

# Toward a Better Classification of Parts of Speech in the Japanese Language

Satoshi TODA

Strangely enough, the Japanese language has not yet been endowed with a normative grammar worthy of the name, a situation due to the fact that there is no general agreement among scholars concerning how to conceive parts of speech in Japanese, especially with regard to the so-called “adjective verb” (*keiyou doushi*). Although the author of this paper is not a specialist in Japanese grammar, the paper argues that a proper understanding of the implications that the grammatical categories derived from the grammars of Western languages have will lead to a better understanding of Japanese parts of speech.