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“Wa” of Emphasis in Japanese

Yasukuni Takano

0. Introductory Remarks

It was claimed in Takano (2003a and 2003b) that there are four distinctive types of functions associated with the particle “wa” in Japanese, one of which was claimed to be “wa” of emphasis. It was also suggested there that “wa” of emphasis is subject to further examination just in need of more precise linguistic explanatory descriptions of it. It is exactly for this reason that the present paper was deeply motivated. That is, this paper will examine the exact nature of syntactic, semantic and pragmatic distributions of this emphatic particle “wa.”

The organization of the present paper is as follows. In section 1, I will give an overview of the claim I made on “wa” of emphasis in Takano (2003a and 2003b). It will be claimed in this section that there are basically three different sub-types of emphasis associated with this emphatic particle “wa.” These three sub-types of “wa” are 1) a marker for syntactic emphasis, 2) a marker for predicative emphasis and 3) a marker for quantificational emphasis. They are tentatively so termed according to the syntactic, semantic and pragmatic distributions of this particle based upon a collection of sentence data. All of the three sub-types of “wa” are, needless to say, marked by the same phonological word “wa.”

In section 2, I wish to speculate what these three sub-types of emphatic markers are and to discuss some other related examples within the scope of these three sub-types of emphatic “wa.” In particular, the third sub-type of emphatic “wa,” namely, a marker for quantificational emphasis will be extensively discussed in connection with the similarities shared by various syntactic, semantic and pragmatic distributions of the particle “mo (also or even).”

The concluding remarks summarizing the foregoing discussion simply
1. Overview of “Wa” of Emphasis

In Takano (2003a and 2003b), it was suggested that the following types of “wa” should be grouped together and treated under one of the four distinctive functions termed as “wa” of emphasis. The example in (2)c is due to Maeda (2000) and cited here since it belongs to the same type of “wa” under discussion. However, some revision has been made on the original example. (See “List of Abbreviations” provided at the end of this paper for grammatical terminology employed in the following and subsequent examples also.)

(1)a. Monogoto wa omou yoo ni wa ik-anai-mono-da.
Things TOP wish in the manner EMPH go-NEG-just-be-PRES
Things would not go JUST as (one) wishes (them) to go.

b. kanarazushimo kanemochi ga shiawase-da to wa
Always rich SUBJ happy-be that EMPH
i-e-na-i.
say-POTEN-NEG-PRES
(One) JUST cannot say that the rich are always happy.

(1) JUST cannot stop loving (you).

c. Ais-azu ni wa i-rare-na-i.
Love-NEG EMPH stop-POTEN-NEG-PRES
(1) JUST cannot stop loving (you).

(2)a. Kare wa tabete wa ne tabete wa ne no seikatsu
He TOP eat EMPH sleep eat EMPH sleep GEN life
wo okutte-i-ru.
OBJ spend-PROG-PRES
He has a (kind of habitual) life-style repeating JUST eating and sleeping.
Or He is spending his days JUST eating and sleeping repeatedly.
b. Heiwa wo inotte wa shitsuboo ni akekureru hito
Peace OBJ pray EMPH disappointment in spend person
The person who JUST keeps praying for peace and ends up spending (his days) in despair

c. Otoko wa sake wo nonde wa tsuma ni booryoku wo
Man TOP sake OBJ drink EMPH wife to violence OBJ
use-PAST
The man used violence on his wife EACH TIME AFTER he had sake.

(3)a. Sono hooseki wa hyakuman-en wa su-ru.
That jewelry TOP million-en EMPH cost-PRES
That jewelry costs AT LEAST a million yen.

b. Soko made wa ichi-jikan wa kakar-ana-i.
There as far as TOP one hour EMPH take-NEG-PRES
(It) dose not take LONGER THAN one hour (to get) there.

c. Zenbu wa tabe-rare-na-i.
All EMPH eat-POTEN-NEG-PRES
(I) JUST cannot eat (it = the food) ALL.

In (1)a, it is the case that the clause “omou yoo ni (as [one] wishes [them to go])” is marked by the emphatic “wa” and is indeed emphasized. This kind of emphasis is indicated by the word “JUST” in front of the clause “as (one) wishes them to go” in English.

Likewise, the clause, “Kanarazushimo kanemochi ga shiawase-da to (that the rich are always happy),” is marked by “wa” and is also emphasized in (1)b.

In (1)c, the adverbial phrase containing a negative verbal form “Ais -azu ni (without loving) is marked by “wa” and is emphasized. This emphasis is indicated by the word “JUST” in front of that phrase.

The effect of “wa” marking the clauses and the adverbial phrase in (1) a-c is that the functions of the clauses and the adverbial phrase become clear in the given sentences.
In (2)a, the verb “tabete (to eat)” in the gerund form (or the -te form) is marked by “wa,” which is immediately followed by the verb “ne (to sleep).” In this special case, it is felt that the gerund form “tabete (to eat)” along with “ne (to sleep) as an idiomatic unit, is emphasized to the effect that the action of the two verbs is being repeated in this particular sentence as the English translation may suggest. This is indicated by the word “JUST” in front of these two verbs in the English translation.

In (2)b, it is felt that the first verb phrase “heiwa wo inotte (to pray for peace)” along with the second occurrence of verb phrase “shitsuboo ni akekure-ru (to spend days and nights in despair)” as an idiomatic unit is, in fact, emphasized. This point is indicated by the word “JUST” in front of the verb phrase “keeps praying for peace and spending days and nights in despair.” Thus, the function of “wa” in (2)a and (2)b can be said that it emphasizes the repetition of the action verbs to the effect that these verb phrases become clear in the given sentences.

In (2)c, it is felt that the verb phrase “sake wo nonde (to have sake)” is emphasized to the effect that “each time after the man had sake, he used violence on his wife. This emphatic use of “wa” is indicated by the English translation “EACH TIME AFTER,” which follows the verb phrase “sake wo nonde (to have sake).” “EACH TIME AFTER,” of course, signifies the repetition of the action, “having sake.”

In (3)a, the quantificational word “hyaku-man-en (a million yen),” which is marked by “wa,” is indeed emphasized. It seems to be generally the case that there arises some kind of presuppositional effect when quantificational words are marked by “wa.” This, in turn, suggests that those sentences (of which quantificational words are marked by “wa”) should somehow be analyzed pragmatically. Thus, the sentence in (3)a implies that the speaker knows that the jewelry costs a lot more than a million yen and so he has uttered the sentence with the intended meaning; it would cost AT LEAST a million yen, where the speaker is providing the lowest limit of money for the jewelry.

In (3)b, the quantificational word “ichi-jikan (one hour),” which is
marked by “wa,” is emphasized. The sentence implies that the speaker knows for sure that it will not take much longer than one hour to get to the final destination and so he has uttered the sentence with the intended meaning; *it would not take LONGER THAN one hour to get there,* where the speaker is providing the longest time limit for getting to the final destination.

In (3)c, the quantificational word “zenbu (all),” which is marked by this “wa,” is emphasized to the effect that the speaker knows that he cannot eat it ALL, but he feels that he can probably eat 80 per cent, 70 per cent, or 50 per cent of the food.3)

The main reason why the bold-faced “wa” in the examples (1)–(3) above is grouped together as having the function of “emphasis” is due to the fact that all of the examples can stand grammatical without recourse to having this “wa” and the sense of “emphasis” simply disappears from these examples that used to clearly show the sense of emphasis with the presence of “wa,” as the following examples attest.

(4)a. Monogoto wa omou yoo ni _ ik-anai-mono-da.

Things TOP expect in the manner go-NEG-just-be-PRES 

*Things would not go as (one) expects (them) to go.*

b. kanarazushimo kanemochi ga shiawase-da to __

Always rich SUBJ happy-be that
day-POTEN-NEG-PRES

*(One) cannot say that the rich are always happy.*

c. Ais-azu ni i-rare-na-i.

Love-NEG stop-POTEN-NEG-PRES

*(I) cannot stop loving (you).*

(5)a. Kare wa tabete _ ne tabete _ ne no seikatsu
He TOP eat sleep eat sleep GEN life

wo okutte-i-ru.

OBJ spend-PROG-PRES
He is spending his days eating and sleeping.
b. Heiwa wo inotte _ shitsuuboo ni akekure-ru hito
Peace OBJ pray disappointment in spend-PRES person
The person who keeps praying for peace and ends up spending (his days) in despair
c. Otoko wa sake wo nonde _ tsuma ni booryoku wo
Man TOP sake OBJ drink wife to violence OBJ
use-PAST
The man had sake and used violence on his wife.

That jewelry TOP million-en cost-PRES
That jewelry costs a million yen.
b. Soko made wa ichi-jikan _ kakar-ana-i.
There as far as TOP one hour take-NEG-PRES
(It) dose not take one hour (to get) there.
c. Zenbu _ tabe-rare-na-i.
All eat-POTEN-NEG-PRES
(I) cannot eat (it) all.

As can be observed in the examples ((4) - (6)) above, no sense of emphasis is felt. This is the very reason why "wa" which appeared in the examples (1) - (3) above is grouped together and termed as "wa" of emphasis. The facts, however, indicate that we will have to reconsider each case more carefully and go into the insights of this emphatic "wa." That is, we feel that we are in need of further examination for precisely what sort of emphasis is associated with this emphatic "wa" in each case. This, we will pursue in section 2 that immediately follows after this.

2. Three Sub-Types of Emphatic "Wa"

In section 1, we have seen that "wa" in the examples (1) - (3) is grouped together and termed as "wa" of emphasis. In this section, we will talk about
exactly what sort of emphasis "wa" may have in these examples. These examples are reproduced here for the sake of our expository purpose.

(1) a. Monogoto wa omou yoo ni wa ik-anai-mono-da.
   Things TOP wish in the manner EMPH go-NEG-just-be-PRES
   Things would not go JUST as (one) wishes (them) to go.
   b. kanarazushimo kanemochi ga shiawase-da to wa
   Always rich SUBJ happy-be that EMPH
   i-e-na-i.
   say-POTEN-NEG-PRES
   (One) JUST cannot say that the rich are always happy.
   c. Ais-azu ni wa i-rare-na-i.
   Love-NEG EMPH stop-POTEN-NEG-PRES
   (1) JUST cannot stop loving (you).

(2) a. Kare wa tabete wa ne tabete wa ne no seikatsu
   He TOP eat EMPH sleep eat EMPH sleep GEN life
   wo okutte-i-ru.
   OBJ spend-PROG-PRES
   He has a (kind of habitual) life-style repeating JUST eating and sleeping.
   Or He is spending his days JUST eating and sleeping repeatedly.
   b. Heiwa wo inotte wa shitsuboo ni akekureru hito
   Peace OBJ pray EMPH disappointment in spend person
   The person who JUST keeps praying for peace and ends up spending
   (his days) in despair
   c. Otoko wa sake wo nonde wa tsuma ni booryoku wo
   Man TOP sake OBJ drink EMPH wife to violence OBJ
   furut-ta.
   use-PAST
   The man used violence on his wife EACH TIME AFTER he had sake.
(3) a. Sono hooseki wa hyakuman-en wa su-ru.
That jewelry TOP million-en EMPH cost-PRES
That jewelry costs AT LEAST a million yen.
b. Soko made wa ichi-jikan wa kakar-ana-i.
There as far as TOP one hour EMPH take-NEG-PRES
(It) dose not take LONGER THAN one hour to get (as far as) there.
c. Zenbu wa tabe-rare-nai.
All EMPH eat-POTEN-NEG-PRES
(1) JUST cannot eat (it) ALL.

It will be chronologically shown in the following that these uses of “wa” are basically of three sub-types; 1) a marker for syntactic emphasis, 2) a marker for predicative emphasis and 3) a marker for quantificational emphasis.

Let us commence our discussion by examining the first sub-type of emphatic “wa,” which is tentatively termed as a marker for syntactic emphasis here.

(1) a. Monogoto wa omou yoo ni wa ik-ana mono-da.
Things TOP wish in the manner EMPH go-NEG-just-be-PRES
Things would not JUST go as (one) wishes (them) to go.
b. Kanarazushimo kanemochi ga shiawase-da to wa
Always rich SUBJ happy-be that EMPH
say-POTEN-NEG-PRES
(One) JUST cannot say that the rich are always happy.
c. Ais-azu ni wa i-rare-na-i.
Love-NEG EMPH stop-POTEN-NEG-PRES
(1) cannot JUST stop loving (you).

As has already been seen above, the clauses and adverbial phrase are emphasized in these examples. To be more specific on this point, “omou
yoo ni (as (one) wishes them to go) in (1)a and "Kanarazushimo kanemochi ga shiawase-da to (that the rich are always happy) in (1)b, which are both clauses, are emphasized, and the adverbial phrase "ais-azu ni (without loving)" in (1)b is emphasized. This in turn gives rise to a further conjecture that this type of "wa" may appear marking other grammatical structures other than clauses and adverbial phrases. This is, in fact, borne out to be the case. Thus, the following examples illustrate some cases where "wa" appears within a part of a negative predicate construction. First, observe a case where the negative predicate is made up of a nominal. (Note that the capital letters in English translations in the examples (7) a-b below are pronounced with a high stress which are supposed to signify "emphasis" we are talking about.)

(7)a. Sore wa hon de-wo-arimasen.
That TOP book be-EMPH-NEG-PRES
That IS NOT A BOOK.

b. Sore wa hon de- arimasen.
That TOP book be- NEG-PRES
That is not a book.

Note that "wa" is inserted in between "hon de (is a book)" and "arimasen (a negative form of copulative verb) in (7)a. The difference between (7)a and (7)b may be due to the fact that the negated part of the predicate is emphasized to the effect that "hon de-wo-arimasen (IS NOT A BOOK)," becomes clear in (7)a, while such emphatic effect is not present in (7)b at all. That is, (7)b sounds more like a simple statement of a negative sentence.

The same line of argument holds true of other negative predicate constructions that are made up of adjectives as well. Thus, observe the following examples.
(8) a. Sore wa sonnani takaku-wa-arimasen.
That TOP not that expensive-EMPH-NEG-PRES
That IS NOT THAT EXPENSIVE.
b. Sore wa sonnani takaku-_arimasen.
That TOP not that expensive-_NEG-PRES
That is not that expensive.

Note that “wa” is inserted in between “takaku (expensive)” and “arimasen (a negative form of copulative verb)” in (8)a. It seems to be the case that the part of the negative predicate is emphasized to the effect that “sonnani takaku-wa-arimasen (IS NOT THAT EXPENSIVE)” becomes clear in (8)a. However, this effect of emphatic reading is not present in (8)b, which, once again, sounds more like a simple statement of a negative sentence.

Other related examples are those that are given below, where the negative predicate parts of verbs are emphasized by this use of “wa.”

(9) a. Ano otoko nara yakusoku wo wasure-wa-shina-i yo.
He WOULD NOT FORGET the promise, I am telling you.
b. Ano otoko nara yakusoku wo wasure-_na-i yo.
He would not forget the promise, I am telling you.

It is precisely for this reason that “wa” in the examples (1)a, (1)b, (7)a, (8)a and (9)a above is treated under the same sub-type of “wa”; namely, a marker for syntactic emphasis. It is “syntactic emphasis” because this “wa” optionally marks clauses and adverbial phrases, and some other times is inserted in between the predicate negative constructions that consist of nouns, adjectives and verbs, as we have just seen above.

Now, let us return to the examples in (2), which are repeated below.
It was shown at the outset of this section that the bold-faced “wa” in (2) has the function of emphasizing the repetition of action verbs. Thus, the action of the two verbs (“eat” and “sleep”) is repeated in (2)a and the action of the two verbs (“pray” and “spend”) is repeated in (2)b. In pretty much the same way, the action of the verb (“drink”) is repeated in (2)c. In all these examples, the sense of “repetition” is clearly felt with the presence of “wa.” However, if this “wa” is absent from these examples, the sense of “repetition” is considerably weakened in the examples in (2)a and (2)b.

As for the example in (2)c, the sense of “repetition” simply disappears. Even though the example in question may appear to have some minor problems, the fact that the sense of “repetition” is clearly felt with the presence of “wa” in all of the examples in (2) is obvious and undeniable for the native speakers of Japanese. As a consequence, it is concluded that “wa” of this sub-type is tentatively termed as a marker for predicative emphasis. It is “predicative emphasis” since “wa” connects two verb phrases and add an extra semantic effect to the verb phrases in the given
Finally, let us get back to the examples given in (3), which are, once again, repeated directly below.

(3) a. Sono hooseki wa hyakuman-en wa su-ru.
   That jewelry TOP million-en EMPH cost-PRES
   That jewelry costs AT LEAST a million yen.

b. Soko made wa ichi-jikan wa kakar-ana-i.
   There as far as TOP one hour EMPH take-NEG-PRES
   (It) dose not take LONGER THAN one hour to get (as far as) there.

c. Zenbu wa tabe-rare-na-i.
   All EMPH eat-POTEN-NEG-PRES
   (I) JUST cannot eat (it) ALL.

It was shown that “wa” that is attached to quantificational words changes its meaning considerably. That is, the presence of “wa” that marks quantificational words adds extra meanings to them. Thus, “wa” marking the quantificational word “hyaku-man-en (a million yen)” in (3)a changes its meaning in such a way that the new meaning “AT LEAST” emerges from the example that does not have this “wa.”

In (3)b, the new meaning, “LONGER THAN,” emerges from the example that does not have this “wa.”

Likewise, the meaning of “ALL,” which is clearly emphasized, emerges from the sentence that does not have this “wa” in (3)c.

One thing common across this sub-type of examples is the fact that “wa” marks quantificational words and adds extra meanings to them. As a natural consequence, it is concluded that “wa” in this sub-type of examples is tentatively termed as a marker for quantificational emphasis. It is “quantificational emphasis” since the quantificational words are emphasized to the effect that extra meanings emerge from these expressions with the presence of “wa.”

Now, we would like to extend our discussion to the particle “mo (also
or too)" in connection with this sub-type of "wa," namely a marker for quantificational emphasis, since its syntactic, semantic and pragmatic distributions are very similar to that of "wa" of emphasis. Thus, the particle "mo" is generally translated into English as "also" or "too" (or "even" in some other cases) in examples such as the following. 6)

(10) a. Tanaka-san mo paattii ni kimasu.
    Mr. also party to come-PRES
    Mr. Tanaka (will) also come to the party.

b. Tanaka-san wa paattii ni tomodachi mo tsureteki-ta.
    Mr. TOP party to friend also bring-PAST
    Mr. Tanaka brought his friend also to the party.

c. Tanaka-'san wa Mary ni mo purezento wo okut-ta.
    Mr. TOP to also present OBJ give-PAST
    Mr. Tanaka gave a present to Mary also.

Note that "mo" marks the subject phrase in (10)a, the direct object phrase in (10)b and the indirect object phrase in (10)c, and is translated as "also" in each case in English. However, the meaning of "mo" changes considerably when "mo" marks quantificational words. Thus, observe the following examples.

(11) a. Sana hooseki wa hyaku-man-en mo sur-u.
    That jewelry TOP a million yen as much as cost-PRES
    That jewelry costs as much as a million yen.

b. Soko made san-jikan mo kakar-u.
    There as far as three-hours all of take-PRES
    It takes all of three hours to get there.

In (11)a, the quantificational word "hyaku-man-en (a million yen)" is marked by this "mo" and is translated as "as much as a million yen." The
sentence appears to have some kind of presupposition and implies that the speaker is expressing his surprise as to how expensive that jewelry is and is providing the inclusive highest limit of expense for that jewelry. It is in this sense that the use of “mo” that marks quantificational words is considered to be very similar to the “wa” of quantificational emphasis we have been examining.

The same story holds true of the example in (11)b. That is, the quantificational word “sanji-kan (three hours)” is marked by this “mo” and is translated “as long as three hours,” where the sentence implies that the speaker is expressing his surprise as to how long it takes to get to the final destination; it would indeed take “all of three hours.” The speaker is providing the inclusive longest time limit for getting to the final destination.

Thus, “wa” of emphasis along with the distribution of “mo” can presumably be treated in a similar fashion. That is, both uses exhibit some kind of emphatic effects syntactically, semantically and pragmatically when marking the quantificational words in the given sentences.

3. Concluding Remarks

In this paper, it was shown that the argument presented in Takano (2003a and 2003b) is basically correct and that there are basically three sub-types of emphatic “wa.” These three sub-types of “wa” include 1) a marker for syntactic emphasis, 2) a marker for predicative emphasis and 3) a marker for quantificational emphasis. They are tentatively so termed according to the nature of syntactic, semantic and pragmatic distributions of this word.

As for the first sub-type, namely, a marker for syntactic emphasis, it is tentatively so termed since various types of grammatical constructions including clauses, adverial phrases and negative predicate constructions are emphasized by this “wa.” A serious question, however, arises as to what could be a clear distinction between this marker for syntactic emphasis and other functions of “wa” presented as a working hypothesis in Takano (2003a and 2003b) including “wa” of topic, “wa” of contrast and “wa” of
generic. At this point, I do not have any clear answer to this question and simply conjecture that the basic function of "wa" may be "emphasis," which is presumably sub-grouped into these four distinctive functions, i.e., "wa" of topic, "wa" of contrast, "wa" of generic and "wa" of emphasis. This conjecture, however, is too premature to construct fruitful arguments at this point in time, but undoubtedly very interesting and attractive one since all of the four distinctive functions signify some kind of "emphasis" syntactically, semantically and pragmatically. But I must leave this very interesting and attractive conjecture for future research.

As for a marker for predicative emphasis, I would say that the key concept is the word "repetition," (repetition of action verbs), since the meaning of "repetition" becomes crystal clear due to the presence of this use of "wa."

As for a marker for quantificational emphasis, "wa" adds extra meanings to the quantificational words (along with the syntactic meanings) and creates some kind of presupposition to the given sentences.

As for "wa" of emphasis and the particle "mo," they exhibit similar syntactic, semantic and pragmatic distributions. That is, both "wa" and "mo" mark similar grammatical structures in given sentences, are inserted in similar grammatical constructions and exhibit pragmatic effects when marking quantificational words just as exemplified in the foregoing discussion.

The result of present examination, however, must wait for justifiable judgments by other linguists.

Notes
1) The same line of argument that the particle "wa" in Japanese ought to be sub-classified into four distinctive types of functions (along with some important conditions imposed on them) was orally reported from a viewpoint of teaching Japanese as a foreign language at the Second Conference of Japanese Language Education in June 2004, which was held at the University of Nagasaki. See the brief outline of this talk.
that also appeared in the volume number 123 of the "Journal of Japanese Language Teaching" issued in October 2004.

2) The main reason why I cited this example from Maeda (2000) is that the repetition of the action "sake wo nonde (having sake)" becomes clear with the presence of "wa," while there is no sense of repetition felt with the action verb "sake wo nonde (having sake)" without the presence of "wa." Thus, observe the sharp contrast between the two examples below.

(i) a. Otoko wa sake wo nonde wa tsuma ni booryoku wo
   Man TOP sake OBJ drink EMPH wife to violence OBJ
   furut-ta.
   use-PAST
   The man used violence on his wife EACH TIME AFTER he had drinks.
   b. Otoko wa sake wo nonde _ tsuma ni booryoku wo
   Man TOP sake OBJ drink wife to violence OBJ
   furut-ta.
   use-PAST
   The man had drinks and used violence on his wife.

More will be said about this particular point later.

3) It should be noted that the sentence without "wa" is ambiguous between the two readings. The ambiguity is expressed in the following fashion.

(i) Zenbu tabe-rare-na-i.
   All eat-POTEN-NEG-PRES
   a. (I) cannot eat ALL (of the food but I can eat some).
   b. (I) cannot eat ALL (of the food) at all.

The sentence with "wa" marking "zenbu" in (i)a implies that the
speaker of this sentence feels that he cannot eat all of the food but he may be able to eat some of it (80 per cent, 70 per cent, or 50 per cent). However, (ib) signifies that the speaker feels that he cannot eat the food at all. In the latter case, the word “zenbu” is pronounced with a high accent (or stress) on it in the discourse contexts. Note that this type of ambiguity can be observed in English quantificational words also. (See May (1977) for such types of examples.) However, this particular problem is beyond the scope of our inquiry and we simply hope to work on this particular problem in the future.

It should also be noted here that the quantificational word “zenbu (all)” is somehow different from other quantificational words in this sub-type of quantificational emphasis in that “zenbu (all)” does not exactly behave much like other quantificational words semantically and pragmatically as the reader might have already recognized. However, this particular problem will not be pursued any further in this paper and I will leave it open for future research.

4) “Wa” in the examples (7)a and (9)a can be contracted as the following examples show.

(i). Sore wa hon ja-arimasen.
That TOP book be-EMPH-NEG-PRES
That ISN’T A BOOK.

(ii). Ano otoko nara yakusoku wo wasure-ya-shina-i yo.
That man TOP promise OBJ forget-EMPH-NEG-PRES
you know
He WOULDN’T FORGET the promise, I am telling you.

In (i), “wa” is contracted to the previous word “de (the gerund form of the copulative verb)” and is turned into “ja.” In (ii), “wa” simply becomes “ya” in this environment. Both examples are likely to be uttered in casual discourse contexts. See Takano (2000a and 2000b) for a more detailed
discussion on the contracted forms of Japanese.

5) It can be safely concluded from the foregoing discussion that there may be two types of examples with this "wa" of predicative emphasis. One such type would be the ones that always show the repetition of action verbs with or without the presence of "wa," which includes examples such as (2)a and (2)b. And the other type would be the ones that include examples such as (2)c, where there is no sense of repetition associated with the action verb without the presence of "wa." However, this particular problem will not be pursued any further in the present paper and I simply leave it open for future research.

6) There seem to exist several different types of functions associated with the particle "mo," other than the function shown in the examples in (10) in the main text. Thus, observe the following examples.

(i) a. White-san **mo** muzukashii kanji ga wakar-imasu.
   Mr. also difficult kanji OBJ understand-PRES
   Mr. White also understands difficult kanji.

   b. John wa kanji wo ni-sen **mo** shitte-i-ru.
   TOP kanji OBJ .two-thousand as many as know- PROG -PRES
   John knows as many as two-thousand kanji.

   c. Katoo-san wa nani- **mo** tabe-masen-deshita.
   Mr. TOP anything eat- NEG- PRES
   Mr. kato did not eat anything.

   d. Kare wa gakkoo ni iki **mo** shi-masen.
   He TOP school to go even do- NEG- PRES
   He does not even go to school.

   The noun (phrase) "White-san (Mr. White)" is marked by "mo (also)" in (i)a. This type of "mo" is provided in the examples in (10) in the main
discussion, where “mo” is attached to the subject, direct and indirect object phrases.

In (i)b, the quantificational word “ni-sen (two thousand)” is marked by “mo” and is translated as “as many as two-thousand kanji.” Note that this type of “mo” is very similar to the sub-type of “wa” which is termed as a marker for quantificational emphasis. It is indeed similar since “mo” changes its meaning from “also” to “as many as” and adds an extra presupposition to the quantificational word.

In (i)c, the wh-word “nani (what)” is marked by “mo,” forming a new word “nani-mo (anything),” which co-occurs with negative expressions in Japanese just as the example in (i)c shows. In connection with this, other wh-words marked by “mo” which co-occur with negative expressions include “dare-mo (none or nobody),” “doko-(e)mo (anywhere or nowhere),” “ikura-mo (much)” and “doo-(ni)mo (however).” “Itsu-mo (whenever or always),” “dore-mo (anyone or either one),” and “dochira-mo (whichever or neither one)” co-occur with either affirmative expressions or negative expressions.

In (i)d, “mo” is inserted in between the verb “iki (to go)” and “shi-masen (do not).” This use of “mo” reminds us of “wa” of syntactic emphasis observed above. It is indeed similar to “wa” of syntactic emphasis since it appears in between negative predicate constructions.

Thus, “wa” of emphasis and the particle “mo” behave very much alike syntactically, semantically and pragmatically. (See also Kuroda (1969 and 1971) for a similar idea of the above observation.)

**List of Abbreviations**

- EMPH = Emphatic (marker[wa])
- GEN = Genitive (case marker[no])
- NEG = Negative (form)
- OBJ = Object (marker[wo])
- PAST = Past (form)
- POTEN = Potential (form)
PRES = Present (form)
PROG = Progressive (form)
SUBJ = Subject (marker [ga])
TOP = Topic (marker [wa])

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