

[研究論文]

A contrastive Study of Compliment Responses between Japanese and Chinese:

Focused on Degree of Intimacy

ANG, Yanni (Graduate School, Nagoya University)

Summary

This article focused on compliment responses during initial encounters or conversations between friends in Japanese and Chinese by using discourse analysis to analyze linguistic and cultural differences as well as the impact of close and distant relationships. The results indicated that generally speaking, Japanese native speakers' compliment responses tend to express a positive attitude with some reservations. Chinese native speakers tend to express an attitude of positive agreement while prompting the conversation's development as well as trying to build a healthy interpersonal relationship with the other party. Furthermore, Japanese compliment responses are more likely than Chinese ones to become impacted by close and distant relationships. Specifically, during conversations between Chinese and Japanese-speaking friends, the frequency of compliment responses exhibits the sequence: positive response > evasive response > negative response. When a conversation takes place during an initial encounter between Chinese speakers, this trend does not undergo major changes. However, when a conversation takes place during an initial encounter between Japanese speakers, this frequency exhibits the sequence: evasive response > positive response > negative response.

Key words : compliment responses, contrastive study of Japanese and Chinese,
degree of intimacy, discourse analysis