

**The Gender Gap Emerging out of the Modern Japanese Language
and the Japanese Education:
Analysis of the Attitude and the Fact-Finding Survey**

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Key word: the gender gap in colloquial expression, the attitude survey, the fact-finding survey, personal pronoun, the appropriate way of expression

Under the Japanese language education, the informal conversation which develops personal relations has not been systematically programmed and practiced. Besides its analysis of the fact-finding is still inadequate. This thesis accordingly, is to analyze both attitude survey and the fact-finding survey, in terms of the gender gap in modern Japanese colloquial expression, and therefore to exploit these results to take the measures for the Japanese language's educational guideline.

The hitherto explanation of the gender gap in Japanese language had shown each difference in the postpositional particle at the end of a passage, or that in personal pronoun. The other explanation indicated the difference in the impression of how each gender speaks.

The attitude survey was conducted on 435 college students reside in the Metropolitan and Kinki area in Japan in 1996-8. The inquiry was to ask about if there is any or no gender gap in the colloquial expression. And if there is any gap, in what condition or situation it is likely to emerge is being asked.

The 57% of them say that there is a gender gap, and 33% say there is not. These gender gaps could be linguistically classified as follows ; ① postpositional particle, ②personal pronoun, ③sound conversion, ④intonation, ⑤vocabulary, ⑥grammar, ⑦honorific, ⑧Para-language and ⑨the others such as discourse and way of expression . They point out the most to ①postpositional particle, ②personal pronoun, ⑤vocabulary, ⑨the others such as discourse and way of expression, ⑦honorific and ⑧Para-language respectively. They also answer that, in what situation such gap emerges, and the result was classified into 4 categories ; ①when creating

the personal relations, ② when conducting the function, ③ when being emotional and ④ when acting in reality. They emphasize the most that such gap is likely to emerge when getting angry, which classified as ③ when being emotional.

The fact-finding survey was conducted in 1996-8, by recording the dairy conversation of 241 college students and making manuscript from them. By focusing on the personal pronoun, the comparison between the consciousness and the actual usage, the confirmation of the consciousness, the gap between these two are analyzed in this thesis. The results of the attitude survey are verified in the fact-finding survey, that the womanly impression could be seen in the use of "WATASHI" as a formal personal pronoun and "ATASHI / ANTA / ANOKO" as casual one, or the frequent use of family name, first name and nickname. On the other hand, manly impression comes together with the use of "ORE / OMAE" which is relatively informal way of personal pronoun. This was also confirmed in the fact-finding survey. The big gap was found in both survey that the usage of "BOKU" was pointed out by the 23% of the students, but the attitude survey showed only 4% use this personal pronoun in the actual usage.

The fact-finding survey indicated the women's tendency to use less formal way of expression, which does not sound feminine but rather, frequently being used by men. In case of men, manly expression such as "ORE / OMAE" is more recognized in the actual usage than their consciousness. Being together with such tendency that men are likely to use original manly expression, the fact-finding survey showed that men also tend to be frequent users of women's expression. According to the attitude survey, no gender gap was recognized by 33% of the students and this is led by such tendency that men use women's expression and vice versa .

Secondly, the conversion of the consciousness and the actual usage toward the personal pronoun was apparently indicated, as seen in the comparison between the survey results of National Language Research Institute conducted 24 years ago and the survey above. Such as for the first person, the usage of "WATAKUSHI" and "BOKU" decreased drastically, that of "WATASHI" also decreased and that of "ORE," "ATASHI" and calling his or her own name have alternatively increased. As for the second person, too, the usage of "ANATA" plunged nearly to zero, "KIMI" and "OTAKU" also

decreased, and thus the usage of name was substituted and increased remarkably. In addition, "OMAE," "ANTA" and "JIBUN" have been increased.

The usage distinction of men and women may be involved with the factors consisting of the personal relationships, actual scene and circumstance. The appropriate way of expression for both men and women is also to be concerned and determined carefully with such factors as well. Yet whether to perform masculine or feminine under the specific circumstances, or to act in accordance with his or her gender varies as it depends on the person's psychological motive, therefore the certain consciousness is not defined.

The accomplishment of the Japanese language education is now required. To start with, to classify the masculine and feminine terms then perform the usage are inevitable. And for the sake of social skill to improve the personal relationship is to doctrine the working knowledge of appropriate usage. That is to encourage the learners to consider the personal relationships, actual scene and circumstance in each case, and make good choice of either masculine or feminine. This thesis again, is to cite the consciousness and actual usage about the feature of gender distinction in modern Japanese colloquial expression, and therefore to be the instrumental in the Japanese language's educational guideline.

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