THE USAGE OF SENTENCE-FINAL PARTICLES IN
ACTION COMICS KUREYON SHINCHAN 1

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Abstract

This paper aims to find out the usage of Japanese sentence-final particles. The source data is a comic book entitled *action comics kureyon shinchan 1*. Japanese particles found in the data are analyzed descriptively by categorizing them based on the gender and age of the speakers. Several sentence-final particles can be found in the data, such as *wa, yo, ne, no, wa yo.* Some of those sentence-final particles are gender and age-restricted; they can only be used by specific genders and ages.

Keywords – *sentence-final particles, Japanese comics, kureyon shinchan*

Introduction

The Japanese language has many sentence-final particles used in sentences both in oral and written expression. The study of this theme, Japanese sentence-final particles, has drawn many intentions from scholars. For example, in the study of sentence-final particle *yo* (Davis, 2011), in the study of sentence-final particle *yo* and *ne* (Katagiri, 2007), in the study of sentence-final particle *ne* (Cook, 2009), in the study of sentence-final particle *no*, *koto*, and *to/tte* (Okamoto, 1996), and so on. The most studied Japanese sentence-final particles are *yo* and *ne.* The basic Japanese lesson textbook, Minna no Nihongo, introduces these two sentence-final particles. However, there are many other sentence-final particles in Japanese. This paper aims to identify sentence-final particles used in daily conversation using a comic book as its data source.
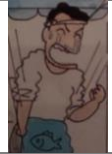
Methods

This paper aims to identify the usage of sentence-final particles used in a popular Japanese comic entitled *action comics kureyon shinchan 1*. However, due to the limitation of time and space, the data analyzed was until the episode of *ora to kaa-chan wa otomodachi na no yo hen* (*sono 12*), i.e., page 47 of the book.

First, all the sentence-final particles that appeared in the comic were recorded. The users of those sentence-final particles were also recorded to identify whether those sentence-final particles were gender-specific or not. And also whether those sentence-final particles are related to the age of the speakers.

Finding and Discussion

Eleven characters appear in the comic that uses sentence-final particles. The characteristics of the characters are as follows (Wikipedia, 2023).

Table 1. The Characters and Their Characteristics

Character's Name	Characteristics	Picture
Shinnosuke Nohara	male, child (the main character), age 5, kindergarten	
Misae Nohara	female, Shin-chan's mother, age 29, housewife	
Hiroshi Nohara	male, Shin-chan's father, age 35, a salaryman	
Fishmonger	male, middle-age	
Kinjo no hito ('neighbour')	female, middle-age	
Mise no hito ('store staff')	female, young	
Hon'ya no hito ('bookstore staff')	female, young	
Kaishain ('company employee')	male, young	
Nene Sakurada	female, child (Shin-chan's friend), age 5, kindergarten	
Elevator Girl	female, young	
Manager	male, middle-age	

There are twelve sentence-final particles found in the data. Those particles are *wa, yo, ne, no, wa yo, no yo, wa ne, me, na, ya, zo,* and *yo na*. The usage of the sentence-final particles is as follows.

3.1 Sentence-Final Particle *wa*

The data found for sentence-final particle *wa* can be summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Sentence-Final Particle *wa* in Its Context

No.	Sentence	Page	Character
1.	*Hitoride mada kaimono saseta koto nai kara ii keiken ni naru **wa**.* 'It was a great experience for him to shop alone.'	4	Misae Nohara
2.	*Mama kaku **wa**.* 'I (mother) will draw it.'	6	Misae Nohara

3.2 Sentence-Final Particle *yo*

The data found for sentence-final particle *yo* can be summarized in Table 3.

Table 3. Sentence-Final Particle *yo* in Its Context

No.	Sentence	Page	Character
1.	*Un, ii **yo**.* 'Okay.'	4	Shinnosuke Nohara
2.	*Pantsu to zubon haita **yo**. Nanka you?* 'I am wearing pants and trousers. Do you need something?'	5	Shinnosuke Nohara
3.	*Omae ga ike **yo**, Misae.* 'You go, Misae.'	5	Shinnosuke Nohara
4.	*Uchi wa buta wa yatte nai n da **yo**.* 'I don't sell pork.'	7	Fishmonger
5.	*Oroka mono me !! 2-kai wa yukidomari **yo**.* 'You fool! ! 2nd floor is a dead end.'	10	Misae Nohara
6.	*Asa da **yo**. Itsu made nete n no.* 'It's morning. How long will you sleep?'	12	Misae Nohara
7.	*U~n. nemui **yoo**.* 'Yeah. I'm sleepy.'	13	Shinnosuke Nohara
8.	*Atarimae **yo**.* 'It's natural.'	13	Misae Nohara
9.	*Dare ga kitemo doa no kagi akecha dame **yo**.* 'No matter who comes, don't unlock the door.'	16	Misae Nohara
10.	*Yoku minasai **yo**. Hora !!* 'Look carefully. Dong!!'	19	Misae Nohara
11.	*Arigato **yo** ...* 'Thank you ....'	23	Mise no hito
12.	*Oyuuhan no shitaku **yo**.* 'I am preparing for dinner.'	28	Misae Nohara
13.	*Mate **yo**....* 'Wait!'	30	Kaishain
14.	*Betsu ni nani mo shite nee **yo**.* 'I am not doing anything in particular.'	31	Kaishain
15.	*Kaisha kubi ni nattan da **yo**.* 'He was fired from the company.'	31	Shinnosuke Nohara

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No.	Sentence	Page	Character
16.	*Oi roobu ni burasagaru na **yo**.* 'Hey, don't hang yourself on the rope.'	32	Kaishain
17.	*Youshien no sensei ga itteta **yo**.* 'That's what the kindergarten teacher told me.'	37	Shinnosuke Nohara
18.	*Hito wo koke ni suru no mo iikagen ni shite **yo**.* 'Be careful when turning people into moss.'	38	Elevator girl
19.	*Dadakone tatte muda **yo**.* 'It's a waste of time and effort.'	39	Misae Nohara
20.	*Sono saki wa sakamichi **yo**.* 'There's a slope ahead.'	41	Misae Nohara
21.	*Na nanda **yo**. Omae kaisha ni ...* 'What is that? You to the company...'	42	Hiroshi Nohara
22.	*Chotto mate **yo** minna oitt* 'Hey, everybody. Please wait!'	42	Hiroshi Nohara
23.	*Iidabashi baagaa ni ii onna no ten'in ga iru **yo**.* 'Iidabashi Burger has a nice women's staff.'	43	Shinnosuke Nohara

3.3 Sentence-Final Particle *ne*

The data found for sentence-final particle *ne* can be summarized in Table 4.

Table 4. Sentence-Final Particle *ne* in Its Context

No.	Sentence	Page	Character
1.	*Ja, itte kimasu. Ki wo tsukete **ne** !!* 'Well then, I'll go. Be careful!'	5	Shinnosuke Nohara
2.	*Yoku kiite **ne**. Hikiniku to daikon to ...* 'Listen carefully. Minced meat and radish...'	6	Misae Nohara
3.	*Ja, onegai **ne**.* 'Well then, please.'	6	Misae Nohara
4.	*Dashi kaeta **ne**.* 'You changed the brooth.'	14	Misae Nohara
5.	*Sutoobu no hi ki wo tsukete **ne**.* 'Please be careful with the fire of the stove.'	16	Misae Nohara
6.	*Dokoka de kaji datta mitai **ne**.* 'Looks like there is a fire accident somewhere.'	17	Kinjo no hito
7.	*Gomen **ne**. Gomen **ne**.* 'I'm sorry, I'm sorry'	17	Misae Nohara
8.	*Chotto matte **ne**.* 'Please wait a moment.'	19	Misae Nohara
9.	*A gomen **ne** ...* 'I'm sorry.'	22	Mise no hito
10.	*Wakatte nai you **ne**.* 'You don't understand, do you?	25	Hon'ya no hito
11.	*Papa ni wa naisho dakara **ne**,* 'Don't tell daddy because it's a secret.'	29	Misae Nohara
12.	*O shin-chan mou sugu **ne**.* 'Oh, Shin-chan soon, yeah.'	34	Misae Nohara
13	*Itte kimasu kedo **ne**.* 'I'll go now'	39	Misae Nohara
14.	*5-sai ji rashii hatsugen wo shiyou **ne** ....* 'Say something like a 5 y.o. kid, will you?'	43	Hiroshi Nohara

3.4 Sentence-Final Particle *no*

The data found for sentence-final particle *no* can be summarized in Table 5.

Table 5. Sentence-Final Particle *no* in Its Context

No.	Sentence	Page	Character
1.	*Shinchan ni mo tetsudatte hoshii **no**. Dakara kaimono itte kureru?* 'I want Shin-chan to help me too. So, can you go shopping?'	5	Misae Nohara
2.	*Oi, Oi, kau mono wakatte ru **no** ?* 'Oh, hey, do you know what you are buying?'	5	Misae Nohara
3.	*Ittai nani yatten **no** ?* 'What on earth are you doing?'	7	Misae Nohara
4.	*Nande kou baka na **no** itsumo itsumo !!* 'Why are you always doing stupid things!'	9	Misae Nohara
5.	*Nande okoru **no** itsumo itsumo !!* Why are you always angry?'	9	Shinnosuke Nohara
6.	*Takakatta **no** ?* 'was it expensive?'	9	Shinnosuke Nohara
7.	*Hito no mono wo mudan de shikamo itazura ni tsukau kara okotte ru **no** !!* 'This is happening because someone uses someone else's property without permission and mischievously! !'	9	Misae Nohara
8.	*Oekaki ja nai **no**. okeshou na **no** !!* 'It's not for drawing. It's for make up!'	9	Misae Nohara
9.	*Otoko wa shinakute ii **no** !!* 'Male doesn't have to do it!'	9	Misae Nohara
10.	*Oshiri tataku **no** ?* 'Do you want to spank me?'	9	Misae Nohara
11.	*Asa da yo. Itsu made nete n **no**.* 'It's morning. How long will you sleep?'	12	Misae Nohara
12.	*Kore de osaetoku **no**.* 'This is a great deal.'	19	Misae Nohara
13.	*Nande kaa-chan mo shite ru **no** ?* 'Why is Kaa-chan also doing it?'	19	Shinnosuke Nohara
14.	*Chiisai tte **no** ?* 'You said it's small?'	19	Misae Nohara
15.	*Demo nande onna ini wa chinchin nai **no** ?* 'But why female does not have penis?'	19	Shinnosuke Nohara
16.	*A ano ne… otona no sekai de wa kooyuu no wa tsukaenai **no** !!* 'Oh, you know... In the adult world, You can't use this kind of things! !'	23	Mise no hito
17.	*Dakara dame dattsu **no**.* 'That's why it's no good.'	23	Mise no hito
18.	*Basho dake kaetemo dame na **no**.* 'Even if you just change the location, it won't work.'	25	Hon'ya no hito
19.	*A momotarou ni suru **no** ?* 'Are you going to read Momotaro?'	26	Hon'ya no hito
20.	*Goro-goro shiteru **no**.*	27	Shinnosuke Nohara
21.	*Ojisan nani shiten **no**.*	31	Shinnosuke Nohara
22.	*Oshigoto shinai **no** ?*	31	Nene

23.	*Nani katta __no__ ?*	32	Shinnosuke Nohara
24.	*Doko iku __no__ ?*	33	Shinnosuke Nohara
25.	*Omocha wa ii __no__ !! omocha wa ...*	33	Misae Nohara
26.	*Ossee naa kuso babaa zenzen susumanai ja nai __no__.*	34	Misae Nohara
27.	*Nande naiten __no__ ? okane nai __no__ ?*	35	Shinnosuke Nohara
28.	*Hazukashigariya-san na __no__ ?*	37	Shinnosuke Nohara
29.	*Koko ni sunde ru __no__ ?*	37	Shinnosuke Nohara
30.	*Koibito wa inai __no__ ?*	38	Shinnosuke Nohara
31.	*Mama wa tte kiiteru __no__ ....*	38	Elevator girl
32.	*Nani yatten __no__.*	38	Manager
33.	*Suru ka shinai ka kiite n __no__ !!*	46	Misae Nohara

3.5 Sentence-Final Particle *wa yo*

The data found for sentence-final particle *wa yo* can be summarized in Table 6.

Table 6. Sentence-Final Particle *wa yo* in Its Context

No.	Sentence	Page	Character
1.	*Kudaranai koto yatten ja nai __wa yo__ !! Kono obaka !!*	4	Misae Nohara
2.	*Tanomu __wa yo__.*	6	Misae Nohara
3.	*Be betsu ni takai kara okotteru wake ja nai __wa yo__.*	9	Misae Nohara
4.	*Wakatta __wa yo__.*	15	Misae Nohara
5.	*Yuuhan no shitaku okurechatta __wa yo__ moo.*	27	Misae Nohara
6.	*Ya daa. Koko de matte ru __wa yo__.*	46	Misae Nohara

3.6 Sentence-Final Particle *no yo*

The data found for sentence-final particle *no yo* can be summarized in Table 7.

Table 7. Sentence-Final Particle *no yo* in Its Context

No.	Sentence	Page	Character
1.	*Sore yori kaimono ni itte hoshii __no yo__. Hikiniku to daikon to ...*	5	Misae Nohara
2.	*Isoide oyoufuku nugu __no yo__.*	18	Misae Nohara

No.	Sentence	Page	Character
3.	*E- nande hairu mae ni shitokanakatta **no yo***.	20	Misae Nohara
4.	*Anta wa soko no yasu sekken de ii **no yo***.	20	Misae Nohara
5.	*Bouya no miru basho wa acchi na **no yo***.	25	Hon'ya no hito
6.	*Ochitsuku **no yo***.	35	Misae Nohara
7.	*Kuruma ni ki wo tsukeru **no yo***.	40	Misae Nohara
8.	*Ashi de funbatte tomaru **no yo***.	41	Misae Nohara

3.7 Sentence-Final Particle *wa ne*

The data found for sentence-final particle *wa ne* can be summarized in Table 8.

Table 8. Sentence-Final Particle *wa ne* in Its Context

No.	Sentence	Page	Character
1.	*A... kuchibeni tsukatta **wa nee***.	8	Misae Nohara
2.	*Toutou mama wo honkide okorasete shimatta **wa ne***.	10	Misae Nohara
3.	*Shinnosuke wa mou onii-cahn nandakara ii ko de orusuban dekiru **wa ne** ?*	15	Misae Nohara
4.	*Damashita **wa ne**~*	38	Elevetor girl
5.	*Watashi ga tochigi shusshin da to omotte namete ru **wa ne***.	38	Elevator girl

3.8 Sentence-Final Particle *me*

The data found for sentence-final particle *me* can be summarized in Table 9.

Table 9. Sentence-Final Particle *me* in Its Context

No.	Sentence	Page	Character
1.	*Oroka mono **me** !! 2-kai wa yukidomari yo.*	10	Misae Nohara

3.9 Sentence-Final Particle *na*

The data found for sentence-final particle *na* can be summarized in Table 10.

Table 10. Sentence-Final Particle *na* in Its Context

No.	Sentence	Page	Character
1.	*Yuushoku ni mai au **na***.	15	Misae Nohara
2.	*Okaasan kousotsu dakara yoku wakan nai **naa***.	19	Misae Nohara

No.	Sentence	Page	Character
3.	*A~a, yappari furo wa ii __naa__.*	20	Misae Nohara
4.	*Shiranee no ka …. Sarewa binboo da __na__.*	23	Shinnosuke Nohara
5.	*Soumu no hitomi-chan atari ga ätashi yotta mitai''nante iinagara karadasuri yosete kitari shtie __na__.*	30	Kaishain
6.	*Ii naa ora mo hoshii __naa__.*	39	Shinnosuke Nohara
7.	*A sou datta __na__ …*	43	Hiroshi Nohara

The data found for sentence-final particle *ya* can be summarized in Table 11.

Table 11. Sentence-Final Particle *ya* in Its Context

No.	Sentence	Page	Character
1.	*Rusee- __ya__ !! chikisho oo*	20	Misae Nohara
2.	*Anmari ii hon nai __ya__ koko*	26	Shinnosuke Nohara

The data found for sentence-final particle *zo* can be summarized in Table 12.

Table 12. Sentence-Final Particle *zo* in Its Context

No.	Sentence	Page	Character
1.	*Terebi no komaasharu no nee-chan wa motto niko niko yasashii __zo__.* 'Nee-chan, the TV talker, is more smiling and kind.'	22	Shinnosuke Nohara
2.	*Fuu~ kore de basho wa kakuho shita __zo__.* 'Huh ~ This is how I secured my place.'	30	kaishain
3.	*Kuso gaki no kaeri wa nosenee __zo__.* 'I won't let that brat kid get on (the elevator) on the way back.'	37	Elevator girl
4.	*Uriba ni made kikoete kita __zo__.* 'I even heard it at the store.'	38	Manager

In Tabel 12, the characters that used this particle *zo* are mostly male. The female character, the elevator girl, who is a staff in a department store whose job is to operate the elevator for the customer, is only using the particle *zo* to express her unhappiness and anger toward Shinnosuke Nohara, the main character in this comic, who is acting weird and tempting her. Also, she said this sentence only in her mind, not out loud.

The data found for sentence-final particle *yo na* can be summarized in Table 13.

Table 13. Sentence-Final Particle *yo na* in Its Context

No.	Sentence	Page	Character
1.	*Futsuu ni suwatteryaa ninzuubun no supeesu wa aru __yo na__.* 'If I were to sit there, I would have enough space for the number of people.'	30	kaishain

The context in the data shown in Table 13 was a sentence from a male company employee when he was asked to find and secure a place to enjoy seeing Sakura flowers in the park. This male employee is talking to himself.

Conclusion

From the findings presented in the previous chapter, there are several gender-specific sentence-final particles, i.e., particle *wa, wa yo, no yo, wa ne,* and *ne,* which are used only by females. Particle *ne, no*, even though both genders can use them, the findings show that females mostly use these particles. On the other hand, particles *yo, na,* and *zo* can be used by both genders, and the findings show that males mostly use these particles. The particle used only by males in the data is *yo na*. the particle *both genders can use ya* in the same proportion. However, the male character using the particle *ya* is the main character, Shinnosuke Nohara, who is still a 5-year-old boy who likes to imitate her mother and father's way of saying things.

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