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Abstract

This study aims to describe the semantic change of yabai in Japanese variety show called Itadaki High Jump. Originally, yabai means dangerous and bad situation. But nowadays, this word have been used in many situations and contexts and the meaning of yabai has grown into positive meaning, not just negative. In Itadaki High JUMP, yabai has been used several times and in many situations that have different meaning and expression. This study used descriptive qualitative method. The result of this study is, the semantic change of yabai are generalization and amelioration. The meaning of yabai in Itadaki High Jump are: 1) worry, 2) awful face, 3) exhausted, 4) uncomfortable, 5) scared, 6) trouble, 7) terrible, 8) spicy, 9) unbelievable, 10) touched.

Keywords: Semantic change; generalization; amelioration; yabai; Japanese variety show

1. Introduction

People choose certain words to communicate. This is because there are words that better reflect someone's intentions in conveying their feelings. Each word has a literal meaning, but there is a deeper meaning when used in certain situations. This meaning of a word is one of the objects of semantic study.

In every word we use, there is often a change in the meaning of the word. These changes called semantic change or semantic shift. Semantic change is change in the meaning of a word over time [3]. Semantic change occurs in almost all languages, one of which is Japanese. Many Japanese words have broad meanings, so when translated into other languages, they have different meanings. One word that has a broad meaning is the word *yabai*.

At first, the word *yabai* had the meaning of dangerous or bad. This word is often used in unfavorable or bad situations. But over time, young people in Japan use the word *yabai* not only for bad situations but also to express their feelings. The things they express are not only bad but also good. The word *yabai* also changes its meaning depending on the situation of the sayer. According to [8] there are times when pre-existing words are used with the exact opposite meaning, then they become *wakamono kotoba*. For example, *yabai* was originally used with the meaning of *abunai* (dangerous', but nowadays the meaning shifts to saying good things.

Semantic change of the word *yabai* in certain situations can be found in everyday life, one of which is in Japanese variety shows. Dialogue that uses the word *yabai* is widely used in a Japanese variety show called Itadaki High JUMP. This variety show is a regular program that airs every Saturday on a Japanese TV station hosted by an Idol group called Hey! Say! JUMP. In this show, they are placed in a position where they have to solve unsolved problems and the use of the word *yabai* is very often encountered in their conversation. These situations lead to a change in the meaning of the word *yabai*. According to [2], semantic changes include generalization, speciliazation, amelioration, pejoration, and word loss. According to [6], factors that lead to semantic change include: language development, unpecific meaning of a word, loss of motivation, polysemy, ambiguous words, and vocabulary structure.

Research on semantic change of the word *yabai* is not new. Research on semantic change of the word *yabai* has been carried out by [8] in his thesis entitled *Perluasan Makna Kata Yabai*. His research analyzes the expansion of meaning that occurs in the word *yabai*. [9] examined in terms of the frequency of use of the word *yabai* with negative and positive meanings based on gender and the frequency of use of variations of the word *yabai*. Then [7] entitled *Perluasan Makna Kata Yabai sebagai Wakamono Kotoba* analyzes the expansion of the meaning of *yabai* which is one of the *wakamono kotoba*.

Due to the many uses of the word *yabai* in different situations, the problems to be analyzed in this study are what are the changes in the meaning of the word *yabai*, what are the meanings of the word *yabai* found from situations in the *Itadaki High JUMP* variety show, and what are the variations of *yabai* in *Itadaki High JUMP*. These problems will be analyzed based on the dialogue contained in the variety show *Itadaki High JUMP*.

2. Research Method

This study used qualitative methods where research refers to data collection, analysis, interpretation, and writing of research results [1]. The data source of this research is from Japanese variety show called *Itadaki High JUMP*. This variety show hosted by eight members of idol group named *Hey! Say! JUMP*. This variety show is about solving many problems requested by the fans or viewer. There are five episodes of *Itadaki High JUMP* which will be analyzed in this research.

The writer chose *Itadaki High JUMP* as the data source because there are so many use of the word *yabai* in different situations on this variety show. The writer used note-taking and observation techniques in data collection. The writer collected data by watching the five episodes of *Itadaki High JUMP* and noting the word *yabai* contained in the variety show. The use of the word *yabai* were obtained from conversations contained in *Itadaki High JUMP*.

The data will be analyzed by qualitative descriptive method. Qualitative descriptive research method is a method used by writer to find knowledge or theory of research at a certain time [4]. Therefore, from these data will be analyzed the meaning, situation, and variation of the word *yabai* in the dialogues found in *Itadaki High JUMP*

3. Data Analysis and Findings

After watching five episodes of *Itadaki High Jump*, there are dialogues that use the word *yabai*. The following are the dialogues and its analysis.

Dialogue (1)

ホスト : 大倉先輩の狙い、ゴールしたと瞬時に状況を理解する瞬発力を見せられるのか?
 ホスト : いよ、いよ、目起き五十メートル創。スタートです!
 知念 : きれいな姿を走るよ!
 八乙女 : やばい、やばい、やばい。

MC: *Okura-senpai no nerai, gooru shita to shunji ni joukyou wo rikai suru shunpatsu ryoku wo miserareru no ka?*

MC: *Iyo, iyo, me oki gojuu meetoru sou. Start desu!*

Chinen: *Kirei na sugata wo hashiru yo!*

Yaotome: *Yabai, yabai, yabai.*

MC: Okura's goal, can they show their instantaneous power in managing the situation straight away?

MC: The 50m race right after waking up finally starts.

Chinen: Run in the nice form!

Yaotome: I'm worry.

The situation in dialogue (1) is, they're given the challenge by their senior, Tadayoshi Okura. The challenge is could they manage the situation as an idol even when they just woke up. In this challenge, the staffs will wake them up without them knowing. After waking them, they'll be asked to run 50m straight away.

In the dialogue (1), they're going to watch their reaction when the staffs wake them up. Yaotome is worry because he's going to watch him and his friends reaction when the staffs wake them up, so he uses *yabai* to express how worry he is. *Yabai* in this dialogue has negative meaning because they're worry about how it turns out. Therefore, *yabai* in this dialogue expressed how worry someone when they're in some situations.

Dialogue (2)

有岡 : まず、俺の今の顔は平気ですかテレビ出て?
 ホスト : やっぱ、目おきがお悪いって言われてました。
 高木 : 有岡くんやばいね。
 ホスト : 有岡くん、顔が。。。ちょっと、アイドルの顔がちょっと。。。
 有岡 : 本当、だめだって。

Arioka: Mazu, ore no ima no kao wa heiki desuka, terebi de?

MC: Yappa, me oki gao waruitte iwaretemashita.

Takaki: Arioka-kun yabai ne.

MC: Arioka-kun, kao ga... chotto, aidoru no kao wa chotto...

Arioka: Hontou, dame datte.

Arioka: First of all, is it alright for my face being like this on tv?

MC: Afterall, we were told that you're not good with waking up

Takaki: Your face is awful, Arioka-kun

MC: And as expected, your face, your idol face...

Arioka: That's why I told you it's not good.

The situation in dialogue (2) almost similar with the situation in dialogue (1). The staffs wake them up without them knowing and ask them to run straight away. In this situation, there's one member of Hey! Say! JUMP who's very bad at waking up and he won't wake up until he feels like it.

Because he was waken up by force, his face isn't like his normal idol face. In this dialogue, *yabai* has negative meaning because it uses to express how bad someone's face is. Takaki uses *yabai* to express how awful his friend's face after wake up. Normally, his friend has a cute idol face but it's really different compared to his wake up face. Therefore, *yabai* could have been used to tell about someone's appearance as well.

Dialogue (3)

ホスト : 実は、世界記録十二分三十七秒三御単純計算で五十メートルを七秒台で走り続けなければ
 ならない。
 山田 : これやばい、そろそろ。

MC: Jitsu wa, sekai kiroku juunifun sanjuunanabyou sango wa tanjun keisan de gojuu meetoru wo nanabyou dai dehashiri tsudzukenakereba naranai kiroku.

Yamada: Kore yabai! Soro-soro.

MC: The truth is, world record runner had time 12 minutes 37.35 seconds. They have to run 50m in 7 seconds, otherwise they won't win.

Yamada: It's exhausting. I'll take a break soon.

The situation in dialogue (3), they're given a challenge by one of the famous entertainer, Okubo Kayoko. Okubo wants to see them sweating since they're still young. So the staffs come up with a challenge where they should beat the Men's World Record in 5000m track running in a treadmill. They take turn to run in treadmill to beat the record.

In this situation, they're running until they reach their limit and other members will continue it. *Yabai* in this situation has negative meaning to express how tired someone is. Yamada says that he's exhausted because of running and he asked his friend to take his turn. Therefore, *yabai* can be used to express a tiring or exhausting situation.

Dialogue (4)

ホスト : その高さはおようそ四十センチ。
 中島 : やば!
 ホスト : そしてかきあげのまいすは、なんと四十二枚。

MC: Sono takasa wa oyoso yonjuu senchi.

Nakajima: Yabai!

MC: Soshite, kakiage no maisu wa, nanto yonjuuni mai.

MC: The height is about 40cm.

Nakajima: Unbelievable!

MC: And then, the fried oyster are 42 pieces.

In this situation, they're treated to eat a large portion of meal that usually served for a group of people. The food is 3 bowls of rice and 42 pieces of fried oysters. Only 3 people who get this challenge and they should finish it or do some games for a help.

Because of the large portion of the meal, Nakajima was shocked and it makes him use the word *yabai* to express it. *Yabai* in this situation could be negative or positive based on how people see it. The large portion of meal could be shocking for some people and they express it in a certain way. In this situation, *yabai* is used to express a surprising or shocking situation when knowing something.

Dialogue (5)

有岡 : ほら!
 八乙女 : やばい、やばい、やばい。
 有岡 : 赤ちゃん見てえな。

Arioka: Hora!

Yaotome: Yabai, yabai, yabai.

Arioka: Akachan mitee na.

Arioka: Hey!

Yaotome: I'm uncomfortable!

Arioka: He's like a baby.

The situation in dialogue (4) almost similar with dialogue (5). People who get the challenge only 3 and if they want to get help, they should play a game. The game they choose is to eat russian mustard cream puffs. Every cream puffs they eat, they'll earn 1 minute for a food fighter to help them finish their meal. But, there's 1 cream puffs with a spicy filling. If they eat that, their game is over.

The 3 of them eat the cream puff one by one. But in Takaki's turn, he gets the spicy filling. Because he can't take the spiciness, he asked for a bucket and throws it up there. Yaotome who's seeing Takaki throws up feeling uncomfortable because he sits beside Takaki. But Arioka thinks Takaki looks like a baby. *Yabai* in this situation has negative meaning because it use when someone feels uncomfortable. When the situation in uncomfortable or uncontrollable, *yabai* can be used to express a situation like that.

Dialogue (6)

八乙女 : 五十六が限界かな。
 中島 : すげー
 八乙女 : いこう、精算!
 ホスト : がーめん洗濯バサミ、五十六本いきます、三、二、一!
 高木 : やべー

Yaotome: *Gojuuroku ga genkai kana.*

Nakajima: *Sugee*

Yaotome: *Ikou, seisan!*

MC: *Gaamen sentaku basami, gojuroppon ikimasu. San, ni, ichi*

Takaki: *Yabee*

Yaotome: The limit is 56.

Nakajima: Amazing.

Yaotome: Do it, start counting!

MC: Clothespin game, we'll go for 56 pieces. 3, 2, 1.

Takaki: Scary!

In this situation, the 3 of them take another game to finish their meal. The game they choose this time is clothespin game. The rule of this game is, every clothespin that were pinned in the face will get 10 seconds of help. Yaotome can pin 56 clothespins on his face and it makes the scared.

In dialogue (6), Takaki uses *yabai* to express the scary situation he sees, or he is in. Takaki is scared because of the hurtful game, and he uses *yabai* to express it, which makes *yabai* has negative meaning in this dialogue. Therefore, *yabai* can be used as an expression when someone fears something or a situation.

Dialogue (7)

中島 : 怖い! あそこのヤンキーお兄さん。

八乙女 : 本当の結婚式だったら、やべーからのまじで。

有岡 : 盛り下がる、やばいね。

高木 : たしかにやばい。

Nakajima: *Kowai! Asoko no yankii oniisan*

Yaotome: *Hontou no kekkon shiki dattara, yabee kara no maji de.*

Arioka: *Morisagaru yabai ne.*

Takaki: *Tashika ni yabai.*

Nakajima: The yankee brothers there are scary.

Yaotome: It'll be a trouble if it's a real wedding ceremony.

Arioka: It's terrible to bring people's excitement down.

Takaki: It's terrible indeed.

In this situation, they're playing as bride, groom, and guests to find some activities to make a wedding more exciting. One of the activities is broccoli toss. Instead of bouquet toss, they do broccoli toss and will be caught by the male guests. Because the guests can't take the broccoli, that'll be a trouble because in a wedding, there will be only 1 broccoli that they prepare. Moreover, it'll bring the excitement down when no one can catch it.

In dialogue (5), there are 2 variations of *yabai*, they are *yabai* and *yabee*. *Yabee* usually used by man for a negative meaning of *yabai*. *Yabai* and *yabee* in this dialogue have negative meanings. *Yabai* in this dialogue express about a trouble someone can pose and a terrible situation because of that trouble.

Dialogue (8)

高木 : ちゃんと取ってですね。

伊野尾 : あ、やばい、これちょっと泣きそう!

Takaki: *Chanto totte desu ne.*

Inoo: *A, yabai, kore chotte nakisou!*

Takaki: You film it seriously.

Inoo: Ah, it's touching, I might cry!

The situation in (8) is they're still playing as bride, groom, and guest but they're filming it like a real wedding footage. The location of the shooting is nicely prepared like a real wedding as well. It makes one of them touched because it's like he watches a real wedding.

Yabai in this situation has a positive meaning because it makes someone want to cry in happiness. Inoo is about to cry so he used *yabai* to express that he's touched by the scene. Therefore, *yabai* can be used to express a sad or touching situation.

Dialogue (9)

藪 : かわいい。
 有岡 : そうですか。
 高木 : かわいい。
 藪 : 大ちゃんかわいい、俺大ちゃんだわ、この三人で。
 高木 : やばい、このロケー楽しそう。

Yabu: Kawaii.

Arioka; Sou desuka.

Takaki: Kawaii.

Yabu: Dai-chan kawaii. Ore dai-chan da wa, kono sannin de.

Takaki: Yabai, kono rokee tanoshisou.

Yabu: So cute!

Arioka: Really?

Takaki: So cute.

Yabu: Dai-chan is so cute. I'll choose Dai-chan from the 3.

Takaki: I'm envious, this shooting looks fun!

The dialogue (9) is similar with dialogue (7) and (8) where they're playing as bride, groom, and guests. There are 3 people who get a chance to be the bride, and from 3 people, Arioka gets the most attention. They said he's cute as a maid.

Looking at how fun their shooting is, Takaki feels envious and want to be in that shooting as well. In this situation, he uses *yabai* to express how envious he is. *Yabai* in this situation is negative. When someone wants something and want to be part of something, they can use *yabai* to express their feeling of envious.

Dialogue (10)

山田 : そんな辛そうじゃない?
 知念 : ご褒美なんでね。
 足立 : ご褒美。
 知念 : 味待って食べてくださいね。
 高木 : そんなに?!
 山田 : これやばくない?
 山田 : これむり。
 有岡 : まじで?
 山田 : これやばいよ!

Yamada: Sonna karasou janai?

Chinen: Gohoubi nan de ne.

Adachi: Gohoubi

Chinen: Ajimatte tabete kudasai ne

Takaki: Sonna ni?!

Yamada: *Kore yabakunai?*

Yamada: *Kore muri*

Arioka: *Maji de?*

Yamada: *Kore yabai yo!*

Yamada: It doesn't look that spicy, right?

Chinen: It's a prize.

Adachi. A prize.

Chinen: Please eat.

Takaki: That spicy?!

Yamada: Isn't it too spicy?

Yamada: It's impossible

Arioka: Seriously?

Yamada: It's so spicy!

In dialogue (10), Yamada and his team lose some battles and usually they won't get any prize. But the guest star, Adachi, still give them something although they lose. She brings her favourite spicy noodle as a gift for the losing team. Unexpectedly, the noodles is too spicy for the losing team although Adachi eats it like it's not spicy at all.

In this situation, *yabai* is used to tell that the food is spicy. *Yabai* has negative meaning because someone is hurting when he eats spicy food. *Yabai* isn't just use for a situation but also for telling if the food is spicy, good, or bad. Therefore, *yabai* can be used to tell the flavour of the food or drink also.

4. Conclusion

Yabai is an adjective that means bad or dangerous. However, the use of the word *yabai* is growing over time which causes a semantic change of the word. Based on the results of the analysis, the word *yabai* underwent a change in meaning in the form of generalization and amelioration. The generalization of *yabai* are: 1) worry, 2) awful face, 3) exhausted, 4) uncomfortable, 5) scared, 6) trouble, 7) terrible, 8) Spicy. Meanwhile, the amelioration of *yabai* are: 1) unbelievable, 2) touched.

Based on the result, *yabai* was used more for a bad situation which makes *yabai* has more negative meaning than positive. In Itadaki High JUMP were found variation of *yabai* as well, which is *yabee*. *Yabee* is used by man for a negative meaning of *yabai*. Based on the dialogue, *yabee* as the variation of *yabai* means scary.

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