

GA ~ SITAI and O ~ SITAI

—A Note on Case-Alternation in Japanese—

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There are two possibilities in the case-marking of desirative sentences; as in "Mizu ga nomitai." or "Mizu o nomotai." (I call this phenomenon "Ga-O conversion.")

However, it is found out, from the data I gathered and some other considerations, that GA can appear only in the very restricted lexicogrammatical circumstances.

In this paper, I regard O as the unmarked form, GA as the marked one, and describe the contexts where GA cannot be used.

As the result of the investigation, it is showed that two factors—"typicality" and "transitivity"—are involved in the possibility of the conversion.

These two concepts can be used to explain the phenomenon for simplex as well as complex verb forms.

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