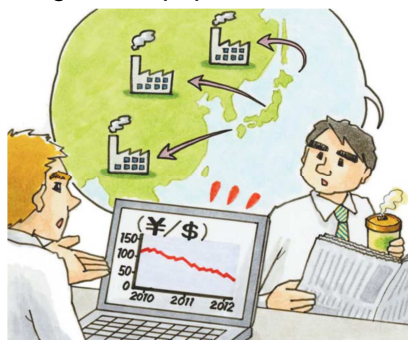


日本語流 29

The Nihongo Way 29

< Today's dialogue >

It is early morning at the office. While reading the news on your PC, you (U) are talking with a Japanese colleague (J) who is reading a newspaper.



<p>U: 最近ずっと円高が続いているねえ。 こんなに円が強いと輸出産業は大変だろうねえ。①</p>	<p><i>Saikin zutto endaka ga tsuzuite iru nê.</i> <i>Konnani en ga tsuyoi to yushutsusangyô wa taihen darô nê.</i></p>
<p>J: そうだねえ。 この新聞によると、日本の中小企業の多くが海外に工場を移しているそうだよ。②</p>	<p><i>Sô da nê.</i> <i>Kono shimbun ni yoru to, Nihon no chûshôkigyô no ôku ga kaigai ni kôjô o utsushiteiru sô da yo.</i></p>
<p>U: そうなると日本産業の空洞化が問題になるよねえ。③</p>	<p><i>Sô naru to, Nihon sangyô no kûdôka ga mondai ni naru yo nê.</i></p>
<p>J: 何かまったく新しい産業が興るといいけどねえ。④</p>	<p><i>Nanika mattaku atarashii sangyô ga okoru to ii kedo, nê.</i></p>

Today we look at a way of expressing cause-and-effect relationships in Japanese. The key to today's pattern is the clause-particle *to*. (This is not to be confused with the quotative particle *to* introduced here in the past, which is used for quoting.)

DIALOGUE OVERVIEW

U: Recently the yen is continuously 'high,' hasn't it!

With the yen this strong, the export industry must be tough, I suppose.

J: Yeah, that's true.

According to this paper, many Japanese small- and medium-sized companies have been shifting their factories overseas, they say.

U: When that happens, Japanese industry's hollowing-out becomes an issue, right?

J: I hope some completely new industry will crop up, but..., you know.

VOCABULARY FOCUS

Verbs:

<i>okoru</i>	occur, crop up
<i>tsuzuku</i>	continue
<i>utsusu</i>	transfer, shift

Nouns:

<i>chûshôkigyô</i>	small- and medium-sized enterprises
<i>endaka</i>	strong yen, high yen
<i>kaigai</i>	overseas
<i>kôjô</i>	factory
<i>kûdôka</i>	hollowing-out
<i>ôku</i>	many
<i>saikin</i>	recently
<i>taihen</i>	awful, tough
<i>yushutsusangyô</i>	export industry

Adverbials:

<i>mattaku</i>	utterly, completely
<i>zutto</i>	all the while, throughout

GRAMMAR FOCUS

- Clause-particle *to* for cause-and-effect:

You may recall that the phrase-particle *to* was first introduced as equivalent to “with” in English, as in:
Tomodachi to gorufu shimasu. (I'll play golf with my friend.)

This particle can also be used as a clause-particle, with a similar function. Notice, however, it is attached to a clause, not a noun.

First, look at the following example:

En ga tsuyoi to, yushutsu ga heru. {lit. With the yen being strong, exports will decrease.}
(When the yen is strong, exports decrease.)

The same construction is seen in four of today's dialogs, as shown below:

① *Konna ni en ga tsuyoi to, yushutsusangyô wa...* {lit. With the yen being this strong, the export industry will...}

(When the yen is this strong, the export industry will...)

② *Kono shimbun ni yoru to, Nihon no...* {lit. With depending on this newspaper, the Japanese...}
(According to this newspaper, the Japanese...)

③ *Sô naru to, Nihonsangyô no...* {lit. With it becoming so, Japanese industry's...}
(Once that happens, Japanese industry's...)

④ *Nanika atarashii sangyô ga okoru to, ii.* {lit. With some new industry rising, it'll be nice.}

(I hope some new industry will crop up.)

As above, the initial clause followed by *to* represents a cause, and the subsequent clause shows its result. You can probably guess how this usage works from the fact that *to* essentially means “with.”

You may hear in your daily life, for instance on some train lines, *kono eki o demasu to [name of station] ni tomarimasu*, which means “after [when] leaving this station, [the train] will stop at [name of station].” Another typical use would be *kono kusuri o nomu to naorimasu*, which translates to “If [when] you swallow this medicine you'll get well.” Both of these two examples show how *to* implies an inevitable outcome to the cause action.

- ...*sô da/desu* for reporting:

When reporting information, you add *sô da* (direct-style) or *sô desu* (distal-style) after the information. This has the same effect as adding “I hear” or “they say” to the end of an English sentence.

Sentence ② in today's dialog is such an example.

...*utsushite iru sô da.*

...(they) are shifting (their plants overseas), I hear.

Using *to*'s colloquial abbreviation *tte* (last month's column), the sentence can be restated as below, without changing meaning, although sounding more casual:

...*utsushite iru tte.*

CULTURE FOCUS

“I hope so” in Japanese

You might think that the English “I hope so” easily translates into Japanese by using equivalent words. But things are not so simple. Probably the closest Japanese equivalent is: *Sô naru to ii desu ne.* Literally, this translates to: {It would be nice if/when it becomes so.}

Compare the nature of these two sentences. As you probably noticed, the Japanese here is quite objective, while the English is people-centric. This difference in focus can be seen in such common phrases as:

(I) thank you.

Arigatô gozaimasu. {It is rare politely.}

(I wish you a) good morning.

Ohayô gozaimasu {It is early, politely.}