

Abstract

The objective of this study is to examine the structural factors concerning disagreement within the Japanese language.

Research data was formulated by issuing a questionnaire to 100 (50 male and 50 female) Japanese speakers. The questionnaire stipulated social differences and asked the respondents to distinguish between equal, higher and lower status when considering the speaker with whom they were disagreeing. In addition, respondents were requested to position social status in the context of familiarity or unfamiliarity with the speaker.

The research revealed that the structure found in verbal disagreement can be separated into three sections: introduction, reason, and opinion. It was also founded that these three factors vary in their content depending upon the social status of the interlocutors.

This study will explain and discuss disagreement strategies and how from these strategies emerged numerous sub-strategies which were very much dependent upon and related to social status and gender.