

Language, gender, status, and power**I. Introduction**

- (1) Language and ... gender?
- Many languages are said to have gender-specific language patterns
 - However, many societies also have gender-related social roles or power structures
 - Therefore, it is important to separate effects of **gender** from effects of **power** or **status**
 - Example: Do US-English-speaking men interrupt more often than women?
 - Another point: Social identity, including factors related to gender, is to a large extent **constructed by speakers** — speakers *choose* more/less masculine/feminine expressions
- (2) In Japanese, there are a whole lot of factors that are traditionally thought to vary according to the gender of the speaker
- How can we examine language use **empirically** to reconsider these claims?

II. Language patterns with gender(?) distinctions in Japanese

- (3) Traditionally identified domains with gender differences in Japanese
- (a) Pronoun use — traditional categories (normative, prescriptivist?)
 - (b) Sentence-final particles — chart from Ide (1979), via Ide & Yoshida (1999)
 - (c) Levels of politeness / honorific use — charts from Ide & Yoshida (1999)
 - Comparison between Japanese and English (Hill et al. 1986)
 - Within Japanese, comparisons between men and women (Ide et al. 1986, Ogino 1986)
 - (d) Patterns and levels of pitch (technically, f_0 of glottal phonation)
- (4) But, consider the lessons learned more generally from studies of language and gender:
- Is gender the only factor at play?
 - Are patterns changing over time?
 - Do different speech communities differ with respect to these patterns?
- (a) Study of pronoun use among junior-high students (Miyazaki 2004)
 - Is gender the only factor involved here?
 - Do adult patterns differ? Is that a **generational** or an **age-related** difference?
 - (b) Takano (2000) — language use by three different occupational groups of women
 - (c) Study of pitch in interactions with customers vs. acquaintances (Ohara 2004)
 - Does higher pitch automatically signal femininity?
 - Are there gender-related differences in the use of higher pitch?

References

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