Abstract

This research thesis titled "A Comparative Study of the Meanings of Japanese and Thai Expressions ~*nakerebanaranai* and /tɔ̂ŋ/ aims to compare the use of ~*nakerebanaranai* and /tɔ̂ŋ/. For the analysis of the meaning of the expression ~*nakerebanaranai*, the sample sentences were taken from ten Japanese fictions while those of /tɔ̂ŋ/ expression were taken from six Thai fictions. Three Japanese and three Thai fictions using the expressions in the same contexts were selected from those used in the meaning analysis to compare ~*nakerebanaranai* and /tɔ̂ŋ/.

The findings of the study resulted in the word ~*nakerebanaranai* appearing in three meanings: 1) to indicate obligation and necessity, 2) to illustrate an unavoidable occurrence, and 3) to indicate expectations based on logical or evidential reasons.

The word /tɔ̂ŋ/, exists in three meanings: 1) to show obligation and necessity, 2) to illustrate an unavoidable occurrence, and 3) to indicate expectations based on logical reasons or the individual reasons or feelings on the part of the speaker.

In comparing the two words, it was found that the word /tɔ̂ŋ/ was used in a broader meaning and scope than ~*nakerebanaranai*. The word ~*nakerebanaranai* can be substituted for the word /tɔ̂ŋ/ in the first and second. However, it in the case of the third meaning, it should only be used to indicate expectations based on logical reasons and not personal feelings. In the latter case, another more appropriate word should be used instead.

In comparing the use of two words in the Japanese and Thai languages, other word in Thai were found to be used rather than the word /tɔ̂ŋ/ to substitute for the word ~*nakerebanaranai* and vice versa in translation. It is therefore reasonable to conclude that there are no fixed words in substitution or translation here from one language to another. The words or expressions used depend upon the translators who interpret and select them and consider them to be appropriate for the messages that they want to send to the audience in a particular context.