

# An analysis of Japanese language habits and characteristics from the perspective of learning

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**Abstract:** In ancient times, Japan sent a large number of scholars to China to learn cultural and economic knowledge. In the Tang Dynasty, it even reached its peak. At this stage, the number of Japanese entering China showed a trend of rapid growth. China's porcelain, agricultural products and tea also began to enter the Japanese market, which played a positive role in promoting the development of Japanese economy and the development of Japanese society. Subsequently, Japan entered the Meiji restoration stage, and they began to actively learn the cultural concepts of Europe. English and Spanish began to enter Japan, which had an impact on Japan's development, accelerated the progress of Japanese civilization to a certain extent and also had a certain impact on China. In this paper, the author will briefly study the characteristics and terms of Japanese language, hoping to provide corresponding reference for people to learn Japanese.

**Key words:** language characteristics; language habits; harmonious relationship; situation

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## 1 Introduction

In our daily life, we will inevitably encounter some situations where we need to communicate with others. If there is no proper language, the other party will be in an uncomfortable psychological state, especially for those who are learning the languages of other countries. Because they have used Chinese to express their emotions for a long time, they formed a fixed mode of thinking. If this mode of thinking is applied to other languages, it will give people a different feeling. For Chinese people, they will use more direct language to communicate with each other. But for Japanese, they are more used to using euphemism to express their attitude, which can maintain a good relationship between the two sides.

## 2 Japanese language habits

Both Japanese and Chinese use words such as preface and ending words to express the content, but compared with Chinese, Japanese is relatively euphemistic in expression.

### 2.1 Preface

From the foreword, in order to avoid the embarrassing situation where one party puts forward requirements and the other party wants to refuse when communicating, which will cause unhappiness, the Japanese do not take the initiative to talk about some important contents when communicating with others. In this way, conflicts with others can be avoided. If it is difficult to avoid this situation, the foreword is usually expressed first, and then the request from others is rejected by euphemism [1]. For example, when people ask the other party to "go to the movies together after work", if the other party really finds it difficult to keep the appointment due to something and adopts a very obvious refusal mode, it will have an impact on the inviting party's psychology. Therefore, for Japanese, they will choose a euphemistic way to express their

wishes first, and then give reasons or reject the other party in a very gentle tone to ensure that the result is more acceptable to the other party. At the same time, in the process of conversation between the two sides, if there are obvious differences between their own views and those of others, the Japanese will first express an attitude of approval to the other side's views, and then use a euphemistic way of rejection to completely hide their ideas and let the other side understand themselves. In addition, when people reject the other party with a foreword, the rejected person will also express their own thoughts and attitudes. For example, when someone invites another to see a movie, after being rejected, the rejected person will also say, "I'm sorry this time. Will you try to go next time?" This is a very friendly and positive attitude expression. Through this communication mode, the other party can also feel the goodwill of others, and this expression also has the characteristics of indirect rejection. It can effectively repair the relationship between the two parties, avoid the other party feeling unhappy, reduce the negative impact on the other party, and make the relationship between the two people in a more harmonious state [2].

## 2.2 Closing words

For Japanese, when a thing can not be completed or done, they will use specific expressions to avoid embarrassment. They often add some negative words after the verb to express the meaning of negating the other party. At this time, we need to pay attention to an important point, that is, "difficult" in Chinese and "difficult" in Japanese have different meanings. People often think that it is difficult to complete a thing when facing it, but it can also be done if other methods used. But for Japanese, this word means "refusal".

## 2.3 Ambiguous vocabulary

There are many words in Japanese that have two meanings. When this happens, it is impossible to judge the attitude of the other party. For example, in the process of eating, the Japanese will first ask the other party whether they need tea or rice. At this time, the person asked will answer: Yes (No). This situation will make it difficult for the questioner to clarify the meaning of the other party, but the speaker has already wanted to express his own ideas. From this point of view, although this method does not have an obvious meaning of refusal, it is mainly used to express the meaning of refusal in daily language. In the Japanese thinking mode, if you refuse the other party, they will feel very sad. If you refuse the other party with inappropriate language, you will make the other party feel impolite. Therefore, when choosing language expression, we need to start from the Japanese thinking. From the above discussion, we can understand that in the process of getting along with others, Japanese often choose to maintain a harmonious relationship with each other to ensure a harmonious atmosphere and avoid harm to each other [3].

## 3 Language features

In the formation process of any language, it will take its own culture as its support. Therefore, we know that Japanese language habits will be affected by local culture. In the actual communication process, Japanese reflects the characteristics of "harmony" [4]. This is because Japanese people themselves have the habit of echoing. In other words, when dealing with interpersonal relations, the Japanese will adopt the way of echoing to avoid hurting the other side. At this time, they hope that the other side can treat them in the same way to ensure that both sides maintain good relations. In the process of language communication, it will also pass this idea to the other party to ensure that they are in a very harmonious state. At the same time, by analyzing the geographical environment of Japan, we can find that their living space is narrow and within the scope of an island, so they lack sufficient resources. Meanwhile, Japan is also a region with frequent earthquakes. Each village will form its own unique cultural exchange mode. They have the same thinking mode and cultural background, and there is also a large tacit understanding in psychology. When a person asks another person whether he has time to complete a thing with him the next day, there are two kinds of answers in the eyes of foreigners,

one is to refuse and the other is to accept. But for the Japanese, they can quickly determine what the other party wants to express. In the process of language communication, the deep meaning of the sentence needs to be understood by both parties, and then determined in the communication. For example, when a person asks where the other person wants to go, it is impossible to use the simple literal meaning. When asked if they need help and meet problems, the inquired people will reply: "Thank you for your concern." But they won't tell where they want to go or what help they want. Through this vague expression, the relationship between the two parties can be avoided from falling into an embarrassing situation without the real understanding of others. In addition, Japanese people frequently use honorific words to express its respect for others and make their relationship more harmonious [5].

#### **4 Concluding remarks**

To sum up, as the main way of communication between people, language can help understand each other's ideas, establish harmonious relations, and ensure smooth language communication. If the wrong way of expression is adopted, it will cause misunderstanding and even directly affect the feelings of the other party. Therefore, in the process of Japanese learning, we need to deeply understand the characteristics of Japanese culture and start from the unique thinking and psychological perspective of Japanese, so as to express the accurate language.

#### **Conflicts of interest**

The author declares no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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