

# **The Factors Affecting Advice-Giving of Chinese Learners of Japanese: Using Decision Tree Analysis**

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## **Abstract**

In this paper, we focus on the advice-giving behavior of Chinese learners of Japanese and native Japanese speakers. We employ decision tree analysis to examine how advice-giving is influenced by the closeness of the relationship and the seriousness of the issue. Data were collected through a discourse completion test and analyzed with a focus on the use of semantic formulas. Additionally, we explored interpersonal considerations while supporting the statistical results with qualitative data obtained from follow-up interviews. The results showed that Chinese learners of Japanese were less likely to use the semantic formula known as “responsibility avoidance” than native Japanese speakers when giving advice on important matters. On the other hand, Chinese learners of Japanese tended to give instructions to their close friends and expressed their opinions frequently to demonstrate the validity of their advice. Therefore, it has become clear that when native Japanese speakers receive advice from Chinese learners of Japanese, they may feel as though they are being taught from a superior position, potentially hindering the formation of good interpersonal relationships.

**[Keywords]** advice, Chinese learners of Japanese, influences, factors, decision tree analysis