

A Comparative Study of Apology Expressions' Positions and Responses to Apology Expressions in Japanese and Thai: From Facework Perspective

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Abstract

This study aims to investigate the characteristics of “apology expressions - responses to apology expressions” sequences by focusing on expression positions and comparing between Japanese and Thai native conversations. The analysis of roleplay conversations revealed that, Japanese native speakers (JS) initiate apology expressions, which appeared in the main and the closing section more frequently than Thai native speakers (TS). After receiving apology expressions in the main section, not only accepted apologies, but JS also focused on problem-solving. For example, JS threatened interlocutors' faces through requesting for explaining reasons or conducted no action to interlocutors' faces by using a backchannel “um”. Meanwhile, if TS received apology expressions in the main section, they tend to threaten interlocutors' faces through complaining or requesting for solutions. However, when JS and TS received apology expressions in the closing section, they tend to accept apologies to save the interlocutors' faces. In conclusion, we can imply that the positions of “apology expressions” affected “responses to apology expressions” in both Japanese and Thai native conversations.

[Keywords] apology situation, apology expressions, responses to apology expressions, facework, Japanese and Thai comparative study