サ変 — Verbal Nouns or Nominal Verbs? Under-Specifying Events and Individuals

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Category Changing

- We want to discuss words that can have multiple categories
- Choose the relatively clear case of Japanese
  - Which has a class of words (mainly borrowed from Chinese)
  - That behave both like nouns and (with some support) verbs

- We will leave the much harder case of Chinese (for now)
- The basic question (as I see it) is wrap or specialize?
  and if we wrap, which do we wrap?

You can be more or less verby

(1)　田中　　が　日本語　を　勉強　　する
   Tanaka ga　nihongo　wo　benkyou suru
   Tanaka NOM Japanese ACC study　　do

   "Tanaka studies Japanese."

(2)　田中　　が　日本語　の　勉強　　を　する
   Tanaka ga　nihongo　no　benkyou wo　suru
   Tanaka NOM Japanese ADN study　　ACC do

   "Tanaka studies Japanese."

The support verb can change

(3) 日本語　が　勉強　　できる
Nihongo ga benkyou dekiru
Japanese NOM study do.POT

"(Someone) can study Japanese."

(4) 日本語　を　勉強　　できる
Nihongo wo benkyou dekiru
Japanese ACC study do.POT

"(Someone) can study Japanese."

(5) * 日本語　を　勉強　　が　できる
* *Nihongo wo benkyou ga dekiru*
Japanese ACC study NOM do.POT

Intended: "(Someone) can study Japanese."

(6) 日本語　の　勉強　　が　できる
Nihongo no benkyou ga dekiru
Japanese ADN study NOM do.POT

"(Someone) can study Japanese."

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Arguments get linked

(7) 日本語　の　勉強　が　面白い
Nihongo no benkyou ga omoshiroi
Japanese ADN study NOM interesting

"Studying Japanese is interesting."

(8) 午後　の　勉強　が　面白い
gogo no benkyou ga omoshiroi
afternoon ADN study NOM interesting

"Studying in the afternoon/Studying afternoons is interesting."

(9) 日本人　の　英語　の　勉強　は　無駄　が　多い
Nihonjin no eigo no benkyou ha muda ga ooi
Japanese.people ADN English ADN study TOP futility NOM numerous

"In the study of English by Japanese people, there is a lot of waste."

(10) # 英語 の　日本人　の　勉強　は　無駄　が　多い
#Eigo no nihonjin no benkyou ha muda ga ooi
English ADN Japanese.people ADN study TOP futility NOM numerous

"In the study of Japanese people by the English language, there is a lot of waste."

Arguments can change

(11)　佐藤　が　　田中　　に　日本語　　を　　勉強　　させる
　　　Satou ga　　Tanaka ni　nihongo　wo　benkyou saseru
　　　Satou NOM Tanaka DAT Japanese ACC study　　do.CAUS

　　　"Satou makes Tanaka study Japanese."

There can be some indirection

(12) 勉強　　が　好き　　だ
Benkyou ga   suki   da
Study   NOM likeable COP

"(Someone) likes studying."

(13) 勉強　　を　すること　が　好き　　だ
Benkyou wo suru koto ga   suki   da
Study   ACC do   NMLZ NOM likeable COP

"(Someone) likes studying."

(14) 勉強　　すること　が　好き　　だ
Benkyou suru koto ga   suki   da
Study   do   NMLZ NOM likeable COP

"(Someone) likes studying."

There can be interaction

(15) 勉強　　を　始める
Benkyou wo hajimeru
Study   ACC begin

"(Someone) begins studying."

(16) 勉強　　し　　始める
Benkyou shi   hajimeru
Study   do.INF begin

"(Someone) begins studying."

You don't need a lot of support

(17) 新しい　方法　　を　開発　　。
      Atarashii houhou wo   kaihatsu .
      New   method ACC develop .

      "(Someone) develops a new method."

It's not just transitive

(18) 言語学者　　が　普遍　　文法　　を　UG　と
　　　Gengogakusha ga　fuhen　bunpou　wo　UG　to
　　　Linguist　　NOM　universal grammar　ACC　UG　QUOT

　　　省略　　　する
　　　shouraku　suru
　　　abbreviate do

　　　"Linguists abbreviate universal grammar as UG."

(19) 私　　が　熊　　に　遭遇　　した
　　　Watashi ga　kuma ni　souguu　shi-ta
　　　1SG　　NOM bear　DAT encounter do-PST

　　　"I encountered a bear."

(20) 学生　　が　就寝　　する
　　　Gakusei ga　shuushin suru
　　　Student NOM retire　　do

　　　"The students are retiring (for the night)."

More interaction

(21) 学生　　が　　勉強　　に　行く
Gakusei ga　benkyou ni　iku
Student NOM study　LOC go

"The students are going to study."

(22) 学生　　が　　勉強　　し　　　に　行く
Gakusei ga　benkyou shi　ni　iku
Student NOM study　do.INF LOC go

"The students are going to study."

Things to discuss

- We want to catch the meaning similarities
  in applications, I spend a lot of time throwing away NMLZ
  but not gloss over differences
- Inherently nouny or verby or underspecified?
- Jacy treats as verb and nominalizes
- But in fact verbiness is morphologically marked (mostly)
- Subcat is like a verb
- If we underspecify (to i)
  - ▶ can the output include something underspecified
  - ... or should it always be (x or e)
  - ▶ What to do with arguments if nouny
- If underlyingly verby how to decide when to nominalize
  how to do it also an issue
- Verb->Sahen->Verb
  習う; 習い; 習い する "learn; learning; do learning"