〔Research Paper〕

In What Context Are Compliments Given?:

Patterns in Japanese and Chinese Initial Conversations

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Abstract

By analyzing Japanese and Chinese initial conversations, this study investigated contexts and triggers for compliments, comparing and contrasting their linguistic and cultural aspects. Qualitative analysis of conversation exchanges leading to the expression of a compliment revealed six patterns of compliment occurrence: "harmonizing type," "recovery type," "value recognition type," "persuasive type," "reciprocal type," and "speaker introduction type." However, no significant difference was observed in the frequency of occurrence for each of these six patterns between the Japanese and Chinese languages. As a general trend, over 80% of compliments in initial Japanese and Chinese conversations were categorized as "value recognition type" and "harmonizing type." This suggests that native speakers of Japanese and Chinese tend to link information received from their initial conversation partners to praising the other person, aiming at building positive interpersonal relationships.