

Meaning Relation of *Nazonazo* Wordplay

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Abstract: This study analyzes the relationship between the meaning of questions and answers on *nazonazo*. The Japanese *nazonazo* used in this research was obtained from the website <http://nazo-nazo.com/sp/cat395/>. This research is limited only to the types of easy, very easy, and recommendations from the website. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative. The theories used are semantic theory, meaning relation theory, wordplay theory, and *nazonazo* theory. The results of this study show that there are seven meaning relations in *nazonazo*, namely synonymy, antonym, polysemy, homonymy, hyponymy, meronymy, as well as naming and metathesis. Homonymy is a meaning relation that appears frequently in *nazonazo*.

Keywords: meaning relation; *nazonazo*; riddle; semantic; wordplay

RESEARCH BACKGROUND

Wordplay is a game where the player must think in order to know what the word is. In Japanese, it is called *kotoba asobi*. There are some types of wordplay, they are spoonerism (*dajare*), riddle (*nazonazo*), chain game (*shiritori*), tongue twister (*hayakuchi kotoba*), etc. This study focuses on *nazonazo*. This game includes questions and answers. *Nazonazo* is a word game that is quite popular among children, teenagers, and elderly. This game requires players to use their minds to be able to answer correctly. In addition to having to think of the right answer, this game also has a little humor if one understands the meaning of the riddle. According to Saeki (2021), *nazonazo* is similar to a quiz, but the answers contained in the quiz are the real answers. While the answer to the *nazonazo* is in a word game, which can be a metaphor, replace words, or spoonerism. According to Knowless and Moon in Ristianasari and Saifudin (2014), a metaphor is a non-literal or figurative language that expresses a comparison between two things implicitly. *Nazonazo* can be seen in example (a) of the following sentence:

- a. 問題 : よんでもよんでも返事をしないものはなあに?
Mondai : yondemo yondemo henji wo shinai mono wa nani?
Question : What is the one that doesn't reply even if you call it?
- 答え : 本
Kotae : Hon
Answer : book

In example (a), the word "*yonde*" has two basic words, namely "reading" (*yomu*) and "calling" (*yobu*). But when the word is spoken, they both have the same sound. The researchers are

interested in analyzing *nazonazo* in terms of meaning because, of the many word games in Japan, *nazonazo* is one of the word games that can be played by all. *Nazonazo* is also rarely studied in terms of meaning. Aside from that, if examined by the meaning, we could distinguish words from the meaning and increase the vocabulary. This study uses a semantic review or in Japanese called as 意味論 (*Imiron*). Semantics is a branch of linguistics that studies meaning. According to Chomsky in Chaer (2012: 285), semantics is one component of grammar (the other two components are syntax and phonology), and the meaning of sentences is largely determined by this semantic component.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Setyanto (2015) in his research discusses the types of question-answer relations in crossword games. The data is taken from TS, which is published in the weekly Sunday Morning, Yogyakarta, from April 2015 to August 2015. The results of this study are the discovery of eleven types of concept-relation games, namely synonymy, hyponymy, part relation, naming, translation, disclosure, abbreviation, subtraction, identification, paraphrasing, and combination.

Semantics

Chonan (2017: 1) says that semantics is a linguistic field that examines the meaning of sentences and words. Likewise, Saeed (2003) says that semantics is the study of meaning communicated through language.

Meaning Relation

The meaning relation is the meaning relevance contained in one language unit to another in Chaer (2012: 297). Therefore, in meaning relations, synonyms, antonyms, polysemy, homonymy, hyponymy, ambiguity, and redundancy are discussed. Chonan (2017: 91) classifies meaning relations into five types, namely hyponymy, meronymy, antonym, synonymy, and polysemy.

1. Synonymy

According to Chonan (2017: 93), synonyms are relationships such as "X and Y have the same meaning" that are called 同義関係 (*dougi kankei*). Synonyms are commonly referred to as 同義語 (*douigo*) or 類義語 (*ruigo*). Synonyms can be proven by interchangeable words, such as X being replaced with Y.

2. Antonymy

According to Chonan (2017:92), the relationship "X and Y have different meanings" is called 反意関係 (*Han'i kankei*). Antonyms can be called 反対語 (*hantai go*) or 対義語 (*taigo*).

3. Polysemy

According to Chonan (2017: 94), polysemy, or in Japanese, 多義語 (*tagigo*) is a word that has 2 or more meanings, such as the word 高い (*takai*) which means "expensive" and "high."

4. Homonymy

According to Chonan (2017: 95), homonymy is similar to polysemy.

5. Hyponymy

According to Chonan (2017: 91), relationships such as "X is a type of Y," which in Japanese is called 上下関係 (*Jouge kankei*) are examined. Y is a hypernym, while X is a hyponym.

6. Ambiguity

In his book, Chaer (2012: 307 - 310) says that ambiguity or ambiguity is a symptom of the occurrence of multiple meanings due to different grammatical interpretations.

7. Redundancy

According to Chaer (2012:310), it is said that redundancy is defined as the excessive use of segmental elements in a form of speech.

8. Meronymy

According to Chonan (2017:91), the relationship "X is part of Y" in Japanese is called 全体関係 (*zentai kankei*). X is meronymy or called as 部分語 (*bubun go*), while Y is Holonym or called 全体語 (*zentai go*).

Word Play

In his book, Żyśko (2017: 5) says that word play is usually characterized by three main types, namely forms of similarity, ambiguity, and humor.

Nazonazo

According to Dienhart (1998), "it is tempting to start by stating that a riddle consists of two parts, a question and an answer," which means that the riddle consists of two parts, namely questions and answers.

RESEARCH METHOD

Types of Research

This study is a semantic study because it discusses the relation of meaning. The method used in this research is called descriptive qualitative because it analyzes a phenomenon by discussing a picture systematically.

Data Source

This research is sourced from the website <http://nazo-nazo.com/sp/cat395/>. The web page used is quite neat and easy to navigate. This can make it easier for the researchers to get the data they want, so the author chose the website <http://nazo-nazo.com/sp/cat395/> as the data source. The data used is *Nazonazo*.

HRESULT AND DISCUSSION

Synonymy

- Question : お父さんがきらいな食べ物な—んだ?
Otousan ga kirai na tabemono naanda?
What food does father hate most?
- Answer : パパイア
Papaiya
Papaya

In this *nazonazo* there are the words お父さん (*otousan*) dan パパ (*papa*) which can be understood as father. お父さん (*otousan*) is the call for father as a respected person. Whereas パパ (*papa*) is a foreign language absorption word that refers to a person's address term as the head of the family, which is used by a wife or children to call their father. Then if the word パパイア (*papaiya*) is separated, it becomes パパ (*papa*) and イヤ (*iya*). The word イヤ (*iya*) means hate. Therefore, パパイア (*papaiya*) has the same meaning as お父さんがきらい (*otousan ga kirai*) which means father hates. The words お父さん dan パパ are synonymous words, but have different meanings due to social factors. This is because *otousan* can be used by anyone. Whereas *papa* can only be used for his wife and children. In Japanese, this *nazonazo* is called *shisateki tokuchou*.

Antonymy

- Question : 大きくなるほど小さくなるものなあに?
Ookiku naru hodo chiisaku naru mono naani?
What is it that gets smaller as it gets bigger?
- Answer : 服 (ふく)
Fuku
Clothes

大きい (*Ookii*) 'big' dan 小さい (*Chiisai*) 'small' is words that are opposed to each other. The correlation between question and answer is that when our bodies get bigger, the clothes we wear will feel smaller. This *Nazonazo* is included in the relative or graded antonymy type meaning relation because the boundaries between one another cannot be clearly defined. The boundaries can move to become more or become less. Therefore, this type of *nazonazo* can also be called 程度性もつ反義語 (*teidosei motsu han'gigo*) 'antonymy to quantity'.

Polysemy

- Question : 車で走っているときに、カーブで必ず落としてしまうものは?
Kuruma de hashitteiru toki ni kaabu de kanarazu otoshiteshimau mono wa?
What do you always drop on a curve when you are driving?
- Answer : スピード
Supiido
Speed.

The clue for this *nazonazo* is 落とす (*otosu*). In *nihon kokugodaijiten*, 落とす (*otosu*) have meanings: (1) 上から下へ、物の位置を急に変える。 (*ue kara shita e, mono no ichi wo kyuu ni kaeru.*) 'Suddenly change the position of an object from top to bottom', (2) 事物、人など

をある所から離す。また、なくなる。(Jibutsu, hito nado wo aru tokoro kara hanasu. Mata, nakunasu.) 'Keep things, people, etc., away from a certain place. Also, eliminate it', (3) 物事の位置、程度などを低くする。(Monogoto no ichi, teido nado wo hikukusuru) 'Reduce the position, degree, etc. of things'. Then, the meaning of sentence カーブで必ず落としてしまうもの (*kaabu de kanarazu otoshite shimau mono*) 'something always drops on a curve' is a thing that drops. Based on that sentence, *mono* is a thing. But, on *nazonazo*'s answer, the thing that falls is スピード (*supiido*) 'speed'. Therefore, the word *otosu* that has a relation with the answer is the third meaning because speed is something that can be increased or decreased. In this *nazonzo* there are words that have more than one meaning. The first meaning is the real meaning or lexical meaning. The other's meaning is a meaning developed based on one component of its meaning that is possessed by the word.

Homonymy

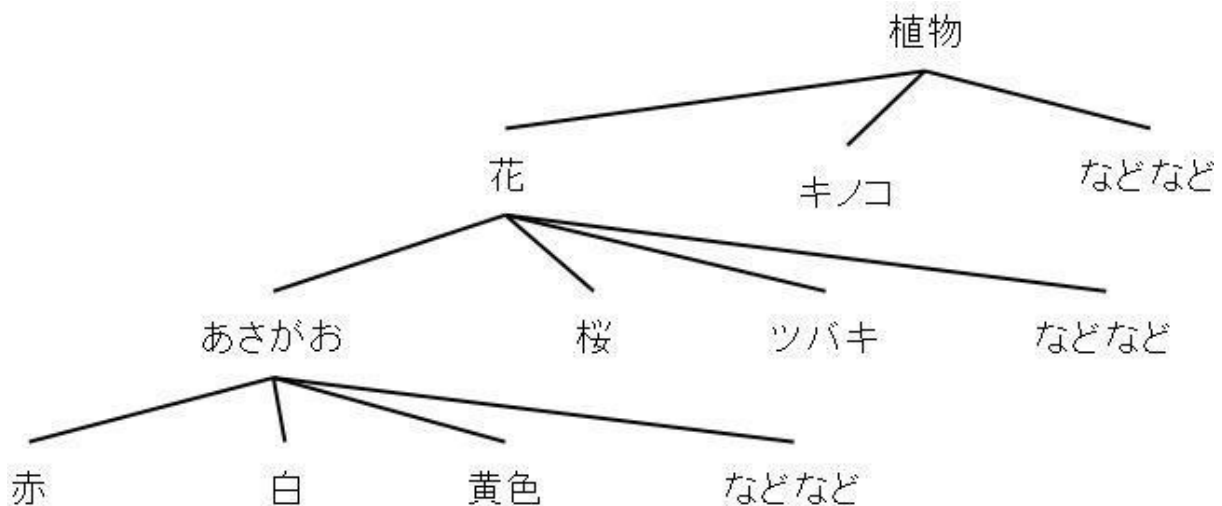
- Question : 9匹のトラが乗っている乗り物は?
kyuppiki no tora ga notteiru norimono wa?
What is the vehicle with 9 tigers on board?
- Answer : トラック
Torakku
Truck

トラ (*Tora*) is the name of an animal, it is *tora* 'tiger' and in Japanese, number 9 can be read in two ways, namely *ku* atau *kyuu*. In the *nazonazo* question, there are already answer clues. The clues are the words *tora* and number 9 which can be read as *ku*. When the sound of the word *tora* is combined with the sound of the word number 9, it is *ku*, so that the sound of *tora* and *ku* is obtained. The answer to the *nazonazo* can be found from the sound of *tora-ku*, which is トラック (*torakku*). Therefore, it can be seen that this *nazonazo* has a homonymous meaning relation because there are words whose use is combined with other words, namely the words *tora* and *ku*, which are combined. This is the same as belonging to a homonymy relation in which a word is joined to another word that is used.

Hyponymy

- Question : 朝になると叫ぶ花はなあに?
Asa ni naru to sakebu hana wa naani?
What is the flower that screams in the morning?
- Answer : あさがお
Asagao
Japanese morning glory

In this *nazonazo*'s question, there is a hint word 朝 (*asa*) 'morning'. Then, there is another hint, it is 叫ぶ花 (*sakebu hana*) 'screaming flowers'. Japanese people express the word "shout" with various expressions. One of which is ガーオー (*gaaoo*), the expression when the lion is screaming. When the flowers are blooming, it looks like a screaming lion. On *nazonazo*'s answer, it is *asagao* or can be called as *Japanese morning glory*. This flower has a variety of colors, namely red, white, yellow, etc. あさがお (*asagao*) is a type of 花 'flower'. Based on the analysis, あさがお (*asagao*) be generic or hypernym or superordinate from 赤 'red', 白 'white', etc. that will be hyponym of 花 (*flower*). Then, 花 (*flower*) which is a hypernym of (*asagao*) will be a hyponym of the larger generic, it is 植物 (*shokubutsu*) 'plant'. This can be seen in the following chart:



Meronymy

- Question : 点々をつけると、踊り出してしまう家具って何？
Tenten wo tsukeru to, odori dashite shimau kagu tte nani?
 ‘What kind of furniture will start dancing when you add dots?’
- Answer : タンス
Tansu
 ‘A chest of drawers’

On the *nazonzo* there is a hint of the word (*odori*). The word 踊り (*odori*) can also be referred to by other words such as ダンス (*dansu*). In the word ダンス (*dansu*) there is a 点々 (*tenten*) sign in it. 点々 (*tenten*) is two lines that look like quotation marks at the top right of the hiragana and katakana letters. If the sign 点々 (*tenten*) in the word ダンス (*dansu*) that is located on the letter だ (*da*) is removed, only the letter た (*ta*) remains and finally becomes タンス (*tansu*). Japanese people refer to タンス (*tansu*) as a chest of drawers. タンス (*tansu*) or chest of drawers is a part of the furniture. This makes this *nazonazo* have a meronymy meaning relation because of the word that is a component of other words.

Naming and Metathesis

- Question : ひっくり返ると、軽くなる動物な—んだ？
Hikkuri kaeru to, karuku naru doubutsu naanda?
 What is an animal that becomes lighter when turned over?
- Answer : イルカ
Iruka
 Dolphin

The *nazonazo* clue lies in the word 軽くなる (*karuku naru*) 'to be light'. The word 軽くなる (*karuku naru*) has a base form 軽い (*karui*) 'light'. The meaning of the *nazonazo* question on the word ひっくり返ると (*hikkurikaeruto*) is 'if turned over'. The meaning of the *nazonazo* question on the word (*hikkurikaeruto*) 'behind' is not which animal if it is reversed, but the word 軽い (*karui*) if it is reversed into what animal. This shows what animal represents the word *karui* if it is reversed. If the word *karui* is written with hiragana letters, it becomes かる

い (*karui*) and is reversed or read from right to left to become いるか (*iruka*). According to Setyanto (2015) a metathesis naming relationship is a meaning relationship that is formed due to the application of naming and metathesis techniques. This technique can be seen in the *nazonazo* question, there is the word *doubutsu* which is an animal. Then in *nazonazo's answer*, there is the word *iruka* 'dolphin'. This indicates that *Iruka* is the name of the animal. In this *nazonazo*, there is a change in the placement of the letters in the word *karui* which is read from right to left to become *iruka* which is the name of an animal.

CONCLUSION

The meaning relation in *nazonazo* is formed because of the double meaning of the questions and answers that influence them. In synonymy, the relation of meaning that influences it is the similarity of meaning. Antonyms occur because of the meaning of a word, which is the opposite of another word. There is a meaning relation in polysemy because there are words that have more than one meaning. Homonymy has other words, namely homophone and homograph. Homophones refer to the same sound, while homographs refer to the same orthography. In *nazonazo*, the relation of homonymous meaning can be because there are words used including other words. Hyponymy occurs because there are words whose meanings are included in the meanings of other word forms. Meronymy is a meaning relation that occurs because of a word that is a part or component of another word. Naming and metathesis are the opposites of a name.

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