



The Use of the Word *Taihen* as an Adjective and Adverb in Japanese Sentences

Helena M. L. Pandi^(✉) and Amelia G. Y. Sompotan

Pendidikan Bahasa Jepang, Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni, Universitas Negeri Manado, Tondano, Indonesia

helenapandi@unima.ac.id

Abstract. In this study, the use of the word *taihen* in Japanese sentences had difficulty in using the word *taihen* that appeared in Japanese sentences. This is because the word *taihen* belongs to two classes of words at once, namely *fukushi* (adjective) and *keiyoushi* (adverb). Therefore the author is interested in raising the title of the research on the Use of the Word “*Taihen*” as an Adjective and Adverb. The method used in this study is a descriptive method using literature study data collection techniques. The data used in this study are finished sentences contained in several *minna no nihongo* books, teaching materials and also previous research studies. Based on the results of this study, it can be concluded that the word *taihen* that appears in *minnanonihongo* books and other textbooks is mostly the word *taihen* as an adjective that means tiring, difficult, struggling, troublesome, reinforcing, and impractical. As for the word *taihen* as an adverb generally translates to “very” in Indonesian, and its meaning follows the meaning of the word described.

Keywords: *Taihen* · *Fukushi* · *Keiyoushi*

1 Introduction

In learning Japanese, we are faced with difficulties that exist on various sides, especially we as speakers of Indonesian which is not a language that is cognate with Japanese [1, 2]. Many consider that the greatest difficulty in learning Japanese lies in the letters consisting of the letters *kana* and *kanji*. However, comprehension of various vocabulary in Japanese is also a difficulty in itself.

In Japanese so many words are difficult to match with Indonesian because they have many meanings [3, 4]. Therefore, learners find it difficult to interpret some words in various contexts of sentences [5, 6]. Of the many vocabularies that are difficult to match, there is one word that in the author’s experience is often an obstacle when interpreting it into Indonesian. The word is the word *taihen* (大變).

According to the Standard Dictionary of the Japanese Language (Taniguchi, 2000) *taihen* (大變) -> *juudai* (重大) means important; very important; seriousness; serious. Also in the Complete Dictionary of Japanese - Indonesian (2005) *taihen* (大變) means very, bad, very difficult. According to the Kanji Study electronic dictionary, *taihen* (

大変) in English as an adverb means: *very, very) greatly*. Whereas as an adjective – *na* means: *immense* (enormous, vast), *enormous* (very *big, great*), *great* (serious, heavy, earnest, reinforcing, great, troublesome), *grave* (gloomy, spooky, precarious, important), *dreadful* (the terrible/scary), *terrible* (bad, terrible, terrible, lazy, unkind, which is not at all fun), *difficult* (difficult, difficult, hard), *hard* (hard, hard, hard).

Although the word *taihen* has appeared since the early stages of learning Japanese, in fact there are still many Japanese language learners who find it difficult to interpret it in Indonesian.

Based on the author’s observations of fellow Japanese language learners in one study program both at the same level, younger brother, and older level, many know that the word *taihen* has the meaning of difficult, difficult, tiring. This understanding may arise because from the very beginning this word appeared in a context whose meaning was translated with the words already mentioned earlier. An example is in the sentence that appears in *the book Minna no Nihongo I* lesson 13 below:

きょうの会議は大変でしたね。

Kyou no kaigi wa taihen deshitane

“Today’s meeting is **exhausting** huh”

From the example sentence, it can be clearly seen and understood the initial meaning of the word *taihen* embedded in the thinking of Japanese language students is tiring.

The author’s observations are further strengthened by a study that tests students’ understanding of the word *taihen* which has been carried out by Ika Ratnasari (2015) with the title *Mistakes in the Use of Fukushi Taihen and Totemo in Japanese Sentences in Japanese Language Education Students Class of 2013 Universitas Brawijaya*. The results of his research state that there are still many students who do not know that *fukushi taihen* and *totemo* have the same meaning if translated into Indonesian namely “very”.

From the limited understanding of the word *taihen*, the impact is that learners have difficulty interpreting the word *taihen* in Japanese which is more complex and appears in variations of daily conversation with diverse contexts. The difference in the meaning of the word *taihen* with sentences can be seen in the following sentences:

(1) たいへんありがとうございます

Taihen arigatou gozaimasu

“Thank you very much”

(2) 今年はたいへん暑い

Kotoshi wa taihen atsui

“This year (the weather) is very hot”

The division of word types in terms of form (morph), meaning and function is called (「品詞」 *hinshi*) or word class. In Japanese there are 11 groups of word classes namely, (1) *doushi* (動詞) ‘verb/verb’, (2) *i-keiyoushi* (イ形容詞) ‘adjective/adjective ending in –i, or adjective I’, (3) *na-keiyoushi* (ナ形容詞) or *keiyoudoushi* (形容動詞) ‘adjective/adjective ending in –na, or nature word II’, (4) *meishi* (名詞) ‘noun/nomina’, (5) *daimeishi* (代名詞) ‘pronouns’, (6) *fukushi* (副詞) ‘adverbs/adverbs’, (7) *rentaishi* (連体詞) ‘modifier/prenomina’, (8) *setsuzokushi* (接続詞) ‘conjunctions/conjugations’, (9)

kandoushi (感動詞) ‘interjections/interjections’, (10) *jodoushi* (助動詞) ‘bantu/copula words’, and (11) *joshi* (助詞) ‘particle’ (Najoan, 2015:171).

Based on the division of the word class, the word *taihen* belongs to two classes of words, namely *fukushi* (adverbia) and *na-keiyoushi* (adjectives ending in *-na*). Sutedi in his book entitled *Basics of Japanese Linguistics* states that adverbs (*fukushi*) are adverbs, not deformed.

Japanese language experts have a diverse division of *fukushi* types. Masuoka and Takubo (1989) divide them into eight types, namely (1) *yotai no fukushi*, which is an adverb that describes the state of an activity, (2) *teido no fukushi* which serves to explain the level of a situation, (3) *ryoo no fukushi* which is used to describe human activities or objects, (4) *hindo no fukushi* which functions to explain the frequency of an activity, (5) *tensu asupekuto no fukushi* which states the time of occurrence of an event, (6) *chinjutsu no fukushi* which is used in pairs with the statement contained in the modality expression at the end of the sentence, (7) *hyooka no fukushi* which serves to give judgment on something, and (8) *hatsugen no fukushi* which functions to express the meaning of the attitude performed when expressing something.

Meanwhile, Takamizawa et.al. (1997) divides *fukushi* into three types, namely:

(1) *Jotai fukushi*

Jotai fukushi is divided into two kinds of adverbs, namely 1) adverbs related to the *na* adjective followed by *the marriager* such as *shizuka ni* ; 2) adverbs relating to marriage and to.

(2) *Teido fukushi*

Teido fukushi consists of the following: 1) The use of this *fukushi* is essentially relatively free, followed by adjectives ending in *either -i* or *-na* ; 2) it can be used to describe other adverbs ; 3) followed by a noun or noun expressing a time or period; 4) followed by a verb stating the circumstances.

(3) *Chinjutsu fukushi*

The function of this type of adverbs is to help exert pressure of meaning on the statements in the predicate.

According to the division of the types of *fukushi*, *fukushi taihen* belongs to the type of *Teido no Fukushi*, which is an adverb that serves to express a level of state and activity. In addition to *taihen*, other *fukushi* that fall into the type of *teido no fukushi* include *totemo*, *hijooni*, *osoroshiku*, *hidoku*, *daibu*, *zuibun*, *amarini*, *kanari*, *kekko*, *nakanaka*, *sukoshi*, *chotto*, *zutto*, *motto*, *masumasu*.

Previous research related to the word *taihen* that the author managed to find was the *Study of Synonyms of Adverbs Totemo and Taihen in Several Japanese Novels* (Nasra, 2010), and *Analysis of Fukushi Totemo, Taihen, and Hijyouni as Synonyms* [7]. The two studies in the form of a thesis can be clearly seen from the title that they emphasize the similarity of the meaning of the word *taihen* with other words.

Another study is *the Analysis of the Meaning and Division of the Use of Adverbs “Taihen and Totemo” in Japanese Sentences* [8]. The results of the study stated that *fukushi taihen* and *totemo* have the same meaning and function, namely both are adverbs that express quantity and degree. Another similarity in terms of meaning, that is, both express the meaning of intensity in comparison.

Based on several previous studies that have been previously presented, it focuses more on the word *taihen* as an adverb with other words that mean the same thing. The author has not found any studies specifically discussing the meaning of the word *taihen* itself either as an adverb (*fukushi*) or as an adjective (*keiyoushi*).

2 Research Methods

The method that the author used in this study is the descriptive method. Reference [9–11] stated that what is meant by the descriptive method is a method used in several possibilities to solve the real problem by collecting data, compiling or classifying, analyzing or interpreting it. Data for generalizations in this study were carried out based on the results of the analysis of the meaning of *the word taihen*.

2.1 Object of Study

The object in the study is the meaning of the word *taihen*. As explained in the early chapters, this word is difficult to match in Indonesian. In general, students have an understanding that this word has a difficult or difficult meaning. Even though the meaning of this word is not limited to that alone. This is possible because this word belongs to two classes of words at once. This research focuses on extracting the meaning of *the word taihen* in various contexts of sentences both as adjectives and adverbs.

2.2 Data Collection Techniques

In this study, the author used a data collection technique with a qualitative approach, namely data collection in the form of sentences and not in the form of numbers so that it does not need to be processed with statistical methods. Furthermore, the techniques used, namely:

Literature study or also called literature [12] study is aimed at collecting, researching, studying, and analyzing the necessary data and information related to research, namely the meaning of *the word taihen*. The type of data used in this study is an example sentence that is considered relevant.

2.3 Data Analysis Techniques

Data analysis is an effort made to classify, group and analyze the data that has been collected [13, 14]. At this stage, efforts are carried out to group the same and different data, as well as those that are similar but not the same.

The steps carried out in data processing are as follows:

- 1) Selecting data that has been collected systematically, namely data in the form of examples of selected sentences that are relevant and setting aside those that are deemed unnecessary. The data used in this study is only in the form of finished sentences that have a clear context, not sentences contained in questions that still have to be done or answered. The data set aside are sentences that have the same context so that it is felt that there is no need to reanalyze.

- 2) Analyze the data that has been selected.

The data that has been collected and selected is then classified into several groups which are carried out according to the author's consideration. The data are then analyzed in terms of meaning in terms of meaning in terms of context.

- 3) Generalizations

In this generalization stage, conclusions are drawn based on the results of data analysis that has been obtained. At this stage, it is hoped that it can obtain a clear conclusion about the meaning of the word *taihen* so that it can be used to minimize the difficulties that occur in the meaning of the word *taihen*.

3 Result and Discussion

The discussion in this research is a study, namely on the meaning of the word *taihen*. As a study material, researchers searched for data with a literature review, where data were obtained from textbooks and also some previous studies. From the efforts to collect data, a number of sentences were collected that had the word *taihen* in it (Table 1).

Based on the Collected Japanese sentences, it was found that in general the word *taihen* in textbooks appears in the context of "something difficult or tiring". In the book *Minna no Nihongo 1 & 2*, the word *taihen* appears when responding to the interlocutor's statement stating something as tiring as hard work or a long meeting. This causes the meaning of the word *taihen* in textbooks to have negative nuances. Sentences taken from several previous studies, have a broader meaning [15].

For more details, the following are the sentences that the author has set to be data in this study and the meaning contained in it (Table 2).

Based on the above sentences, it can be seen a clear difference in meaning from the word *taihen*. In textbooks, the word *taihen* that appears is the word *taihen* as an adjective or *keiyoushi*, while in some previous studies it was the word *taihen* which served as an adverb or *fukushi*.

Although the example sentences are taken from several previous studies, but of course the focus of the research is different. In previous research, it focused on the function of the word *taihen*, while this research focused on the meaning of the word *taihen*.

Table 1. Word appearances frequency

Book	Frequency of Occurrence
Minna no Nihongo I	3
Minna no Nihongo II	9
Kaiwa Hyougen no Sakuin	13

Table 2. Sentences that Become Data, Class Groups of Words, and the Meanings Contained therein

Sentence	Word Class (<i>Taihen's Word</i>)	Meaning of the word <i>Taihen</i> in sentences
きょうの会議は大変でしたね。 (Minna no Nihongo 1, Page 104)	Adjectives / <i>Na-keiyoushi</i> 「ナ形容」	Tiring
仕事は大変でしょう? (Minna no Nihongo 1, Pg 176)		Difficult
漢字が大変だと言っていますが。。。 (Minna no Nihongo 2, Page 119)		Search
初めて日本へ来たとき、大変だったでしょう? (Minna, no Nihongo 2, Pg 133)		Troublesome
大変だ、大変だ。ぼくの携帯電話がなくなっちゃった。 (Kaiwa Hyougen no Sakuin, Page 58)		What strengthens
車いすで乗物に乗ったり降りたりするのは大変だろ? (Kaiwa Hyougen no Sakuin, Page 79)		Impractical thing
あの先生には大変お世話になりました。 (Mulya, 2013:32) in (Princess, 2015:2)	Adverb <i>Fukushi</i> 「副詞」	The expression of something earnestly with deep or striking feelings.
きのうはたいへんな雨でしたね。 (Maumina, 2014)		An unusual or unexpected thing.
春のとき、桜がたいへんきれいです。 (USU)		
きびしい先生だけど、大変親切に教えてくださったな。 (NS, 296)		The revelation of something unexpected and striking

4 Conclusions

Based on the results of research that the author has done on the meaning of the word *taihen* both as an adjective and an adverb, the following conclusions can be put forward:

The word *taihen* that appears in textbooks both *Minna no Nihongo* 1 and 2 and *Kaiwa Hyougen no Sakuin* used in *Kaiwa Enshuu* courses is almost entirely the word *taihen* as an adjective. As an adjective, the word *taihen* in the sentence that is the data in this study has various meanings even though at first glance it looks the same. These meanings are exhausting, difficult, troublesome, troubling, reinforcing, and impractical (to the point of eventually troubling). It is from this fact that it is found that the word *taihen* in textbooks is more negative in tone, because of the various meanings that have been analyzed, none of them have positive nuances. As an adverb (*fukushi*) that expresses a degree of circumstance, in general the word *taihen* translates to “very” into Indonesian. Based on the results of the analysis that has been presented in the previous chapter, the meaning of the word *taihen* as an adverb is the expression of something seriously with deep or striking feelings and something unusual or unexpected. Unlike *taihen* as an adjective that is all negative in tone, *taihen* as an adverb has two nuances at once both positive and negative, depending on what word it describes.

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