

Understanding on the Functions of “kedo” at the Ends of Sentences : Comparing between Thai and Native Speakers of Japanese

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Abstract

This research aimed to investigate the understanding of the functions of “kedo” at the ends of sentences of Thai speakers of Japanese in comparison with that of native speakers. The sample consisted of 23 Japanese and 26 Thai Speakers of Japanese. An open-ended questionnaire was used in the data collection, with a sole focus on “kedo” at the ends of sentences with its functions of expressing concern for the interlocutor, namely, softening the speech and supplicating the interlocutor. The results are as follows: 1) Both Japanese and Thai understand that the functions of “kedo” at the ends of sentences in conversation are to soften the speech, signify supplication to the interlocutor, avoid precision, signal that there is more to be said, convey conflict, and express the feelings of the speaker. 2) Thai tend to perceive that the basic function of “kedo” at the ends of sentences is to soften the speech. 3) Thai tend to adhere to the basic function of “kedo” as a conjunction expressing conflict more than Japanese do. 4) Japanese tend to understand that the function of “kedo” at the ends of sentences is to express feelings more than Thai do.

Keywords: Understanding, Function of “kedo” at the ends of Sentences, Thai Speakers of Japanese