Abstract

In linguistics as well as metaphysics, events feature a range of similarities with objects; both are regarded as concrete and irreducible entities which can be spatio-temporally located (Davidson 1967 among others). However, it has also been noted that events are different from objects with respect to their relations to time; an event has different temporal parts/stages, while an object is present through time as a whole (Mellor 1980). This paper offers a linguistic argument for this view by analyzing three constructions which involve a nominalizer koto. In one context, the IP-koto construction refers to facts. In the other context, it refers to a set of event properties defined in terms of an event sublimation. When the NP-no-koto construction behaves as an anaphoric expression, it can only refer to the former, i.e., the IP-koto as facts. This result represents linguistic evidence for temporality of events and a-temporality of objects and facts.