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## Analysis of Speech Acts and Speech Events of Conversations in Japanese Language Textbooks

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### Developing Communicative Competence

- Conversations reflecting the ways the language is typically used in the target culture are indispensable for development of Comm. Competence (Canale and Swain, 1980; Unger et al., 1993)
- Situated conversations as
  - Input for pragmatic competence (Bardovi-Harlig, 2001)
  - Unit of analysis and practice (Christensen and Warnick, 2007)

### The Study

- What types of dialogues are included in Japanese language textbook series?

### Research questions:

1. What speech events and speech acts are introduced in the Japanese language textbooks widely used in U.S. colleges?
2. Is there an agreement among the five textbooks in terms of the selection, amount, and structural patterns of the speech acts?

### Speech Acts

- Functional unit at utterance level (e.g., thanking, requesting, etc.) (Cohen, 2002); Van Ek's (1991) "Language Functions"

### Speech Events

- Larger unit with multiple turns (e.g., job interview, etc.) (Hatch, 1992); Van Ek's (1991) "Extended Characteristics of The Objective"

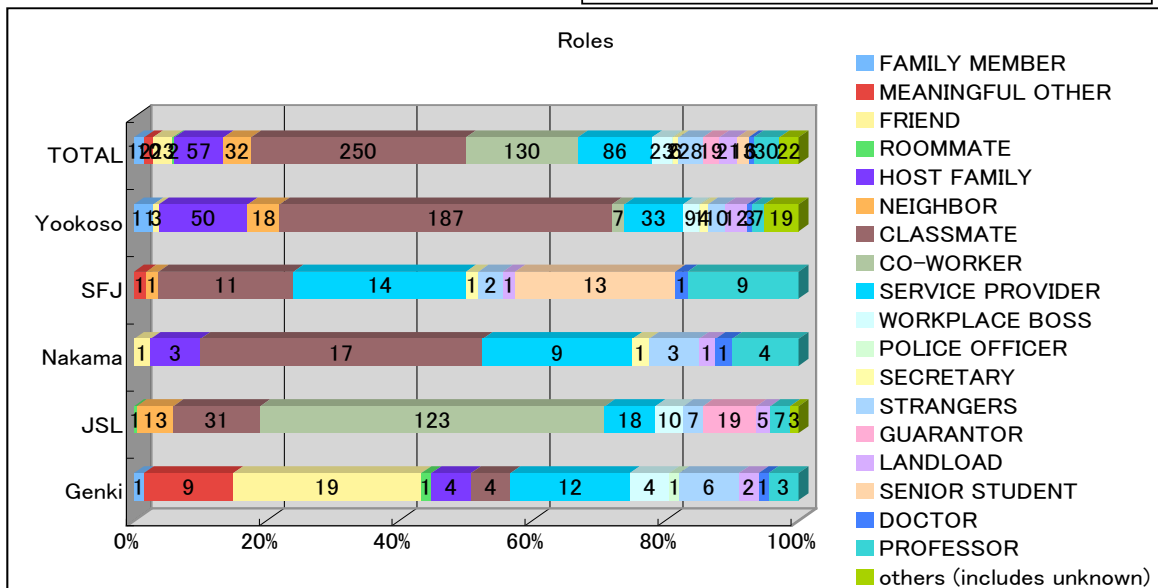
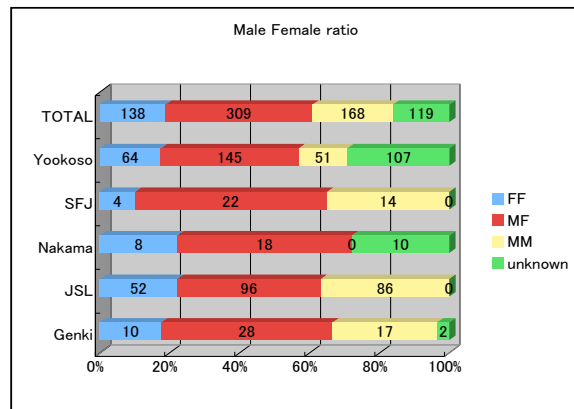
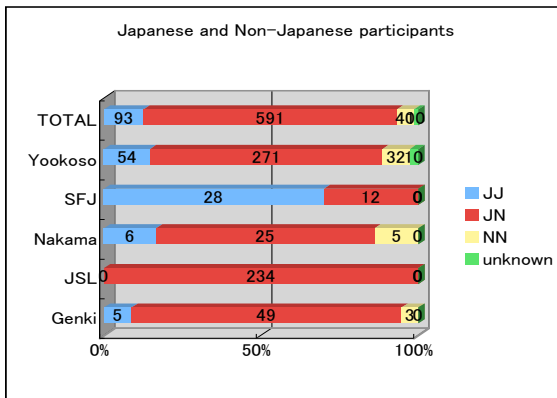
### Selected Textbooks

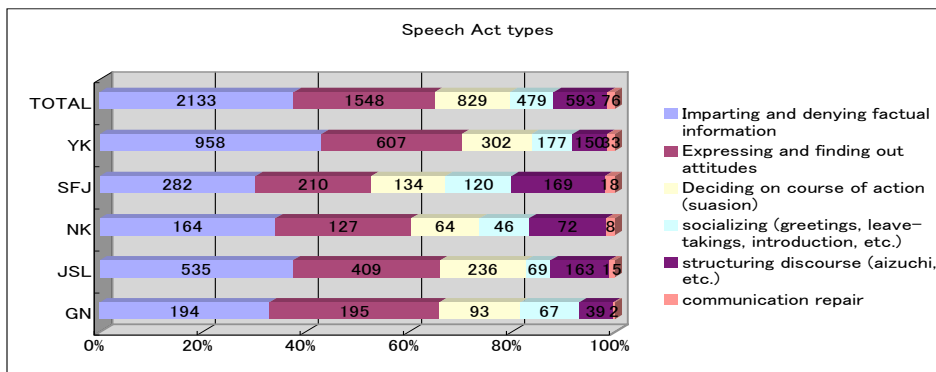
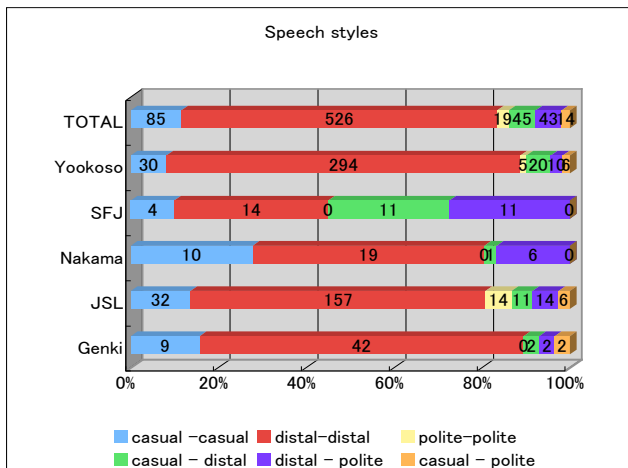
- Genki I, II
  - Japanese: the Spoken Language I, II, III
  - Nakama I, II
  - Situational Functional Japanese I, II, III
- Yookoso!

### Data

Genki	2 volumes	23 lessons	64 Dialogues	Average turns: 5.81
JSL	3 volumes	30 lessons	242 Core Conversations	Average turns: 4.50
Nakama	2 volumes	20 lessons	40 Dialogues	Average turns: 7.63
SFJ	3 volumes	24 lessons	54 Model Conversations	Average turns: 14.00
Yookoso	2 volumes	14 lessons	378 Dialogues	Average turns: 4.77
TOTAL			778	7.34

Number of participants	Nationalities of the participants in 2-person dialogues	
1 person (public speaking)	2 Japanese-NonJapanese	591
2 people	732 Japanese-Japanese	93
3 people	43 NonJapanese-NonJapanese	40
4 people	1 unknown	10





## Summary

- dialogues are typically short, representing very brief encounters, primarily for the purpose of information exchange (Jones and Ono, 2005: 243)
- Speech events: many “survival” situations
- Speech acts: show moderate degree of agreement
- Incorporating narrating/storytelling, exchanging opinions, public speech; current events, employment, education, etc. may be beneficial to promote advanced skills in Japanese

## Limitations & Discussion

- Limitations:
  - Categorizations & interpretation is done by one person
  - Special consideration for Japanese-specific speech acts? (すみません, 遠慮, etc.).
  - The data is limited to the “conversation” sections
- Discussion
  - Can function as a starting point of building database for the development of instructional materials, or assessment batteries of pragmatic knowledge?
  - Authenticity of the dialogues?

SPEECH EVENT TYPES   TEXTBOOKS	GN	JSL	NK	SFJ	YK	TOTAL
Transactional, business/school communication ( <i>soto</i> )	23	84	13	21	63	204
Social interaction with someone you know ( <i>uchi</i> )	42	160	27	33	311	573

	GN	JSL	NK	SFJ	YK	TOTAL
Transactional, business/school communication ( <i>soto</i> )						
Contact with officials (immigration, customs, police, etc.)	1					1
Arrangements for accommodation (hotels and apartments)		3			3	6
Arrangements for meals (restaurants, delivery, etc.)	2	5	1	4	7	19
Shopping: buying consumer goods	3	9	5	2	11	30
Using public transport	3	1	1	1	5	11
Using public services (post office, bank, hospitals, etc.)	2		4	5	5	16
Educational Services	3			1	4	8
Finding a way	3	6	1	2	8	20
Finding employment	2	1			2	5
Work-related communication	2	58			12	72
Dealing with lost and found	2			2		4
Others		1	1	3	6	11
Social interaction with someone you know ( <i>uchi</i> )						
Introduction (self and others)	1	3	3	3	9	19
Private hospitality (home-visiting, offering gifts, food/drink)		7		3	3	13
General information exchange	18	99	14	7	205	343
Storytelling/narrating		2				2
Express opinions, views, attitudes (consulting/advising, complaining, asking for opinions, etc.)	2	12	1	2	3	20
Agree upon & carry-out co-operative actions (asking/offering assistance, inviting, planning, etc.)	19	27	8	13	83	150
Greetings (upon meeting, leavetaking)	2	2	1	4	1	10
Others (thanking, apologizing, congratulating, etc.)		8		1	7	16

General information exchange	GN	JSL	NK	SFJ	YK	TOTAL
personal life and family	2	2	1	1	9	15
living conditions		7	1		10	18
occupation and part-time jobs	3		1		3	7
education	1	2		1	5	9
free-time activities / hobbies	2	11	2		36	51
daily routines, schedule	1	1	1		15	18
traveling	3	7	1		10	21
consumer goods, shopping		15			11	26
eating and drinking (preferences)		5			12	17
social relations (talking about other people)	2	8			36	46
services		4			1	5
current events		2				2
weather		2	3		11	16
language and language learning		6			6	12
health	1	2	1	1	10	15
others	3	23	3	4	31	64

SPEECH ACTS ANALYSIS, APRIL 2008

		GN	JSL	NK	SFJ	YK	TOTAL
1	<b>1 Imparting and Denying factual information (declaratives)</b>						
2	informing (no immediately preceding question)	31	32	20	25	66	174
3	talk to self*	5	8	3	7	8	31
4	explaining circumstances* provides an explanation "as a side	12	53	3	30	40	138
5	reporting (and hearsay)	11	22	8	13	35	89
6	confirming*	4	1	9	5	1	20
7	asking for confirmation	3	37	3	34	28	105
8	asking yes-no Q	31	101	22	30	170	354
9	asking alternative questions*	0	2	2	1	2	7
10	asking for information	35	80	40	47	227	429
11	answering affirmatively*	7	45	11	36	54	153
12	answering affirmatively with informing	12	35	6	9	86	148
13	answering negatively*	6	23	1	4	32	66
14	answering negatively with informing (correcting)*	7	34	6	5	26	78
15	answering not yes nor no	1	4	1	6	2	14
16	answering with information*	29	58	29	30	181	327
17	<b>2 Expressing and finding out attitudes (expressives)</b>						
18	<b>agreeing</b>	14	39	13	16	67	149
19	<b>disagreeing</b>	2	17	1	2	8	30
20	whether one <b>knows</b> or does not know a person, thing or fact	2	23	5	6	24	60
21	whether one <b>remembers</b> or has forgotten a person, thing or f	8	9	1	3	8	29
22	degrees of <b>probability</b> and <b>certainty</b>	8	14	7	7	26	62
23	<b>necessity, obligation</b> , or denial of necessity / obligation	3	13	5	0	11	32
24	<b>ability/inability</b> to do something	0	17	2	4	29	52
25	granting/withholding <b>permission; approval/disapproval</b>	14	16	12	17	29	88
26	<b>wants</b> and <b>desires</b>	5	3	3	2	23	36
27	<b>intentions / plans</b>	18	22	20	19	44	123
28	<b>preference, likes/dislikes, interest/lack of interest</b>	9	8	12	10	44	83
29	<b>pleasure/displeasure, happiness/unhappiness, satisfaction/d</b>	13	17	1	13	22	66
30	<b>puzzlement*</b>	0	3	0	1	4	8
31	<b>personal observation / comments*</b>	27	27	11	4	63	132
32	opinions	4	3	0	0	13	20
33	surprise/lack of surprise	12	33	3	13	59	120
34	<b>hope</b>	1	2	0	1	3	7
35	<b>disappointment</b>	2	6	0	3	12	23

36	<b>fear, worry, concern*</b>	3	25	1	8	6	43
37	giving <b>reassurance</b>	4	18	2	8	7	39
38	expressing <b>gratitude</b>	19	35	10	27	21	112
39	reacting to an expression of gratitude	3	4	1	8	18	34
40	offering an <b>apology</b>	13	30	4	20	15	82
41	reacting to an apology	3	8	0	9	3	23
42	expressing <b>regret, sympathy</b>	7	8	6	5	10	36
43	expressing compliment*	1	5	4	2	23	35
44	reacting to a compliment*	0	4	3	2	15	24
45	<b>3 Deciding on course of action (suasion)</b>	<b>GN</b>	<b>JSL</b>	<b>NK</b>	<b>SFJ</b>	<b>YK</b>	<b>TOTA</b>
46	<b>suggesting a course of action</b> (including encouraging and invi	28	47	10	19	63	168
47	agreeing to a suggested action	7	19	3	9	30	67
48	not agreeing to a suggested action (including <i>enryo</i> *)	7	16	0	8	17	48
49	<b>requesting</b> for an item (to show, hand in, etc.)*	1	8	1	4	9	23
50	<b>handing in</b> something to someone*	6	8	3	12	8	37
51	<b>purchasing and ordering*</b>	8	21	6	11	17	63
52	<b>requesting</b> someone to do something	12	56	4	25	32	129
53	<b>complying with a request*</b>	0	6	2	7	8	23
54	<b>seeking advice*</b>	3	8	2	4	12	29
55	<b>advising</b> someone to do something	5	20	9	6	25	65
56	<b>warning</b> others to do something or refrain from doing someth	0	1	0	3	7	11
57	<b>instructing</b> or <b>directing</b> someone to do something	7	8	16	15	26	72
58	requesting/offering <b>assistance / service</b>	9	18	8	11	48	94
63	<b>4 socialising</b>	<b>GN</b>	<b>JSL</b>	<b>NK</b>	<b>SFJ</b>	<b>YK</b>	<b>TOTA</b>
64	greeting people	14	15	9	20	17	17
65	attracting attention/addressing a friend, acquaintance, cust	39	28	20	37	102	102
66	when being addressed*	2	6	4	25	6	6
67	introducing someone/self-introduction	3	11	10	21	42	42
68	announcing one's visit at the door*	0	1	0	1	2	2
69	congratulating someone	1	2	0	0	0	0
70	proposing a toast	1	0	0	0	0	0
71	taking leave	7	6	3	16	8	8
72	<b>5 structuring discourse</b>	<b>GN</b>	<b>JSL</b>	<b>NK</b>	<b>SFJ</b>	<b>YK</b>	<b>TOTA</b>
73	hesitating	4	25	15	46	43	133
74	correcting oneself	0	1	0	0	0	1
75	introducing a theme	0	5	2	5	1	13
76	exemplifying	2	6	2	2	9	21
77	emphasizing	0	1	0	1	1	3

78	summarizing	0	1	0	0	0	1
79	changing the theme/asking someone to change the theme	2	0	1	1	1	5
80	showing that one is following a person's discourse	26	74	46	88	52	286
81	telephone: announcing / asking who is calling*	5	19	5	14	18	61
82	telephone: asking for a person, extention	0	4	1	1	6	12
83	telephone: asking someone to wait	0	6	0	2	2	10
84	telephone: telling the person is not available*	0	4	0	1	3	8
85	telephone: leaving a message*	0	3	0	0	3	6
86	telephone: asking whether you are heard	0	3	0	0	0	3
87	telephone: giving signals that you are hearing and understand	0	6	0	3	4	13
88	telephone: announcing a new call (I'll call back later, etc.)	0	2	0	2	1	5
89	telephone: announcing the end of the call*	0	3	0	3	6	12
90	<b>6 communication repair</b>	<b>GN</b>	<b>JSL</b>	<b>NK</b>	<b>SFJ</b>	<b>YK</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
91	signaling non-understanding	0	2	1	2	5	10
92	asking for repetition of sentence, a word or phrase	0	0	0	2	1	3
93	asking for confirmation or understanding	0	2	0	0	0	2
94	asking for clarification	0	2	2	1	2	7
95	asking for meaning/reading of written language*	0	0	0	3	2	5
96	asking for something to be written down	0	0	0	0	4	4
97	expressing ignorance of a word or expression	2	4	2	1	3	12
98	appealing for assistance in base language (English)	0	0	1	2	1	4
99	asking someone to speak more slowly	0	1	0	0	2	3
100	paraphrasing	0	2	0	3	2	7
101	repeating what one has said	0	1	0	2	2	5
102	spelling out a word or expression	0	0	0	0	3	3
103	supplying a word or expression	0	1	1	0	1	3
104	providing meaning in English*	0	0	1	2	2	5
105	supplying reading of kanji*	0	0	0	0	3	3
106	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>1426</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>2225</b>	<b>5657</b>

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