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Investigating the directive genre in the Japanese and Australian workplace: a systemic functional approach

Yumiko Mizusawa
University of Wollongong

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**Investigating the Directive genre
in the Japanese and Australian workplace:
A Systemic Functional approach**

Volume One

A thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree

Doctor of Philosophy
from
University of Wollongong

by

Yumiko Mizusawa
BA, Keio University
MEd, University of Wollongong

Faculty of Arts

2008

Certification

I, Yumiko Mizusawa, declare that this thesis, submitted in order to fulfil the requirements for the award of Doctor of Philosophy, in Faculty of Arts, University of Wollongong, is wholly my own work unless otherwise referenced or acknowledged. The document has not been submitted for qualifications at any other academic institution.

Yumiko Mizusawa

26 August 2008

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Key to Notations

Inter liner gloss

COP copula
RES respectful
HUM humble
FOR formal
INT interrogator
NEG negotiator
BEA beatifying
IMP imperative form
NEG negative polarity realised by a morpheme
NI particle 'ni'
NO Nominal linking maker "no"
O particle 'o'
WA particle 'wa'
PST past tense

Romanisation

alphabet (hiragana) {katakana}

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------|
| a (あ){ア} | i (い){イ} | u (う){ウ} | e (え){エ} | o (お){オ} | |
| ka (か){カ} | ki (き){キ} | ku (く){ク} | ke (け){ケ} | ko (こ){コ} | |
| sa (さ){サ} | shi (し){シ} | su (す){ス} | se (せ){セ} | so (そ){ソ} | |
| ta (た){タ} | chi (ち){チ} | tsu (つ){ツ} | te (て){テ} | to (と){ト} | |
| na (な){ナ} | ni (に){ニ} | nu (ぬ){ヌ} | ne (ね){ネ} | no (の){ノ} | |
| ha (は){ハ} | hi (ひ){ヒ} | u (ふ){フ} | he (へ){ヘ} | ho (ほ){ホ} | |
| ma (ま){マ} | mi (み){ミ} | mu (む){ム} | me (め){メ} | mo (も){モ} | |
| ya (や){ヤ} | | yu (ゆ){ユ} | | yo (よ){ヨ} | |
| ra (ら){ラ} | ri (り){リ} | ru (る){ル} | re (れ){レ} | ro (ろ){ロ} | |
| wa (わ){ワ} | | | | | |
| ga (が){ガ} | gi (ぎ){ギ} | gu (ぐ){グ} | ge (げ){ゲ} | go (ご){ゴ} | |
| za (ざ){ザ} | ji (じ){ジ} | zu (ず){ズ} | ze (ぜ){ゼ} | zo (ぞ){ゾ} | |
| da (だ){ダ} | ji (ぢ){ヂ} | zu (づ){ヅ} | de (で){デ} | do (ど){ド} | |
| ba (ば){バ} | bi (び){ビ} | bu (ぶ){ブ} | be (べ){ベ} | bo (ぼ){ボ} | |
| pa (ぱ){パ} | pi (ぴ){ピ} | pu (ぷ){プ} | pe (ぺ){ペ} | po (ぽ){ポ} | |
| kya (きゃ){キャ} | | kyu (きゅ){キユ} | | kyo (きょ){キョ} | |
| sha (しゃ){シャ} | | shu (しゅ){シュ} | | sho (しょ){ショ} | |
| cha (ちゃ){チャ} | | chu (ちゅ){チュ} | | cho (ちょ){チョ} | |
| nya (にゃ){ニャ} | | nyu (にゅ){ニユ} | | nyo (にょ){ニョ} | |
| hya (ひゃ){ヒャ} | | hyu (ひゅ){ヒュ} | | hyo (ひょ){ヒョ} | |
| mya (みゃ){ミャ} | | myu (みゅ){ミユ} | | myo (みょ){ミョ} | |
| rya (りゃ){リャ} | | ryu (りゅ){リュ} | | ryo (りょ){リョ} | |
| gya (ぎゃ){ギャ} | | gyu (ぎゅ){ギユ} | | gyo (ぎょ){ギョ} | |
| ja (じゃ){ジャ} | | ju (じゅ){ジュ} | | jo (じょ){ジョ} | |
| bya (びゃ){ビャ} | | byu (びゅ){ビュ} | | byo (びょ){ビョ} | |
| pya (ぴゃ){ピャ} | | pyu (ぴゅ){ピュ} | | pyo (ぴょ){ピョ} | |
| n(ん){ン} | | | | | |
| p, t, s, k (っ){ツ} | | | | | |
| txi (てい){ティ} | | | | | |
| long vowels | | | | | |
| aa (ああ){アー} | ii (いい){イー} | uu (うう){ウー} | ee (ええ){エー} | oo (おう){オー} | |
| grammatical particles | | | | | |
| wa (は) | ga (が) | ni (に) | de (で) | e(へ) | o (を) |

Abstract

This study is concerned with how tenor relations impact on the language of the workplace, particularly as the workplace is typically organised hierarchically (Iedema, 1995) and is concerned with getting things done. In other words, the workplace is about administrative practices of guidance, surveillance and compliance (Iedema, 1995). In most cases, these social acts of guidance, surveillance and compliance are realised by discursive practices or workplace genres. Specifically, this study investigates the discursive practices of compliance, known as Directives, with a view to understanding the effect tenor relations have on the language choices of workers in Japan and Australia. The effect is described by using the tools of systemic functional grammar, particularly from the perspective of the interpersonal metafunction. The two corpora are analysed from ‘around’ (the lexicogrammar) and from ‘above’, (the semantics).

The results show that, while the language and meanings of Directives in both languages are highly sensitive to tenor relations, the nature of this sensitivity differs. In general terms, in the workplace, it seems that the Japanese language is more interpersonally oriented, while English is less so, with a tendency to be rather more ideationally oriented. The results go some way to supplying linguistic evidence for the claim that Japanese society in general is hierarchical (Nakane, 1970), while Australian society is less so.

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