

ABSTRACT

The present study aims to study and analyze 88 Japanese idioms starting with “ME” based on Japanese newspaper corpus in five components. There are frequency of use, form, grammatical function, comparison between actual use found in newspaper and idioms found in dictionary and idiom collocation. The results of the study could be used for pedagogical implication in Japanese language.

Based on the frequency of use analysis, it is found from 88 idioms starting with “me” that the five most frequent use are 「目を細める」「目にする」「目を向ける」「目を引く」 and 「目を通す」, respectively. There are 20 idioms which are not used at all.

In analyzing the form of idioms used, it is found original use 「原形」 the most, followed by 「て形」「た形」「ない形」「その他」「なかった形」「条件形」「使役形」「可能形」「意志形」「受身形」 and 「命令形」, respectively. The least use is found in 「使役受身」.

For grammatical function, it is reported that there are 53 idioms which are used as predication or predication modifier function rather than as noun modifier function. Within this group there are 17 idioms which are used as predication or predication modifier function. There are 12 idioms which are used as noun modifier rather than predication function, with 6 idioms being used as noun modifier function. There are 3 idioms being used as predication or predication modifier function which is as equal as noun modifier function. Mostly it is found as low frequent use.

Concerning the comparison of idioms found in dictionary there are 4 pairs of idioms which have similar structure, having some different form with the same meaning. These are 「目を細める・目を細くする」「目と鼻の先・目と鼻」「目に入れても痛くない・目の中へ入れても痛くない」 and 「目玉の黒い内・目の黒い内・目の玉の黒い内」. As compared with the actual use found in newspaper, it is found a significant difference. This is found only 「目を細める」「目と鼻の先」「目に入れても痛くない」 idiom used. For 「目を細くする」「目と鼻」「目の中へ入れても痛くない」 idiom it is not found used at all. The paired idiom as 「目玉の黒い内・目の黒い内・目の玉の黒い内」 is also not found used at all. Moreover, there are 3 pairs

found used as transitive and intransitive verb function. These are 「目を光らす・目が光る」 「目頭が熱くなる・目頭を熱くする」 「目が回る・目を回す」. From these idioms the most frequent use are 「目を光らす」 「目頭が熱くなる」 「目が回る」.

Regarding idiom collocation it is obvious that there are 7 idioms found used as 「目を細める」 「目に見えて」 「目を離す」 「目を通す」 「目に触れる」 「目が届く」 「目に浮かぶ」.

Keywords: Japanese Idiom, Corpus, Idiom Collocation