

Influences from "*Mai pen rai*" on Thai Learners of Japanese in the Context of Declination of Offer

-as a Representation of Positive Politeness

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This thesis investigates the issue of inappropriate use of "*daijoobu*" by Thai learners of Japanese, particularly in the context of the declination of offers, which is principally caused by the pragmatic transfer generated by the difference of the usable situations between "*daijoobu*" in Japanese and "*mai pen rai*" in Thai. As a result, it has been found that the use of "*mai pen rai*" in the Thai language is rather more influenced by the content of an offer rather than by the human relationship of the speaker and addressee.

According to a formula proposed by Brown & Levinson (1987), the weightiness of a face-threatening act is calculated by the culmination of three variables – the social distance between the speaker and addressee, the power that the addressee has over the speaker and the value that measures the degree to which the face-threatening act is rated as an imposition in that culture.

The result of this investigation suggests that the value that measures the degree to which the face-threatening act is rated as an imposition performs a much greater part as a decisive variable on the weightiness of a face-threatening act than others, in the context of declination of offers in Thai society.

In the classroom, paying attention to the cultural differences and the semantic gaps between the first and target language could be an effective method for improvement of pragmatic transfer in the students' spoken language.

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