences.

The final stage of this study is the presentation of the data analysis results. The data analysis results are presented in plain language and easy-to-understand terms. The results of data analysis are observed, classified, and described in a paper, and then conclusions are drawn from the data containing the collected study objects. Thus, the structure and meaning of the Japanese compound verb *tomeru* will be understood.

The researcher was the primary instrument in this study, conducting direct observations to collect data that met the criteria for data.

4. Result

Some of the structures and meanings of the compound verb *tomeru* have been discovered as a result of this investigation. The compound verb *tomeru* is most commonly found in conjunction with progressive verbs. In addition, volitional verbs can be attached to the compound verb *tomeru*, which means "to choose."

Table I. Compound Verbs ~tomeru

	rabic i. compound	VCI D3 COITICI G
No	Compound Verbs 〜留める	Meaning
1.	押し留める	pressing (holding)
2.	書き留める	Write
3.	仕留める	Drop (bird); Kill
4.	抱き留める	Holding (pulling) someone's hand
5.	取り留める	Maintain
6.	引き留める	Withhold
7.	呼び留める	Challenging;
		Calling someone
		to hold it.

Due to the fact that the verb *tomeru* has the basic meaning of 'stop,' the compound verb that is formed has the nuanced meaning of 'to stop.' As a result of the seven data points, it has been determined that the meaning of the compound verb *tomeru* can be divided into five meanings that express progressive aspects and two meanings that express perfection.

The Structure and Meaning of Compound Verbs ~tomeru

The compound verb ~tomeru is formed by combining progressive and volitional verbs, with tomeru serving as both the progressive and perfective aspects of the verbs combined. This can be seen in the examples of sentences provided in the following information.

(1) Data 1

これは作曲のプロセスです。書くというより受け取るイメージ。私に届いてきてくれるメロディがあるはずだと思って待つ。弾かずに待って、聞こえてきたものを**書き留めて**いきます。

Kore wa sakkyoku no purosesu desu. Kaku to iu yori uketoru imēji. Watashi ni todoite kite kureru merodi ga aru hazuda to omotte matsu. Hajikazu ni matte, kikoete kita mono o **kakitomete** ikimasu.

This is a compositional process. The image received rather than writing. I think there must be a melody to come to me. Wait without playing and write down what you hear.

(Sumber: https://www.tv-asahi.co.jp/shirobi/backnumber/0015/)

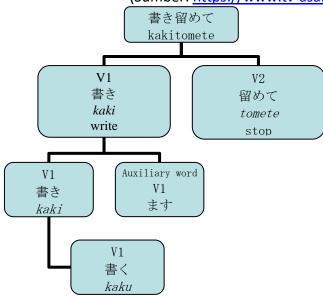


Figure 1. Chart kakitomeru

The compound verb *kakitomeru* is formed in data 1 from the verb *kakimasu*, which means 'to write,' and includes progressive and volitional verbs; and the attached verb *tomete/tomeru* expresses the progressive aspect's meaning. The addition of the tomete verb to the *kakimasu* verb does not add significant meaning, but it does provide nuances to the meaning of writing that is performed immediately. Data 1 identifies the object, namely what is to be written. The degree of completion of the compound verb *kakitomeru* indicates that the writing activity continues in response to what is heard.

(2) Data 2

警官達は群衆を押し留めた。

Keikan-tachi wa gunshū o oshi tometa.

Police detain the crowd.

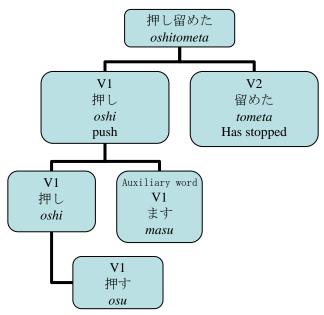


Figure 2. Chart Oshitomeru

Data 2 is a sentence that contains the compound verb *oshitomeru*, which is formed from the verb *oshimasu*, which means 'to press,' including progressive and volitional verbs. The past tense verb *tometa* of attached *tomeru* expresses the perfective aspect's meaning. When the *tomete* verb is added to the *oshimasu* verb, the addition becomes 'detain or hold.' In general, Data 2 details the targets of police-intercepted or detained crowds. The completion status of the compound verb *oshitomeru* indicates that crowd-control activities continue.

(3) Data 3

かみつく強さが強く、硬い生き物も<u>**仕留める</u>**ことができる。そしてヒゲを使い、敵の正確な位置を感じ取って、一撃で死に至らしめる。</u>

Kamitsuku tsuyo-sa ga tsuyoku, katai ikimono mo **shitomeru** koto ga dekiru. Soshite hige o tsukai, teki no seikakuna ichi o kanjitotte, ichigeki de shi ni itara shimeru.

It has a strong biting power and can **kill** hard creatures. Then use the beard to sense the enemy's exact position and kill him with one hit.

(https://archives.bs-asahi.co.jp/bbc/na 100 01.html)

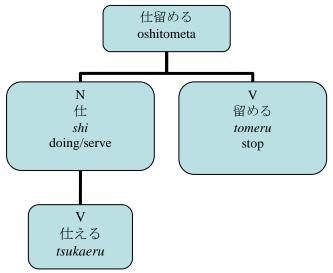


Figure 3. Chart shitomeru

The sentence in data 3 describes an animal's characteristics. In data 3, the compound verb *shitomeru* is formed from the noun *shi*, which takes the form of the verb *tsukaeru*, which means 'to perform or prepare.' The attached verb *tomeru* expresses the progressive aspect's meaning. The addition of the verb *tomeru* to the noun *shi* creates a new meaning for drop in the sense of murder. Data 3 indicates the prey object killed by an animal's bite. The degree to which the compound verb *shitomeru* is completed indicates the volitional aspect of an animal's desire to kill another animal.

(4) Data 4

倒れかかる人を抱き留める。

Taore kakaru hito o dakitomeru

Hugging (pulling the hand) of people who are about to fall.

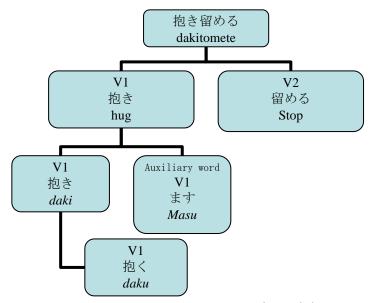


Figure 4. Chart dakitomeru

In data 4, the compound verb *dakitomeru* is formed from the verb *dakimasu*, which means 'to hug,' and encompasses both progressive and volitional verbs; the

attached verb *tomeru* expresses the progressive aspect's meaning. The addition of the verb tomeru to the verb *dakimasu* adds the meaning of hugging by pulling one arm. In general, Data 4 describes the object of a person who is about to fall or is already falling. The compound verb *dakitomeru's* level of completion depicts an ongoing hugging activity through the image of pulling someone's arm which is about to fall or has already fallen.

(5) Data 5

彼女は飛行機墜落事故で息子が一命を取り留めたことを聞いてうれし泣きました。

Kanojo wa hokō-ki tsuiraku jiko de musuko ga ichimei o **toritometa** koto o kii te ureshi nakimashita

She burst into tears of joy when she heard that her son had survived the plane crash.

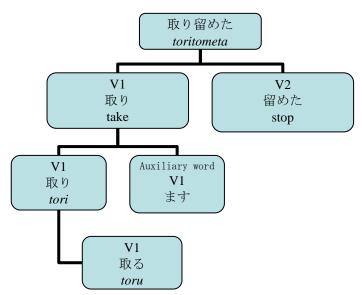


Figure 5. Chart toritomeru

In data 5, the compound verb *toritomeru* is formed from the verb *torimasu*, which means 'to take,' and includes progressive and volitional verbs; the attached verb *tomete/tomeru* expresses the perfective aspect's meaning. The addition of the *tomete* verb to the *torimasu* verb adds the meaning of restraining or saving lives. In general, Data 5 identifies the purpose of a survivor child's life. The compound verb *toritomeru's* level of completion demonstrates the perfective aspect, indicating that the activity of saving the child's life has occurred.

(6) Data 6

ゴーン被告を日産に**引き留める**ために様々な方法を検討したが、あくまでも "合法的"な方法を検討していた。

Gōn hikoku o Nissan ni **hikitomeru** tame ni samazamana hōhō o kentō shitaga, akumademo "gōhō-teki" na hōhō o kentō shite ita.

We considered various ways to keep defendant Ghon at Nissan, but he saw only the "legal" way.

(https://news.tv-asahi.co.jp/news society/articles/000221654.html)

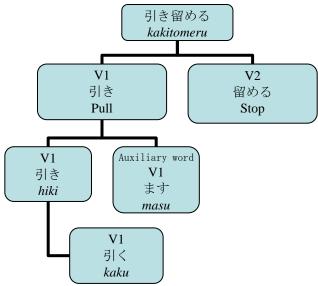


Figure 6. Chart hikitomeru

In data 5, the compound verb *toritomeru* is formed from the verb *torimasu*, which means 'to take,' and includes progressive and volitional verbs; the attached verb *tomete/tomeru* expresses the perfective aspect's meaning. The addition of the *tomete* verb to the *torimasu* verb adds the meaning of restraining or saving lives. Data 5 identifies the purpose of a survivor child's life. The compound verb *kakitomeru's* level of completion demonstrates the perfective aspect, indicating that the activity of saving the child's life has occurred.

(7) Data 7

警察官が私を呼び留めたとき、時速120キロで走っていた。 Keisatsukan ga watashi o **yobi tometa** toki, jisoku 120-kiro de hashitte ita

When the police stopped me, I was going at 120Km/h

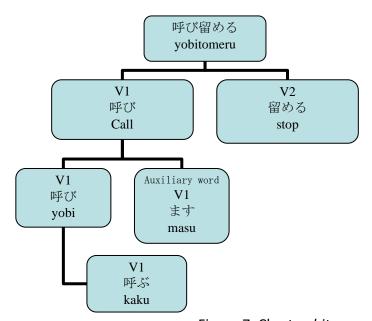


Figure 7. Chart yobitomeru

In Data 7, a compound verb *yobitomeru* forms from the verb *yobimasu*, which means 'to call,' which includes progressive and volitional verbs; and the attached *tomeru* expresses the perfective aspect through the past tense verb *tometa*. The addition of the *tometa* verb to the *yobimasu* verb adds the meaning of a call intended to stop someone. In general, Data 7 describes the purpose of a person driving at a high rate of speed. The degree of completion of the compound verb *yobitomeru* indicates that the police have stopped someone for driving too fast.

5. Conclusions

This study concludes that the structure or process of constructing a compound verb *shitomeru* is the formation of the first verb (V1), the second verb (V2), as well as the noun (N) and verb (V) of the verb *shitomeru*. The initial verb (V1) is densely packed with progressive and volitional verbs (*ishidoushi*).

The compound verb *tomeru*, on the other hand, has seven meanings. Six of the meanings remain connected to the basic meaning of the word *tomeru*, namely 'stop,' while one is not. The compound verb *tomeru* plays a role in both the progressive and perfective aspects of the sentence.

Based on the study's findings, the following recommendations are made for Japanese language learners. This study can help expand the Japanese language's linguistic repertoire, particularly in the area of compound verbs. This study can also serve as a reminder to Japanese language students that the Japanese language is not limited to the pages of Japanese language textbooks. There are numerous fascinating aspects of Japanese, one of which is its morphological structure. Japanese students should be able to learn the language by comprehending the morphological processes involved in the formation of Japanese words.

Acknowledgment

This study was conducted independently as part of the Tri Dharma of Higher Education's realization. We would like to express our appreciation for the moral support provided by the dean and rector of Universitas Harapan Medan.

References

Chaer, A. (2012). Linguistik Umum (Edisi Revi). Rineka Cipta.

Chaer, A. (2013). Pengantar Semantik Bahasa Indonesia. Rineka Cipta.

Kridalaksana, H. (2009). Kamus Linguistik (4th ed.). PT. Gramedia.

Mahsun. (2012). Metode penelitian bahasa (Cetakan Ke). PT Raja Grafindo Persada.

Matsuoka, T., & Takubo, Y. (1989). Kiso Nihongo Bunpou. Kuroshio Shuppan.

Miles, M. B., Huberman, A. M., & Saldana, J. (2014). *Qualitative Data Analysis: A Methods Sourcebook*. SAGE Publications, Inc.

Rahma, T., Kusrini, D., & Dahidi, A. (2017). Analisis Makna Verba Tomeru sebagai Polisemi Dalam Bahasa Jepang. *EDUJAPAN*, 1(2).

https://ejournal.upi.edu/index.php/edujapan/article/view/8634

Soeparno. (1993). Dasar-Dasar Linguistik. Mitra Gama Widya.

Sudaryanto. (2015). Metode dan Teknik Analisis Bahasa. Duta Wacana University.

- Susanti, S. (2012). Bahasa sebagai alat komunikasi. *Jurnal Bahasa Indonesia*, 1(1), 45–53.
- Sutedi, D. (2011). Dasar-Dasar Linguistik Bahasa Jepang. Humaniora Utama Press.
- Taulia, T., & Gapur, A. (2022). The Japanese Compound Verb ~ kakeru (~ かける): It's Meaning and Formation. *International Journal of Cultural and Art Studies*, 6(2), 108–119. https://doi.org/10.32734/ijcas.v6i2.9572
- Zamrotin, I. M. U. (2021). Analisis Bentuk, Perubahan Fonem, Dan Makna Kata Majemuk Dengan Unsur Bagian Tubuh Manusia. *HIKARI Jurnal Ilmiah Mahasiswa Pendidikan Sastra Dan Bahasa Jepang Universitas Negeri Surabaya*, *5*(1). https://jurnalmahasiswa.unesa.ac.id/index.php/hikari/article/view/36413