



## Japanese Quotative Particles *to* and *tte* in Daily Conversation

Nuria Haristiani<sup>1\*</sup>, Ilmi Adha Istiqomah<sup>1</sup>, Yukiko Koguchi<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Japanese Language Education Study Program, Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia, Indonesia

<sup>2</sup>Graduate School of Education, Hiroshima University, Japan

\*[nuriaharist@upi.edu](mailto:nuriaharist@upi.edu)

### ABSTRACT

Japanese quotative particles, *to* and *tte*, serve multiple syntactic and pragmatic functions and frequently appear in various conversational contexts. The fundamental structure for forming quotations in Japanese follows the pattern [quoted content + quotative particle + thinking verb]. However, in natural discourse, both the quoted content and the verb can be omitted, leading to instances where these particles appear at the beginning or the end of an utterance. Additionally, the elements following these quotative particles are not always thinking verbs but may include other types of verbs, descriptive expressions, interrogatives, or sentence-final particles, further broadening their syntactic versatility. This study adopts a qualitative descriptive approach to analyze the syntactic usage of the quotative particles *to* and *tte* in spoken Japanese. A total of 175 conversational samples were extracted from the *Corpus of Everyday Japanese Conversation (CEJC)*, yielding 392 instances of quotative particle usage, with 185 occurrences of *to* and 207 occurrences of *tte*. The data were systematically categorized into three positional classifications within an utterance: (1) sentence-initial position, (2) mid-sentence position, and (3) sentence-final position. Furthermore, the analysis revealed eight distinct grammatical variations in the use of *to* and *tte* in everyday spoken discourse. These findings contribute to a deeper understanding of the syntactic behavior of Japanese quotative particles and highlight their flexible roles in natural conversation. This study provides insights that may be useful for Japanese linguistics research, particularly in the areas of syntax, pragmatics, and spoken discourse analysis.

### KEYWORDS

Conversation Analysis; Pragmatics; Quotative Particles; Syntactic.

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## INTRODUCTION

The use of particles in sentences is essential in Japanese. Even if the sentence has the same words, the meaning of the sentence may change depending on the particle used. Cook (1999) asserts that particles are short, usually uninflected, and invariable words, covering a wide range of grammatical functions. Tomita (1991) suggests that particles cannot be used alone but attached to words to indicate the relation between the words and to add an auxiliary meaning to the sentence.

Quotation in Japanese also requires particles; *to*, or its variation, *tte*. Suzuki (1996a) indicates that there are other quotative particles such as *toka* and *nante*. However, Yamaguchi (as cited in Kodama, 2019) specifies that *to* and *tte* are the main and the most basic particles to indicate quotation in Japanese. In addition to that, other particles such as *toka* and *nante* are derived from *to* and *tte*, hence the word quotative particles used in this paper refer to the two particles; *to* and *tte* only. Suzuki (1996a) also conveys that the basic grammar of quotation in

Japanese is [*subject + quoted content + thinking verb*].  
See example (1).

- (1) *Tarou wa "Neko wa nigate da" tte itteiru.*  
Tarou said, "I'm not good with cats".  
(Yamazaki, 1996)

As seen in example (1), the sentence is structured with a subject (Tarou), quoted content (*neko wa negate da*), and thinking verb (*itteiru*), while the particle *tte* connects the quoted content and the thinking verb. However, there are cases where the quotative sentence is not structured like this. For example,

- (2) *Tarou wa neko wa nigate da tte.*  
a. Tarou said he's not good with cats.  
b. He said Tarou is not good with cats.  
c. I said Tarou is not good with cats! Δ  
(Yamazaki, 1996)

Example (2) shows how the thinking verb is omitted, hence the particle *tte* placed at the end of the sentence. In this case, there are three possibilities of what the sentence might mean. First, the speaker is simply quoting what Tarou had said, having the same meaning as an example (1) even without the thinking verb. Second, the speaker did not directly hear from Tarou but from someone else, this is what Ishihara (2021) explained about hearsay *tte*, that is to report information received from other people, not from the speaker or the interlocutor. Third, the speaker is quoting their own utterance to give the nuance as if the speaker had said it before. In this case, Ishihara also explained that the use of *tte* in self-quotation is to express the speaker's insistence on their claim, or the speaker's irritation at having to repeat the same thing. However, the use of *tte* for this third meaning is pronounced with a rather higher pitch contour on the *tte*, compared to the other two meanings.

- (3) *Tte koto wa Osaka no hito?*  
Does it mean (he is) from Osaka?  
(Nagoya University Conversation Corpus,  
accessed in 2022)

The use at the beginning of an utterance may be seen in example (3). This example is part of a conversation where the speaker here made a conclusion about what both speakers had said before. In other words, the particle *tte* here is referring to preceding utterances.

To analyze this kind of case where part of the sentence is omitted, the context of the sentence is needed to find the exact meaning, what the particles are referring to, and who they are quoting. Hence conversations are used as the data for this study.

Matsui and Yamamoto (2013) examined these two quotative particles in a mother-child's conversation, dividing them into 3 categories; (1) quotation of utterances, (2) reporting thoughts, and (3) quotation of words. From their study, it was found 2391 data of *tte* and 480 data of *to*, which means that the casual form *tte* is used more often in mothers and their 2-3-year-old children's conversations. Furthermore, judging from both mother's and children's use of the two particles, most particles are used to quote utterances, then words (such as onomatopoeia or simply a noun), and the lowest is to quote one's thoughts.

Nilep and Fujimoto (2017) also analyzed *to* and *tte* in a conversation of Japanese American immigrant families and other Japanese adults living in Colorado. They used 90 quotative particles as the data, and 63 (70%) of the data are *tte*, leaving *to* only 30%. They reasoned this unequal distribution is because *tte* is most likely used in casual conversations and the participants of the conversation have a close relationship. From this study, it was concluded that the majority (81.5%) of occurrences of *to* are immediately followed by a verb, while *tte* has the same possibility to appear with or without a verb. They also concluded that *to* is often used to refer to thoughts and understanding, while *tte* often refers to communication.

Besides the use of *to* and *tte* in conversation, these particles have also been analyzed in several studies with different perspectives (e.g., Suzuki, 1996; Saegusa, 1997; Ishiguro, 2015; Kodama, 2019; Ikeya, 2018). These studies are mostly focused on *to* only or *tte* only, or both but in one-way communication.

This study aims to determine the use of two quotative particles, *to* and *tte*, in daily conversations. Different from the use of these quotative particles in various kinds of one-way communication as seen in previous research, conversations also have the possibility of quoting the interlocutor's mind or utterance, hence conversations are used for this paper. Besides, particles *to* and *tte* in conversations also have the possibility of being used at the beginning of utterances as seen in example (3), however, there is no mention of this case in most of the prior studies.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This paper is a qualitative descriptive study of the use of two quotative particles *to* and *tte* in Japanese daily conversation. A total of 175 conversations were collected from the “Corpus of Everyday Japanese Conversation (CEJC)” by National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics, then identified the use of quotative particles *to* and *tte* from those data. Afterwards, the identified data were classified into three categories based on their positions in the utterance; the beginning, the middle, and the end of an utterance. For the use in the middle of an utterance, it will be classified into more specific categories based on what follows the particle. From the 175 data, besides the two particles *to* and *tte*, we also found the use of *tsuu*, *tsutte*, *tsutta*, etc. As Kodama (2019) said, these were derived from *tte iu*, *tte itte*, *tte itta*. Hence, these kinds of cases were also classified into the use of *tte*.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

From 175 conversation data used in this study, it was discovered 392 quotative particles. 185 (47.19%) are *to* and 207 (52.81%) are *tte*. It shows a quite significant difference with a study by Nilep and Fujimoto (2017) that shows 70% of the data were *tte*, even though both studies use daily casual conversations as the data. They explain that this unequal distribution is because the conversations they used are among the intimates, thus they tend to use the casual form *tte* instead of *to*. The conversations used in this study are daily life conversations, covering a lot of situations, including the conversations where the speakers are not closely acquainted. However, as Kodama (2019) and Ikeya (2018) state, the differences between *to* and *tte* do not lie in formal or informal terms, because *tte* can be used in formal situations, and vice versa.

Table 1: Frequency of the use of Quotative Particles *to* and *tte* Based on the Positions in an Utterance.

	Beginning of Utterance	Middle of Utterance (Followed by)					End of Utterance	Total
		Thinking Verb	Other Verb	Sentence-Final Particle	Noun	Other		
<i>to</i>	14 (7,58 %)	100	1	15	1	7	47 (25,40 %)	185
		124 (67,02 %)						
<i>tte</i>	6 (2,90%)	85	8	17	22	23	46 (22,22%)	207
		155 (74,88%)						

Table 1 shows the overall data found in this study have more variations of structures, besides the basic grammar [quoted content + quotative particle + thinking verb].

As seen in Table 1, both particles are most frequently used in sentence-medial position, *to* 67,02% and *tte* 74,88%. There are variations in components that follow the particle. The basic structure where the particle is followed by a thinking verb reaches the highest frequency of use, and other than that, the particle may also be followed by other verbs in general, sentence-final particles, nouns, or other components, such as descriptions or questions. As for the use at the beginning of utterance, *to* seems to be used slightly more, but both have the lowest frequency. This may be the reason why this topic was never mentioned in most previous studies.

Meanwhile, the frequency of use of both particles at the end of utterance does not show a significant difference, 47 cases (25,40%) are *to* and 46 cases (22,22%) are *tte*. This shows that both *to* and *tte* have the same possibility of appearing without thinking of verbs or other components following. Suzuki (1996a) stated that when a quote occurs and does not immediately precede the verb of saying/thinking, it is most likely marked by *tte*. Nilep and Fujimoto (2017) also stated that *to* has a great tendency to appear with quotative verbs, while *tte* has the possibility to appear with or without such a verb. However, looking at Table 1, we may know that *to* is slightly used with thinking verbs more, but both *to* and *tte* have a rather same tendency on being used without thinking verbs, thus this reached a different conclusion with Suzuki and Nilep & Fujimoto.

## The Use of *to* and *tte* at the Beginning of an Utterance

There are 14 cases of *to* and 6 cases of *tte* placed at the beginning of utterances. From the 14 cases of *to*, all of them were collocations of “*to yuu koto de*”, “*to yuu wake de*” and “*toku itte*”. Some of the cases were used at the beginning of utterance to refer to preceding speeches, however, there are also cases where the particles were used at the very beginning of the conversation without any preceding content. Here are some examples.

- (4) A: *Watashi tachi mo motto hayaku haitte, jibun tachi de yaru toki no jumbi wo shitai noni to yuu you na kujou ga yappari dete yuu naru. Kara maa, sonna ni hayaku kuru- naru to, shokuin mo hayaku naru chikara dasanakya ikenai to.*

We also get complaints like, “We want to come in earlier and prepare for when we do it ourselves.” Well, if you come so early, the staff will also have to work hard to get faster.

- B: *Hai hai naru hodo.*  
Indeed, I see.

- A: *To yuu koto de, ironma jijou ga atte, ma, kaikan jikan to yuu no wa 8 jihan ni kimeta wake desu.*

With that said, due to various circumstances, I decided to open the museum at 8:30.

In conversation (4) above, speaker A was explaining about the reasons behind his decision and ended the explanation with a conclusion. He begins the conclusion with “*to yuu koto de*”, where *to* here is referring to the reasons he had said before. The quoted content was omitted because it is not necessary to repeat what the speaker had said earlier.

- (5) [Beginning of conversation]

- A: *Hai, to yuu wake de kanpai!*  
So, cheers!

- B, C: *Kanpai shimashou.*  
Yes, cheers.

Data (5) shows the use of *to* at the very beginning of the conversation. In this case, speaker A begins the conversation when everyone in the group has received their drinks. In other words, *to* in this case does not specifically quote someone’s speech or thought but refers to the situation itself. When looking at the use of *to* in the middle of a sentence, there are some cases where quotative particles have formed a structure [*description/explanation + to yuu + noun*]. The word *wake* here is a noun, hence it can be concluded that the component omitted in this case is probably a description of the situation that

everyone understands, for example, “Since we are all here, cheers!”.

On the contrary, aside from collocations of “*tte yuu*”, “*tte koto*” and “*tteka*”, *tte* was also found standing alone without collocating with any other component at the beginning of utterance.

- (6) A: *Dare ga kattoku to minna taberarechau kara sa, taberu na tte kaitokina yo. Sore ka sa, ue itte kakushitokina yo. Waracchau yo ne.*

(She said), “Whoever bought it, it will be eaten by everyone anyway, so you should write ‘don’t eat this’, then hide it upstairs”. It’s hilarious right.

- B: *Tte, mago ni iwarechau tte yabai yo ne.*

It’s ridiculous if you get told that by your granddaughter.

As seen in data (6), speaker A is telling a past story about her granddaughter by quoting the granddaughter’s past utterances, while speaker B commenting about it. In this case, the *tte* used by speaker B is referring to the granddaughter’s utterances that have been quoted by speaker A. It is not necessary to repeat any of those utterances to completely understand the context of the sentence, hence the clause before particle *tte* is omitted.

## The Use of *to* and *tte* in the Middle of an Utterance

### Cases of *to* and *tte* Followed by Thinking Verbs

Table 2: Thinking Verbs that Follow Particle *to* and *tte* and the Frequency of Use.

Following Verbs	Frequency of Use	
	<i>to</i>	<i>tte</i>
<i>Omou</i> (to think)	64	10
<i>Iu/yuu</i> (to say)	23	60
<i>Kangaeru</i> (to think)	4	2
<i>Kaku</i> (to write)	4	4
<i>Yobu</i> (to call)	3	2
<i>Kiku</i> (to hear)	1	-
<i>Kitai suru</i> (to expect)	1	-
<i>Oboeru</i> (to remember)	-	2
<i>Wakaru</i> (to know)	-	2
<i>Shiraberu</i> (to check)	-	1
<i>Shiru</i> (to know)	-	1
<i>Yomu</i> (to read)	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>85</b>

The use of *to* and *tte* in the middle of utterance means that both particles are used in the basic

structure of quoting in Japanese; [quoted content + quotative particle + thinking verb]. There are 12 variations of thinking verbs following *to* and *tte* found in this study, as shown in Table 2.

As presented in Table 2, there are exactly 100 cases of *to* followed by thinking verbs, and *omou* (to think) reaches the highest frequency. Besides *omou*, there are also *kangaeru* (to think) 4 cases. In other words, the verbs that are related to one's thought are highly used after *to* (total 68%). While the verbs that are related to one's saying, *iu/yuu* are 23%, and other verbs are 9%. Judging from the frequency, it shows that *to* has a high tendency of being used to express things related to one's thoughts.

Meanwhile, particle *tte* followed by thinking verbs found in this study has a lower frequency of use than *to* but the following thinking verbs have more variations. There are 60 cases of *iu* (to say), and 10 cases of *omou* (to think), while the other 8 verbs are only 15 cases. This shows that *tte* is more likely to be used to quote things related to one's speech. This reached the same conclusion as prior research by Nilep and Fujimoto (2017), and Kodama (2019).

Besides quoting one's thoughts and thinking, there are also verbs that are always used to quote a noun or description. For example, the verb *kaku* (to write), *yomu* (to read), and *yobu* (to call), where the quoted content is often a noun.

- (7) *Oosaka de wa ichibu mada kamakura ebi tte yonderu mitai ssu kedo mo, ise ebi wo.*

Some people in Osaka still call *Ise ebi* "Kamakura ebi"

- (8) *Kouyou to kaite, Momiji tte yomu gurai dakara.*

Because it is only written as "kouyou" and read as Momiji.

Data (7) and (8) show the use of *to* and *tte* followed by the three verbs mentioned above are quoting name, term, or word, not exactly one's thought or speech. Even though a noun followed by *to* in general should be added by the particle *da* before, *da* is not needed in this case.

### **Cases of to and tte Followed by Non-Thinking Verbs**

As mentioned before, besides the basic structure [quoted content + quotative particle + thinking verb], there are cases where the quotative particle is not followed by a thinking verb. Here are examples of where both particles are followed by verbs in general, not verbs of thinking.

- (9) *Chotto hon-gyou ga honto ni orosoka ni nattekite shimatte tte yuu iikata shiteta kedo, kore kekkou orosoka ni naru yone to. Murase-san hitori de kabuttete. Kore dake no koto yatteta tte, de mou itte sa.*

I said as if this business was getting really neglected, but Mr. Murase only (said), "This has been quite neglected", then shouldered the burden himself. (Then said), "I have done what I can." and just left.

- (10) *Nande mo aru ne tte, minna kanshin shite kureru kedo. Everyone is impressed (and said) "There is everything here".*

Both examples (9) and (10), have an altered grammar where the subject of the sentence is placed after the particle. However, looking at the verb that is supposed to follow the particle, both *kaburu* and *kanshin suru* are not thinking verbs. Oshima (2017) explains that when *to*, which is supposed to be followed by a thinking verb, is followed by other verbs in general, it means that there is the omission of *shite, itte, or omotte*. In case (9) and (10), the quoted contents of the sentences are Murase's (case 9) and everyone's (case 10) utterances. Hence it can be concluded that what is omitted in both cases is *itte* (say).

Besides being followed by verbs that are not related to thinking and talking, *tte* can also be followed by other components such as nouns, interrogative words, or description.

- (11) *Datte ne, uchi no ue no hitotachi wa ne, hobohobo kite mora, a chigau, tateshakai de yatteru tte ishiki dakara sa. Dakara okashiku naru ndayo.*

After all, most of the seniors are conscious that they are doing it in a vertical society. That's why it's funny.

In data (11), *tte* is followed by a noun (*ishiki*) while the quoted content is the description of the noun. As stated by Suzuki (1996b), *tte* is also an informal variant of *to wa* or *to yuu, to yuu no wa, etc.* Nakahata (1990) also explains that *to yuu* is used to connect the description and the noun in a sentence. Hence it can be concluded that *tte* in data (11) has the same meaning as *to yuu*, because the *tte* here serves as a connector of the description and the noun in the sentence.

- (12) *Udou-san te dare dakke.*

Who is Mr. Udou again?

- (13) *Furatto tte muzukashii yo ne.*

Flat is difficult.

Data (12) shows *tte* that is followed by an interrogative word, while data (13) shows *tte* that is followed by a description (in this case an adjective).

While both *tte* in data (12) and (13) are quoting a noun. Suzuki (1996b) explains that *tte* can also serve as a topic marker, usually followed by a question or the entity/information represented in the topical phrase. Satou (2011) also explains that when *tte* quotes a noun, it is most likely a topic marker, and what follows after *tte* is not a thinking verb.

### **Cases of *to* and *tte* Followed by Final-Sentence Particle**

From the data used in this study, it was discovered that there were 15 cases where the particle *to* was followed by the final sentence particle, and the particle was only *ka* (*to* + *ka*). There are other variations such as “*to ne*”, “*to sa*”, or “*to na*”, however, these *to* particles do not serve as a quotative particle but other types of *to*, such as conditional particle *to*.

- (14) A: *Koko no gohan tabeyou toka. De, sono tsugi no hi wa.*  
(He said) let's eat here. Then, the next day...  
B: *Un un un, sonna koto shiteta no?*  
Oh, you two did that.  
A: *Sou. Koko made ikou toka.*  
Yeah, (he also said) let's go there.

In example (14), speaker A is telling a story about past experience with her friend, while quoting some of her friend's utterances. According to Usuda (2021), quoting the third person or the speaker's past utterances with *toka* at the end of the sentence gives the impression that what is quoted is not entirely accurate. That explains how the speaker A used ambiguous words like 'here' and 'there' instead of concrete words.

On the contrary, *tte* can be followed by almost all types of sentence-final particles in Japanese. From the data used in this study, it was discovered 6 variations of sentence-final particles following particle *tte*, such as *ne*, *na*, *yo*, *ba*, *sa*. Here are some examples.

- (15) *ima are desho, amerika houkou ryuugaku sukunai nda tte ne.*  
(I heard) there are not many people studying abroad in America lately.  
(16) *nobi-chan mou, ningen dattara mou sugoi de, go-juu sai da tte yo.*  
(I heard) if Nobi were a human, he is now 50 years old, you know.  
(17) *shokuyoku nai nda tte ba sa.*  
(I said) I don't have any appetite.

In data (15) and (16), both *tte* here are used in hearsay, where the speaker is telling a piece of information they heard from other people. The particles *ne* and *yo* here are only to indicate the assertiveness of the speaker regarding the information they heard and delivered, or simply to show whether they expect the interlocutor to be aware or unaware of the information. While data (17) shows that *tte* can be followed by more than one sentence-final particle, in this case, *ba* and *sa*. Other combinations such as *yo ne*, *yo na*, can also follow *tte*.

### **The Use of *to* and *tte* at the End of an Utterance**

It was found that 47 cases of *to* and 46 cases of *tte* were used at the end of an utterance, a rather balanced result. When both particles are used with the complete structure without any omission, *to* is most frequently used to report one's thought, whereas *tte* is most frequently used to quote one's speech. For that reason, even when the clause after the quotative particles is omitted, *to* still has a high tendency to mark the speaker's thought. The same goes for *tte* that has a high contribution to mark one's speech.

- (18) *Kekkyoku sanku wa suru nda keredo mo, sanku suru shokushu ga tabun hirokute, ookute, ano, sanku shinikui njanai kana to.*  
In the end, it will oxidize, but the tentacles that oxidize are probably wide and many, so I think it's hard to oxidize.

Data (18) shows the speaker adding *to* at the end of the sentence when reporting their opinion, thus it can be predicted that the omitted word is *omou*. Looking at the overall data used in this study, the content that is frequently quoted by *to* at the end of the sentence are often things related to the speaker's thought, such as opinion, intention, assumption, plan, etc.

- (19) *Kore wo nimmiku to paseri to bataa wo fuudo purosessaa ni irete, kakuhan shite, kou yatte reizoukou de hiyasu dake de ii nda tte.*  
(I heard) all we have to do is put the garlic, parsley, and butter in a food processor, mix, and chill in the refrigerator like this.

Data (19) is an example of hearsay, where *tte* at the end of a sentence is frequently used. The speaker was explaining a way to cook something, by adding *tte* at the end of the explanation, it indicates that the explanation was a piece of information the speaker

got from a third person. There are a few examples where the speaker does not omit the subject of the sentence and clearly reports one's words to pass it to another person. However, most of *tte* in hearsay like this is often used without any subject of the sentence, hence the source of information often remains unknown.

- (20) *Nani mottekite mo umee tte!*  
(I said) anything you bring is delicious!

In addition, *tte* at the end of a sentence can also refer to the speaker's own utterance. As seen in data (20), the speaker does not specifically quote other people's words but his own words. In this case, the speaker wants the interlocutor to believe his compliments about the food the interlocutor has brought, hence adding *tte* to give more assertion and give the nuance as if he had said it before. Matsui and Yamamoto (2013) state that quoting one's own utterance has the effect of reaffirming and emphasizing their assertion.

Furthermore, both *to* and *tte* can also be used at the end of interrogative sentences. In these cases, both particles at the end are pronounced with a higher pitch, to indicate the difference between statements and questions.

- (21) A: *Datte katamichi kippu shika mottenai ndayo.*  
*Kaeri no koukuuken mottenakute yattekita kara.*  
After all, I only have a one-way ticket.  
Because I went there without having a return ticket.  
B: *Uun, a, omae kaeri to dou sun da to?*  
Hm, how did you return, you said?

Data (21) shows speaker A talking about their experience and speaker B asking about the missing story. The use of *to* at the end of this question indicates that there is a possibility that speaker A might have been talking about it.

- (22) A: *A, souda, kikou to omotta no. Apita kaado.*  
Oh yeah, I wanted to ask about the Apita card.  
B: *Apita kaado tte?*  
"Apita card," you said?

In data (22), speaker B is repeating speaker A's words using *tte* at the end of the sentence. The particle *tte* here is referring to the word "Apita card" that has been said by speaker A. This is what Ishihara (2021) explains about echo questions, where the speaker repeats what they had heard from

the interlocutor to confirm or to ask if they heard it correctly or missed some information.

## Overall Structures of Sentence with Quotative Particles

There are 8 variations of structures of quotative sentences found in this study. First, when the quotative particle is placed at the beginning of utterance, [*to/tte* + *second clause*]. Most of the particle in this case usually refers to a preceding content of the conversation or information both speakers already know. Second, is the basic structure [*quoted content* + *to/tte* + *thinking verb*], this is the most used structure for both *to* and *tte*. Third is [*quoted content* + *to/tte* + *verb in general*], this happens when the original thinking verb is connected to another verb in *te*-form, but the speaker omits the thinking verb, leaving only the other verb at the end of the sentence. The fourth is for describing a noun, [*noun* + *to* (*ka/wa*) / *tte* + *description/explanation*]. In this case *to* cannot be used alone without other particles such as *ka* or *wa*. While *tte*, which also has the same function as *to wa* or *to iu no wa*, can be used without attaching to another particle. However, if the noun is followed by verbs such as *kaku* (to write), *iu* (to say), *yobu* (to call), *yomu* (to read) or other similar verbs, both *to* and *tte* can be used alone without attaching to another particle, hence creating the fifth structure [*noun* + *to/tte* + *iu / kaku / yobu / yomu*].

Sixth is where the quoted content is a description or an explanation that is not related to one's saying or thinking, [*description/explanation* + *to yuu /tte* + *noun*], *to* cannot also be used alone in this case. Seventh is where the thinking verb is omitted but the particle is followed by the sentence-final particle, [*quoted content* + *to/tte* + *sentence-final particle*]. The sentence-final particle that can follow *to* is only *ka*, while *tte* can be followed by almost all the sentence-final particles.

The last is where both particles are found at the end of a sentence, [*quoted content* + *to/tte*]. The difference between the two particles can be seen very clearly when they are used at the end of the sentence like this. Looking at the frequency of use of the basic structures, it was known that *to* is often used when quoting things related to the speaker's thought, while *tte* is frequently used to quote one's utterances. Thus, when both particles are used at the end of the sentence, both still have the tendency to be used the way they are used in full sentences. It is difficult to use the otherwise unless if *tte* sticks to other particles

related to one's thinking (such as *naa tte*, *kana tte*), it means that *tte* is quoting one's thought.

## CONCLUSION

This paper focused on the syntactic perspective of the quotative particles *to* and *tte*. To summarize what has been clarified, both *to* and *tte* in conversations are most frequently used in the middle of an utterance followed by thinking verbs, just like the basic structure of quoting in Japanese. The next highest frequency is the use at the end of an utterance, where the thinking verbs are omitted. Because *to* is most often followed by thinking verbs related to thoughts such as *to omou* (to think), *to* at the end also has a high tendency to be used to quote things related to one's thoughts. While *tte* is commonly followed by *iu* or *yu* (to say), is mostly used to quote things related to one's saying even when no verbs follow it. The same tendency applies to both particles even when both are followed by sentence-final particles. However, when particles like *naa* or *kana* stick before *tte*, the quoted content is most likely the speaker's thoughts.

While both can be used to quote words or descriptions that are not related to one's saying or thinking, *tte* is used more often in this case because *tte* can serve as equivalent to *to yuu*. *To* can also be used for words if it sticks to other particles such as *ka* or *wa*.

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