The purpose of this study is to introduce the usages of zero-predicate final particles. Isolated final particles are often used in oral communication in Japanese, although Japanese final particles are usually located after predicates.

Final particles convey how a speaker transmits his or her message to the target hearer. For example, -ka as in Ikimasu-ka (‘Are you going’) is used when the speaker does not have the information and believes the target hearer has the information. So the example should be interpreted as ‘I (the speaker) do not know whether you (the target hearer) will go or not. Therefore, I am asking it to you.’ -ne as in Oishi-ne (‘It is delicious’) is used when the speaker believes both the speaker and the target listener have and share the same information. So the example should be interpreted as ‘I (the speaker) know you (the target hearer) feel the food is delicious and I have the same idea. Therefore, I am confirming.’ -yo as in Gohan desu yo (‘The dinner is ready’) is used when only the speaker has the information and the speaker knows that the target hearer does not have the information. So the example should be interpreted as ‘I (the speaker) know you (the target hearer) do not know that the dinner is ready. Therefore I am informing it to you.’

Although these final particles are usually located after the predicate, we find isolated final particles that do not have a preceding predicate. For example, ‘Ne’ conveys ‘do you agree with me?’ or ‘but’ according to the context. ‘Ne, ne, ne’ is used when the speaker forced the target hearer to agree with the speaker’s idea.

This presentation illustrates such isolated usages of zero-predicate final particles, then discusses the usages from the morphological and pragmatic points of view.