Conditional Sentences in Japanese and English: A Contrastive Study

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ABSTRACT

This research explores the differences in presupposition patterns in terms of conditions and usage similarities between Japanese and English. This paper uses comparative analysis, and the results show that there are some similarities and differences between Japanese and English conditional sentences. First, conditional clauses exist in both conditional Japanese and English sentences and these clauses have two parts: the 'if-clause' as the situation and the 'main-clause' as the result. Second, conditional sentences in both languages have similarities in that they express the possibilities and suppositions of the speakers. Third, conditional sentences in Japanese comprise と (-to), ば (-ba), なら (-nara), and たら (-tara) sentences. Fourth, there are three types of conditional sentences in English, namely the conditional that is true in the present/future tense, untrue in the present/future tense, and untrue in the past tense. Fifth, the conditional sentence in Japanese using -to, -ba, -tara, and -nara can all be used inherently in the predicate of the clause.

Keywords: English, Japanese, conditional sentence, contrastive analysis

INTRODUCTION

Language is a unique feature of humans, differing one from another yet with similarities. Standard Japanese and English, for example, are different but alike. Momani & Alteher (2015) explain that Semitic and German languages originally differed from one another but they share at least generally some linguistic features at all levels: phonological, morphological, syntactic, semantic, and pragmatics. These fields are known as contrastive. This paper aims to explore how Japanese conditional forms differ from each other, and how these affect Indonesian students who majored in Japanese literature and who must understand and compare forms of conditional sentences in Japanese and English. Therefore, this researcher took conditional sentences in Japanese and found the similarities and contrasts with conditional sentences in English. The researcher chose the conditional sentence as research material because observations show that when the learning process in *bunpo* (grammar in English), students still find it difficult to understand the various forms of conditional phrases. Students are hesitant to distinguish the types of conditional sentences whether in Japanese or in English because the two languages have different patterns in the writing the conditional sentence form.

Sutedi & Susi (2016) said that Japanese conditional sentences (*jouken hyougen*) is considered to be one of the most difficult topics (specially in grammar/*bunpou*) for someone learning Japanese, including foreigners learning the language such as those in Indonesia. One of the reasons why the use of Japanese prescription patterns is quite difficult because it is difficult to distinguish the use of each pattern which is almost similar in terms of conditions, even the frequent exchanges of functions. In English, you normally can use the pair of words 'if-then' for almost all conditional sentences (e.g. *If* something happens, *then* another thing happens.). As Abbas (2012) wrote, a conditional clause is a type of adverbial phrase. The event described in the

main clause depends on the condition described in the conditional clause (e.g.: If it rains, we will get wet.). In Japanese, however, you need to change to a different conditional form depending on the situation.

Japanese conditional forms include と (-*to*), ば (-*ba*), なら (-*nara*), and たら (-*tara*) sentences. Although they are different, they all translate to 'if' in English. Conditionals are occasionally examined within the area of tenses or under modals. They are not a simple part of grammar for students to master even though 'if' is the most overt conditional marker.

Many researchers have noted this obstacle in second language acquisition. Moreover, Bloom et al. (1980) and O'Grady (1997) investigated the acquisition of the 'if-conditional' and indicated the slow process of acquiring the 'if-clause'. Al Rdaat (2017) said conditionals are thought to be difficult for non-native speakers because their acquisition actually is complicated. The significant issues pertaining to conditional sentences involve four angles: forms, meanings, time-tense linkages, and simplified interpretations (Covitt 1976). Although the challenges and problems of conditionals come from the interactions of meaning (temporal and hypothetical situations) and form (verb form), it is very important to discuss their relationships and how they consistently arise in conditional sentences (Al Rdaat 2017).

The conditional sentence is a kind of compound sentence that has an important role in both Japanese and English. In accordance with the target of the research problem, the similarities and differences between the two languages will be analyzed. Moreover, the two languages are not cognate. So, there will be differences in their grammatical systems. The two languages will be compared using a contrastive analysis. This paper consists of an introduction and some other sections, namely the methodology and discussion, and conclusions. This paper will present conditional sentences in English, conditional sentences in Japanese, a comparison of conditional sentences in Japanese and English, and finally some conclusions.

This contrastive analysis will explore the similarities and differences between the two languages. In the light of such a comparison, the linguistic problems of the Indonesia speakers learning Japanese and English may be solved. In other words, through this comparison, lecturers will be more acquainted with the structures of the two languages in question and the areas of difficulties at the level of conditional sentences. The focus on this analysis is confined to conditional sentence in both languages. The output of this paper, however, should be of practical use for lecturers and learners of English and Japanese as a second language. It also should be helpful in the preparation of the textbooks to resolve the difficulties learners face at the level of conditional sentence and to resolve the problem of mother tongue interference.

METHODOLOGY The data of this research were analyzed and described through the contrastive analysis method, which will make it easier for students to differentiate formulas of a conditional sentence from these two languages. The concept of contrastive analysis was first introduced by Charles Fries in (1952) and fully described by Robert Lado (1957). According to Charles Fries (1945) and Robert Lado (1957), the mistakes made by students in using presupposition patterns are caused by differences grammar between the first language (mother tongue) and the second language (foreign language). Meanwhile, the ease of learning a second language is due to the fact that the similarities between the elements that exist in both language. Salim (2013) said the contrastive analysis is a systematic branch of applied linguistics that deals with the linguistic

description of the structure of two or more languages. Such descriptive comparison serves to show how languages differ in their sound systems, grammatical structures, and vocabularies. This type of analysis can be used in teaching language to point out the areas where the similarities and contrasts between the two languages are present. In the contrastive analysis, we study the structures of two languages from different families (i.e. the source language and the target language) to determine the points where they differ. These differences are the chief source of difficulties in learning a second language.

CONDITIONAL SENTENCES IN ENGLISH

In English language, conditional sentences are used to show that the action in the main clauses (without 'if') can take place only when a certain condition (in the clause with 'if') is fulfilled, for example, 'If I study hard, I will pass the examination'. Basically, a conditional sentence has two parts: 'if-clause' and 'main clause' as in the following.

If we burn paper, it becomes ash.

In the sentence above, 'If we burn paper' is the if-clause and 'it becomes ash' is the main clause (*Belajar Grammar* 2020).

A conditional clause is a type of adverbial phrase. The event described in the main clause depends on the condition described in the conditional clause (Martinet & Thomson 1986). The examples can be seen below.

If it rains, we will get wet.

'If it rains' is the conditional clause, and 'we will get wet' is the main clause.

The door opens if you press this button.

'The door opens' is the main clause, and 'if you press this button' is the conditional clause.

Verb Tenses in Conditional Sentences

We can employ different verb forms in English conditional sentences. According to their tenses, conditional sentences can be classified into various types based on the degrees of possibility implied by each conditional.

Indicating true/untrue events in the present/future

In conditional sentences, different verb tenses may indicate true or untrue events in the present or future time. The followings are various verb tenses used in conditional sentences that imply different meanings.

When the meaning of if-clause is true in the present/future time, the verb form in if-clause is present simple, whereas the one in result clause can be either present simple or simple future as the following examples.

If I *have* enough time, I *write* to my parents every week.
If I *have* enough time tomorrow, I *will write* to my parents.

Both sentences means that when the speaker (I) is in a true condition of having adequate time, he/she really writes to his/her parents.

On the other hand, when if-clause represents an untrue event in the present/future, the verb form in the clause will be in past simple. It is different from the one in result clause whose verbal structure is 'would+simple form'. The example can be seen below.

If I *had* enough time now, I *would write* to my parents.

The sentence indicates the reality that the speaker currently does not have enough time. Therefore, he/she actually does not write to his/her parents.

The third one is when the if-clause shows something untrue in the past. In this type of conditional sentence, the verb form in the clause must be in past

perfect tense, whereas the verbal structure in result clause will be 'would have+past participle'. It can be exemplified as follow.

If I *had had* enough time, I *would have written* to my parents yesterday.

The truth is that the speaker did not have enough time sometime in the past, so he/she did not write to his/her parents the day before.

Indicating true events in the present/future

The followings are some examples of conditional sentences indicating true events in the present or future time.

If I *don't eat* breakfast, I always *get hungry* during class.

In the sentence above, present simple 'get' is used in the result clause to express a habitual activity or situation. Meanwhile, in the following conditional, either the present simple or future simple can be used in the result clause to express an established or predictable fact.

Water *freezes* if the temperature goes below 32°F/0°C.
Water *will freeze* if the temperature goes below 32°F/0°C.

On the other hand, future simple tense is used in the result clause when the sentence concerns a particular activity or situation in the future, such in the sentences below.

If I *don't eat* breakfast tomorrow morning, I *will get hungry* during class.
If *the weather is nice* tomorrow, we *will go* on a picnic.

In this type of conditional, however, the present simple, and not the future simple, is used in the if-clause.

Indicating untrue event (contrary to reality) in the present/future

A conditional sentence in English may reflect an untrue situation in the present or future which is contrary to the reality as the following examples.

If I taught this class, I *wouldn't give* tests.
If they were here right now, he *would help* us.
If I were you, I *would accept* their invitation.

In each of the sentences above, the reality is in contrast with the one in the if-clause. It means that the speaker does not teach the class, they are not there at the moment, and the speaker is actually not his/her speech partner.

In this type of conditional sentences 'were' and 'are' used for both singular and plural subjects. However 'was' (with 'I', 'he', 'she', 'it') sometimes is used in a very informal speech but generally, is not considered grammatically acceptable.

Indicating untrue event (contrary to reality) in the past

Aside in the present or future, the untrue situation contrary to the reality indicated by a conditional sentence can be in past tense. The examples can be observed below.

If you *had told* me about the problem, I *would have helped* you.
(In truth, he/she did not tell about the problem and the speaker did not help him/her)
If they *had studied*, they would *have passed* the exam.
(In truth, they did not study and have failed the exam)
If I *hadn't slipped* on the ice, I *wouldn't have broken* my arm.
(In truth, the speaker slipped on the ice and broke his/her arm)

In speech form, the auxiliary verbs are almost always contracted as in 'If *you'd* told me, I *would've* helped you', or, *I'd've* helped you.

The Use of Progressive Verbs

Even in conditional sentences, progressive verb forms are sometimes used, particularly, in ongoing situations when the events are still happening at the time the utterance spoken. Here some comparison between the true situations and their conditional forms (T: true, C: conditional).

T : It *is raining* right now, so I *will not go* for a walk.
C : If it *were not raining* right now, I *would go* for a walk

T : I *am not living* in Chile. I *am not working* at a bank.
C : If I *were living* in Chile, I *would be working* at a bank.

T : It *was raining* yesterday afternoon, so I *did not go* for a walk.
C : If *it had not been raining*, I *would have gone* for a week.

T : I *was not living* in Chile last year. I *was not working* at a bank.
C : If I *had been living* in Chile last year, I *would have been working* at a bank.

The Use of Two Different Times

Occasionally, the time in the if-clause and time in the result clause of a conditional sentence are different. One clause may be in present tense and the other is in the past. Past and present times are mixed in the following examples.

T : I did not eat breakfast *several hours ago* (past), so I am hungry *now* (present).
C : If I had eaten breakfast *several hours ago*, I would not be hungry *now*.

T : He *is* not a good student (present). He did not study for the test *yesterday* (past).
C : If he *were* a good student, he would have studied for the test *yesterday*.

The Use of Could, Might, and Should

Modals verbs such as 'could', 'might', and 'should' are often used in certain types of conditional sentences which imply various meanings as exemplified below.

If I were a bird, I *could fly* home.
If I *could sing* as well as you, I would join the opera.
If I'd had enough money, I *could have gone* to Florida for vocation.

Modal *could* basically means *be able* in past form. Therefore, in the sentences above, 'could fly'' means'would be able to fly', 'could sing' means 'were able to sing' and 'could have gone' means 'would have been able to go' respectively.

Meanwhile, in the following examples, the modal 'might' equals to the expression with 'may be ...'

If I don't get a scholarship, I *might get* a job instead of going to graduate school next fall.
If you were a better student, you *might get* better grades.
If you had told me about your problem, I *might have been* able to help you.

Therefore, 'might get' in the first sentence above can be substituted with 'maybe ... will get', almost similar to the one in the second sentence which is equal to 'maybe ... would get'. Meanwhile, 'might have been' construction in the third sentence is parallel to 'maybe ... would have been'.

On the other hand, modal 'should' in conditional sentences indicates high uncertainty or doubt about what will happen in the future. The examples can be seen below.

If John *should call*, tell him I'll be back around five.
If there *should be* another world war, the continued existence of the human race would be in jeopardy.

In the first example, the verb 'should call' indicates a little more uncertainty or doubt than John will call. Similarly, in the second example the phrase 'should be' has less certainty or shows more doubtful of the occurrence of another world war rather than if the auxiliary verb 'were' is used in the sentence.

Conditionals without 'if'

The word 'if' can sometimes be omitted from the structure of conditional sentences by inversing the position of the subject and the auxiliary verb as the following examples.

Were I you, I wouldn't do that.
Had I known, I would have told you.
Should anyone call, please take a message.

The three sentences above are the structural variants of 'If I were you ...', 'If I had known ...', and 'If anyone should call ...' respectively. Therefore, the meanings of both forms remain the same.

CONDITIONAL SENTENCES IN JAPANESE

In English, it is common to use the pair of words 'if-then' for almost all conditional sentences that means '*If* something happens, *then* something else happens.' In Japanese, however, it is often necessary to change to different conditional forms depending on the situation. These Japanese conditional forms include と (-*to*), ば (-*ba*), なら (-*nara*), and たら (-*tara*) sentences. They are different to each other but all can be translated into 'if' in English.

Conditionals Sentences -to

The conditional -*to* is used to declare a definite supposition if something else happens. To make such a sentence, と (-*to*) should be added after a verb, adjective -*i*, or negative form word. だ (-*da*) must also be added to the noun and adjective -*na*. The examples can be seen below.

*Takusan taberu**to** futoru yo.*
(If you eat a lot more, you will be fat)
*Sensei da**to** kitto toshiue nanjanai desu ka.*
(If he is a teacher, certainly older?)

The followings are examples of how to convert the verb form into the -*to* form (verb+*to*).

kau	kau**to**	If (subject) buy
matsu	matsu**to**	If (subject) wait
hanasu	hanasu**to**	If (subject) talk
taberu	taberu**to**	If (subject) eat
miru	miru**to**	If (subject) see
suru	suru**to**	If (subject) done

The conditional -*to* is rarely used in a negative form and if the '~ と' pattern is used, the sentences in the main clause cannot be in the form of commands, past tenses, wishes and others.

Conditional Sentences -ba

The conditional sentences -*ba* are used to indicate actions, conditions, or circumstances that will occur or become reality when the conditions are met. The formula of use is to change the suffix of the verb from *u* to *e* and then to add *ba*. The followings are some examples of the change.

a**u**	a**eba**	If (subject) met
i**u**	i**eba**	If (subject) talk
ka**u**	ka**eba**	If (subject) buy
mats**u**	mat**eba**	If (subject) wait

furu   *fureba*   If (subject) rain

For the adjective-*i* as well as the negative form of the verb and adjective, the verb ending is changed from *u* to *wana* and then *kereba* is added. Following are examples of this change for a negative conditional form.

au   a**wanakereba**   If (subject) not met
kau   ka**wanakereba**   If (subject) not buy
motsu   mot**anakereba**   If (subject) not have
iku   **ik**anakereba   If (subject) not go

Here are some examples of sentences that use the conditional -*ba*.

*Kimi ga gakkou ni ike**ba** watashi mo iku.*
(If you go to school, I also go.)
*Heya ga kurakere**ba** denki o tsukete kudasai.*
(If the room is dark, please turn on the lights.)

Conditional Sentences -*tara*

Particle -*tara* is used for conditional sentences in the case something will occur when a certain condition is met. It is almost the same with supposing except that the if-clause is more focused on the presupposition while the main clause is more focused on the result. The examples can be seen below.

*Hima dat**tara** asobi ni iku yo.*
(If I have free time, I will go play)
*Gakusei dat**tara,** gakusei waribiki de kaemasu.*
(If you are a student, you can buy it with student discount)

Conditional Sentences -*nara*

Conditional form ended with -*nara* functions more as the presupposition of suggestion or notification. Its formation is quite simple by adding suffix -*nara* that indicates a more polite expression.

kau   kau**nara**   If (subject) buy
motsu   motsu**nara**   If (subject) have
iku   iku**nara**   If (subject) go
hanasu   hanasu**nara**   If (subject) talk
taberu   taberu**nara**   If (subject) eat
miru   miru**nara**   If (subject) see

This conditional form in the past is -*tanara* that means 'If it has'. To use this form, the verb ending must be changed from *u* to *ta+nara*. The following are some examples.

kau   kat**tanara**   If (has) bought
motsu   mot**tanara**   If (has) had
iku   it**tanara**   If (has) gone
hanasu   hanashi**tanara**   If (has) spoken
taberu   tabel**anara**   If (has) eaten
miru   mi**tanara**   If (has) seen

The applications of the type of conditionals can be observed below.

*Suki**nara**ba suki da to iou.*
(If you like, say like)
*Hanaya**nara** asoko ni arimasu.*
(If the florist is there)

THE COMPARISON OF CONDITIONAL SENTENCES IN JAPANESE AND ENGLISH

Table 1 show some characteristics of conditional sentences in Japanese. From the examples, we can see how the conditional works in the language. In Japanese, conditional sentences are expressed using four forms of verbs that

are dictionary-form verbs to which changes are made, namely: adding *-to* for the present tense (V-*to*), adding *-ba* for the future tense (V-*ba*), changing the verb to past tense *-ta* and adding *-ra* (V-*tara*), and the adding *-nara* for the present tense (V-*nara*). Each of these forms have its own characteristics.

Table 1: Conditional Sentences in Japanese

Sentence	Time	Meaning	Formula
*Kimi ga gakkou ni ike**ba** watashi mo iku.* (if you go to school, I will go too)	Future	A condition or circumstance that will occur or become a reality	Change the verb ending with *u* to *e* and then add -*ba*
*Ie ni kaet**tara**, nimotsu ga todokimashita .* (If I got home, my luggage arrived)	Future	Used for the condition that will occur but focuses more on the if-clause	Change the verb into past tense and then add -*ra*
*Eigo wo hanashite iru**nara**, Tanaka san ni wakaranai deshou.* (If you speaking in english, Mr. Tanaka will not understanding it)	Present	Gives more of a function to the if-clause of suggestion or notification	Add -*nara*
*Kono botan wo osu**to** , kippu ga demasu.* (If you press this button, you will get a ticket)	Present	Used to declare a definite supposition if something else happens	Add -*to* after the verb or adjective ending for an -*i* or negative form.

In the first example, the conditional sentence in Japanese uses the particle -*ba* to tell of a condition or circumstance that will occur or become a reality in the future. The conditional form uses the if-clause as an action and the result clause as an action. To make it a conditional sentence, you change the verb ending with a *u* to an *e* and then add -*ba*. This Japanese conditional form is the same as the first conditional form in English (Al Rdaat 2017). This conditional is used to express the very likely and real possibility, either in the present or in the future, of a specific situation occurring. The modals 'can', 'may', and 'should' can be used in this type (Declerck & Reed, 2001). But the differences between its use in Japanese and English 'if-clause' is a condition and the result clause is an action. In Japanese, the conditional sentence is formed only when the particle after the verb ending with *u* becomes an *e* followed by -*ba*. In English, the conditional is formed using the formula of (If + present simple tense + present simple tense).

In the second example, the use of the particle -*tara* also means that something is likely to happen in the future but is more focused on the if-clause. This is almost the same as the zero conditional in English, where the conditional is used to make statements about the real world and often refers to general truths such as scientific facts. Another similarity is that these forms explain both the if-clause and the result clause as conditions. The differences are that in the Japanese conditional sentence, one only adds the particle -*ra* to the end of the verb after the verb is changed to past tense. In English, the

conditional is formed using the formula (If + present simple tense + present future tense).

In the third example, particle -*nara* is used in the if-clause to emphasize a suggestion or notification, while in the fourth example of the Japanese conditional form, the use of the particle -*to* indicates a declaration of a definite supposition if something else happens. These two types of Japanese conditional sentences have no parallel to the use of conditional sentences in English. In English, there is a form of conditional sentence that describes an impossibility in the future or in the past, created by combining either the past simple tense and future tense or the past perfect tense and future perfect tense, respectively.

The characteristics of Japanese conditional sentences above can be compared and contrasted with that of English as seen in *Table 2* to see their similarities and differences. Basically, in English, there are four types of conditional sentences, namely zero conditional, first conditional, second conditional, and third conditional.

Table 2: Conditional Sentences in English

Sentence	Time	Meaning	Formula
If you mix red and blue , you get purple.	Present	Used to make statements about the real world and often refers to general truths, such as scientific facts	Combine 'if' and the present simple tense, plus the present simple tense (zero conditional)
If I have enough money, I will go to Japan	Future	Used when something most likely can be fulfilled/happen	Combine 'if' and the present simple tense plus 'will' plus the base verb (first conditional)
If I were you, I would not do something like that.	Future	Used to describe an impossibility in the future	Combine 'if' and the past simple tense plus "would" and base verb (second conditional)
If you had remembered to invite me, I would have attended your party.	Past	Used to describe an impossibility in the past	Combine 'if' and the past perfect tense plus 'would have' and the past participle (third conditional).

To sum up, conditional sentences in both Japanese and English are made up of two clauses, namely an if-clause and a result clause. The former acts as the subordinate clause or protasis that represents a condition or apodosis, whereas the latter is a proposition (Teschner & Evans, 2007; Fintel 2009 in Al Rdaat 2017). The essential point of conditional sentences is that the action in the result clause can happen if the specific situation in the if-clause is fulfilled. English conditionals predominantly convey the logical meaning 'if p, then q'

and implement different expressions, for instance, reasoning and imagining correlations (Traugott et al. 1986).

In Japanese, conditional sentences are marked with the particles -*to*, -*ba*, -*nara*, or -*tara* at the end of the verbs. On the other hand, English uses a formula to make the conditional sentence based on the types of conditionals, namely zero, first, second, and third.

The Prototypes of Conditional Sentences in Japanese and English

Table 3 shows the basic forms of conditional sentences in Japanese and English. As revealed, many of the conditional sentences can replace another in both Japanese and English. Based on Nakagawa (2005), conditional sentences can be divided into three prototypes: causal, temporal, and hypothetical.

Table 3: The Prototypes of Conditional Sentences in Japanese and English

Characteristic	Type of Conditionals	
	Japanese	**English**
Causal	-*ba, -to*	zero, first
Temporal	-*tara, -to*	first
Hypothetical	-*ba, -to, -tara, -nara*	zero, first, second

Causal conditionals

The causal conditional is one in which the speaker believes that the second clause (C2) is a fact and that whenever it occurs, the first clause (C1) would occur repeatedly, as shown below.

Haru ga kureru to (C1), *hana ga saku* (C2).
(If spring comes the flowers will bloom)
If you heat ice (C1), it melts (C2).
(Nakagawa, 2005).

In the sentence *Haru ga kureru to*, *hana ga saku* above, the particle used is -*to*. This indicates that the result of the if-clause is a fact. This is the same with the next sentences in English, 'If spring comes, the flowers will bloom' which uses the formula of the simple present or future tense to indicate a fact.

Based on Nakagawa (2005), in Japanese, both -*ba* and -*to* can be used to denote causal meaning. These two particles, however, have different nuances as explained by Matsushita (in Nakagawa, 2005). Particle -*ba* expresses the causal meaning of C2 and C1 on logical reasoning. In the Japanese expression, the speaker focuses on the actual causal relation of C2 and C1 rather than the time, whereas the one in English uses the present simple tense which has the meaning of cause and effect.

Temporal conditionals

Temporal conditional means that at the moment of utterance, the speaker believes that C2 is true or C1 will be realized, as shown in the following example.

Eki ni tsuitara (C1), *denwa o shite kudasai* (C2).
(If you arrive at the station, please call me)
If you study hard every day (C1), you will pass the exam easily (C2).
(Nakagawa, 2005)

Nakagawa (2005) states that in Japanese, particle -*tara* has been treated as a conditional expression that shows a high degree of subjectivity. However, Akatsuka (in Nakagawa, 2005) cites that *tara* also expresses a temporal meaning. The sentence *Eki ni tsuitara*, *denwa o shite kudasai* above is temporal in meaning. Here, the speaker believes that the occurrence c2 will be

realized in the near future. In English conditional 'If you study hard every day, you will pass the exam easily', the speaker believes that S2 will be realized.

Hypothetical conditionals

Nakagawa (2005) states that hypothetical condition means the speaker knows that it is possible for C2 to be realized or, inversely, he/she knows that it is impossible that it would be realized. The following examples are from Nakagawa (2005).

Jikan ga attara (C1)*, sentorea kuukoo e kengaku ni ikitai desu ne* (C2)*.*
(If I have time [C1], I would like to go to see Centrair Airport [C2])

In the sentence *Jikan ga attara, sentorea kuukoo e kengaku ni ikitai desu ne*, the speaker knows that C2 is impossible to be realized. Unreal conditionals are also divided into two major types, namely counterfactual and hypothetical (Yule 1998; Cowan 2008; Wu 2012). The result of the hypothetical (as opposed to factual) construction consists of conditional verb forms that contain the word 'would' (or might, could, should) and the basic form of a verb or previously with 'have' past participle. *Table 4* presents how to construct a conditional sentence in Japanese.

Table 4: The Constructions of Conditional Sentences in Japanese

Particle	C1	C2	Meaning
-to	Action	Condition	Used to declare a definite supposition if something else happens.
-ba	Action	Action	Used to express a condition or circumstance that will occur/become a reality
-nara	Action	Condition	More a function of the if-clause for a suggestion or notification
-tara	Condition	Condition	Used for the conditional that will occur but more focused on the if-clause

As a comparison, the constructions of conditional sentences in English can be observed in *Table 5*.

Table 5: The Constructions of Conditional Sentences in English

Structure	C1	C2	Meaning
if+present simple+ present simple (zero conditional)	Condition	Condition	Used to make statements about the real world and often refers to general truths
if+present simple+will+ base verb (first conditional)	Condition	Action	Most likely can be fulfilled/happen
if+past simple+would+ base verb (second conditional)	Condition	Condition	Impossible to happen in the future
if+past perfect tense+ would have+past participle (third conditional)	Condition	Action	Impossible to happen in the past

In the conditional pattern, action is defined as an action taken as the cause of a condition or as a result of a condition, whereas conditions are conditions that arise after an action is performed or can be the cause of an action.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the descriptions above, it can be concluded that the similarities and differences of conditional sentences in Japanese and English are as follows:

1. Both conditional Japanese and English have conditional clauses with two parts: the if-clause as a situation and the main clause as the result.
2. The similarities between conditional sentences in Japanese and English are that the sentence expresses a possibility, conjecture, or personal opinion of the speaker.
3. Conditional sentences in Japanese have forms including と (-*to*), ば (-*ba*), なら (-*nara*) and たら (-*tara*) sentences.
4. Conditional sentences in English have three types, namely: the condition that is true in the present or future; the condition that is not true in the present or future; and the condition that is not true in the past.
5. The conditional sentence form in Japanese of と (-*to*), ば (-*ba*), たら (-*tara*), and なら (-*nara*) can all be used in the predicative position of the clause.

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