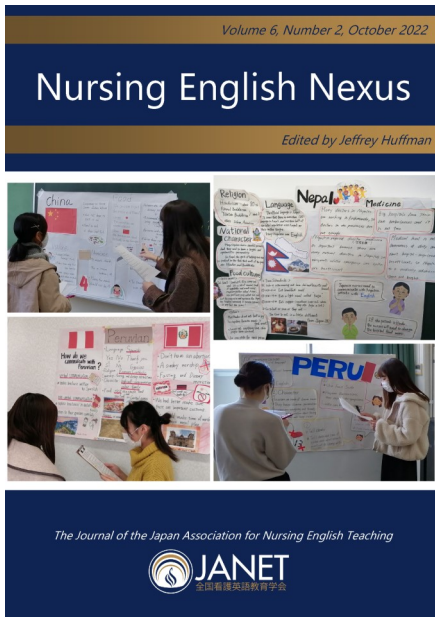


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A Report on a Polysemous Loanword: クランプ (kurampu)

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In the Japanese language, there are two phonetic scripts: hiragana and katakana. The former is largely used for writing verb endings or particles, while the latter is mainly used for representing loanwords, which are adopted from other languages. Every year many nursing loanwords are used with the Japanese verb する (*suru*, "to do") in the National Nurse Examination¹, such as アセスメントする (*asesumento suru*, "to do assessment"), ケアする (*kea suru*, "to do care"), or マネジメントする (*manejimento suru*, "to do management"). The word クランプ (*kurampu*, "clamp") appears in afternoon Item 96 of the 109th National Nurse Examination as follows: ドレナージチューブをクランプする (*dorenaaji chuubu wo kurampu suru*, "to clamp a drainage tube"). This may lead to misunderstanding or confusion, because クランプ has multiple meanings. The author has examined the 2020 and 2021 national examinations and found that クランプ is the word with the most ambiguous meaning of all the nursing loanwords in the examinations.

In this report, the different meanings of the polysemous loanword クランプ are analyzed, referring to Japanese nursing dictionaries and overseas healthcare dictionaries. After examining those definitions, the basic data required for making a nursing loanword glossary are compiled and presented in a table.

Methods

In this report, the definitions of クランプ in seven Japanese nursing dictionaries are compared: *Nursing Dictionary*² (hereafter, *ND*³), *Nursing Science Dictionary (NSD)*, *Encyclopedia of Nursing Science (ENS)*, *Nursing and Medical Dictionary (NMD)*, *Smart Dictionary (SD)*, *Dictionary of Nursing Vocabulary (DNV)*, *Katakana Nursing*

Dictionary (KND).

Next, the definitions of the English words that most closely match the Japanese definitions of クランプ in nine overseas healthcare dictionaries are investigated: *Merriam Webster's Medical Dictionary* (hereafter, *Webster*), *Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary (Dorland)*, *Stedman's Medical Dictionary (Stedman M)*, *Stedman's Medical Dictionary for the Health Profession's & Nursing (Stedman HPN)*, *Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary (Taber)*, *Baillière's Dictionary for Nurses and Health Care Workers (Baillière)*, *Mosby's Dictionary of Medicine, Nursing and Health Profession (Mosby)*, *A Dictionary of Nursing (DN)* and *Concise Medical Dictionary (CMD)*. As necessary, other references are also checked.

Then クランプ is classified into distinctive loanword types based on the following characteristics:

Type I: words and phrases which are borrowed from languages other than English

Type II: words and phrases which are written directly in their original forms

Type III: words and phrases which are newly coined in Japan from existing foreign words

Type IV: words and phrases which are used differently from the original sense

Type V: words and phrases which are abbreviated

Results

Japanese definitions for クランプ including relevant expressions

SD, *DNV* and *KND* provide the definition of クランプ as a verb. *SD* and *KND* define it as "to block or cut off the flow," and *DNV* defines クランプする

as “to grasp something with 鉗子 (*kanshi*, “clamp” or “forceps”). *KND* states that クランプ represents 鉗子, (*kanshi*, “a scissorlike metal instrument without blade”), and it is used to grasp or pull organs, tissue, and so on (*ND*, *NSD*, *ENS* and *DNV*). Typical types of 鉗子 are “grasping” and “hemostatic” (*ND* and *ENS*), and a wide variety of 鉗子 are used in various surgical procedures. As for English translations of 鉗子, *ND*, *NSD*, and *DNV* translate it as both clamp and forceps, while *ENS* translates it only as forceps.

NSD, *NMD*, *DNV* and *KND* provide クレンメ (*kurenme*, German *Klemme*, English “clamp”) as a synonym for クランプ. In this case, クランプ is used as a noun. According to *NMD* and *DNV*, it is the name of device which controls infusion rate or amount by attaching it to an intravenous drip tube. Judging from *NSD* and *DNV*'s descriptions, some product names include クレンメ or クランプ, so those names are abbreviated and generalized in clinical practice. *KND* also describes ローラークランプ (*roora kuranpu*, “roller clamp”) as a synonym for クレンメ.

In addition to the Japanese dictionaries listed in the previous section, *Kango-roo Thesaurus* notes that クランプ also means “muscle cramp” in the field of neurology, which is a completely different word in English.

To sum up the Japanese definitions, クランプ has one verbal sense and three nominal senses, including one homonym.

English Definitions for *Clamp* Including Relevant Expressions

Webster defines the verb *clamp* as “to fasten with or as if with a clamp.” Every dictionary except for *Baillière* provides a definition for the noun *clamp*. According to English definitions, *clamp* is a surgical instrument designed for compressing or fastening organs or structures such as vessels (*Webster*, *Taber*, *Mosby*, *DN* and *CMD*) or intestines (*DN* and *CMD*). *Mosby* explains that

clamp is used for “hemostasis and clamping tissue” in general. It is worth noting that *Mosby* is the only one which classifies *clamp* for クレンメ into three types depending on its operation: *roller clamp*, *screw clamp*, and *slide clamp*. *Silvestri & Silvestri* (2020) illustrates intravenous tubing in a figure and labels the controlling device as *roller clamp*. In addition, *Stedman M* (s.v. *clamp*, 2.) mentions another definition, “an enzyme, antigen, or other protein that closes circumferentially around the DNA to induce conformational change,” which is not mentioned in Japanese dictionaries.

On the other hand, *forceps* are used for grasping or holding tissue, or especially extracting objects, usually by obstetricians (*Webster*, *Mosby* and *CMD*) and dentists (*Webster* and *CMD*). *Taber* describes its shape as “two-bladed hinged or spring-loaded,” *Dorland* describes it as “an instrument with two blades and a handle,” and *DN* and *CMD* define it as “a pincer-like instrument.” It should be also noted that *forceps* has another meaning. *Stedman M* and *Stedman HPN* define it as a Terminologia Anatomica term meaning “bands of white fibers in the brain,” and *Dorland* notes that the fibers resemble surgical instruments in shape.

As can be seen from these definitions, both *clamp* and *forceps* have additional different meanings beyond the Japanese definitions.

Classification and Characteristic Features of クランプ

クランプ can be categorized into several types (described in the Methods section above) depending on its usage. Verbal クランプ is Type II, while nominal クランプ can be used in four ways: the first is Type II, the second is Type I and V, the third is Type V, and the fourth is Type II. Based on the above findings, クランプ as a verb means blocking or cutting off the flow. As a noun, it has four meanings: an instrument used for surgical procedures; a device controlling infusion rate and

Table 1
Basic Data on クランプ and Other Polysemous Loanwords

| Headword | Japanese meaning | English meaning | Type ^a | Part of Speech | Japanese Definitions & English Usage | National Exams |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| アウトカム | 1. 転帰 2. 成果 | 1. outcome 2. nursing outcome | 1. II 2. V | 1. noun 2. compound noun | 1. 怪我や病気など治療後の経過 e.g.) Several factors have effects on disease <i>outcome</i> . 2. 看護介入や看護管理でおこなった行為の成果として用いられることば e.g.) The <i>nursing outcome</i> is based on the nursing intervention for the client. | H ^b 106 #24 p.m. H 107 #5 a.m. |
| クライシス ^d | 1. 峠 2. 発症 3. 危機 | 1. crisis 2. crisis 3. crisis | 1. I, II 2. I, II 3. II | 1. noun 2. noun 3. noun | 語源はギリシャ語。1と2はドイツ語の <i>Krise</i> と同義 1. 疾病の峠。主として快復に向かう時期 e.g.) The patient seems to have passed the <i>crisis</i> . 2. 発作性の痛みを伴う機能障害 e.g.) She was diagnosed with acute cardiac <i>crisis</i> . 3. 過度のストレスにより心理的に不安定な危機状態 e.g.) You can get help from the support line for emotional <i>crisis</i> . | N ^c 109 #106 p.m. |
| クランプ | 1. 遮断する 鉗子ではさむ 2. 鉗子 3. 点滴調節器具 4. DNA クランプ 5. こむらがえり | 1. clamp 2. clamp / forceps 3. roller / screw / slide clamp 4. sliding clamp 5. cramp | 1. II 2. II 3. I, V 4. V 5. II | 1. verb 2. noun 3. compound noun 4. compound noun 5. noun | 1. 鉗子ではさみ、流れをとめる (=クランプする) e.g.) Chest drains should not be <i>clamped</i> . 2. 手術・外科的処置に用いられる器具、用途により種類多数 e.g.) The surgeon compressed a blood vessel with a <i>clamp</i> . Many types of <i>forceps</i> are used during surgery. ※ <i>forceps</i> には「脳の白色線維」の意もあり 3. 点滴の滴下量・速度を調節する器具、ドイツ語の <i>Klemme</i> e.g.) The rate is controlled by a <i>roller clamp</i> . 4. DNA 構造を変化させる酵素・抗原などタンパク質の複合体 e.g.) The <i>sliding clamp</i> holds a wide variety of molecules. 5. 筋クランプ、有痛性痙攣 e.g.) He got a <i>cramp</i> in his leg while swimming. | N 109 #96 p.m. |
| コンプライアンス | 1. 伸展性 2. 服薬順守 3. - | 1. compliance 2. medication adherence 3. compliance | 1. II 2. V 3. IV | 1. noun 2. compound noun 3. noun | 1. 肺・膀胱・胆嚢など空洞臓器の膨らみやすさを示す指標 e.g.) That pregnant woman has decreased lung <i>compliance</i> . 2. 患者が定められた服薬を守ること e.g.) The depression is considered to be related to the lack of medication adherence. 3. 患者が医療者の指示に従って受動的に行動すること ⇒ アドヒアランス: 患者自身が納得し自分の意思で能動的に治療方針や実行に関わること e.g.) How can we promote patient <i>compliance</i> ? | H 106 #3 a.m. |

Notes. ^a Loanwords are classified into five types based on the following characteristics: Type I: words and phrases which are borrowed from languages other than English, Type II: words and phrases which are written directly in their original forms, Type III: words and phrases which are newly coined in Japan from existing foreign words, Type IV: words and phrases which are used differently from the original sense, Type V: words and phrases which are abbreviated.

^b H = National Health Nurse Examination

^c N = National Nurse Examination

^d The basic data on クライシス is revised from the earlier version (Sando, 2021).

amount; a DNA sliding clamp; and a muscle cramp. These findings are presented in Table 1, along with the classification and characteristics of other polysemous words such as アウトカム (*autokamu*, "outcome"), クライシス (*kuraishisu*, "crisis"), and コンプライアンス (*konpuraiansu*, "compliance").

Final Remarks

This report has focused on the nursing loanword クランプ and pointed out that it is a multivocal word. As a part of "Suggestions for paraphrasing loanwords," the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics (NINJAL) performed a survey of forty-five hundred arbitrarily chosen

Japanese people aged 15 or older in October 2003 (NINJAL, 2004). According to the survey, 56.0% of them responded that healthcare and welfare field words should be paraphrased, which was the second highest number among the fields surveyed (NINJAL, 2004). Almost two decades have passed since that report, yet the usage of katakana terms shows no sign of diminishing, especially due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation. The Sankei News (2020) reports that Kono Taro, who was the Minister of Defense at that time, posted on his Twitter on March 22, 2020 as follows: "Why can't 集団感染 (*shuudankansen*, "group infection") for クラスター (*kurasutaa*, "cluster"), 感染爆発 (*kansenbakuhatsu*, "explosion spread of

infection”) for オーバーシュート (*oobaashuuto*, “overshoot”), 都市封鎖 (*toshifuusa*, “urban lockdown”) for ロックダウン (*rokkudaun*, “lockdown”) be used?” Two days later at a press conference, he also gave constructive criticism to the government that katakana technical terms were too heavily employed; he suggested that they should use easy-to-understand Japanese (*The Sankei News*, 2020).

Generally speaking, katakana is used when we do not have any equivalent paraphrase in Japanese. Healthcare workers, therefore, cannot avoid expressing concepts, devices, techniques or procedures of foreign origin in katakana, as Iida (2005) points out. In a report entitled, “Suggestions for paraphrasing clinical terminology,” NINJAL (2009) suggests that healthcare professionals need to pay attention to the following three points: expressing technical terminology in everyday language; providing clear explanations; and helping the public become familiar with new and important concepts. Thus, they should try to use easy-to-understand Japanese especially when communicating with patients. Furthermore, the meanings of those words and phrases change over time. Depending on the circumstances, some Type I or II words and phrases may change to Type III, IV or V. Therefore, it is also important to be aware of semantic changes.

Although katakana is useful for Japanese people, it is sometimes difficult to know which meaning is intended when using multivocal loanwords. Using those katakana expressions may lead to misunderstanding and can actually be a stumbling block to communicating in English with overseas people. The author hopes to investigate other katakana terms and use this data to make a health and nursing loanword glossary in the future.

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Notes

¹The examination should be described as “National Nursing Examination.” However, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare uses “Nurse.” Since the examination’s name is considered to be proper noun, the present report follows that description.

²For the sake of expedience, the report uses English titles for Japanese dictionaries. Original Japanese titles are presented in both Japanese and Roman letters in the References.

³For expediency, this report denotes both Japanese and overseas dictionaries’ titles with abbreviations rather than by authors’ names. The abbreviations are provided in the Methods section and in References.