

JOURNAL WATCH

Edited by Akiko Hagiwara

I went to PLL held in Kobe, and I believe many of you did, too. I attended several presentations, and some of them were based on conversation analysis. I always enjoy the presentations in CA at conferences, but I do not particularly enjoy reading CA papers. It is partly because it takes time to read through the paper, because unlike some other types of research, you need to go back and forth between the transcript with various notations and the main text. I like video data. What the presenter says sounds real with the actual video, but with only with the transcripts I have to use my imagination. I guess if I keep reading CA literature, I will learn to process the transcript more easily and more quickly. Having said that, I read the following article this time.

Kuroshima, Satomi. 2010. Another look at the service encounter: Progressivity, intersubjectivity, and trust in a Japanese sushi restaurant. *Journal of Pragmatics* 42, 856-869.

At first, I thought the data were taken from a sushi bar in Japan, but they were taken in a sushi restaurant in LA, and, therefore, the conversation was mainly in English with occasionally appearing Japanese phrases. Kuroshima looked into the sequence organization at the sushi counter, an institutional setting. What is really interesting here is that the chef is a second language English speaker but is also an expert in his own

profession. The chef manages the interaction by responding to the customer either by a down-intoned response or by a request for confirmation. Kuroshima analyzes these data based on Schegeloff's framework on progressivity and intersubjectivity. Basically, she takes the ordering of food and the response to it, mostly expressed as Ok or *haiyo* in Japanese, as the basic sequence and examines what kinds of sequences are inserted between them. By inserting a sequence of request for confirmation and confirmation by sacrificing progressivity, the interlocutors are establishing intersubjectivity, which leads to the development of trust between the sushi chef and the customers.

Speech act studies are not easily found these days. I found the following two studies that use Discourse Completion Tasks (DCT). Being aware of the fact that it is a heavily criticized methodology nowadays, the authors used DCT as the main instrument to obtain data for their developmental studies.

Long, Christopher. 2010. Apology in Japanese gratitude situations: The negotiation of interlocutor role relations. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 42, 1060-1075.

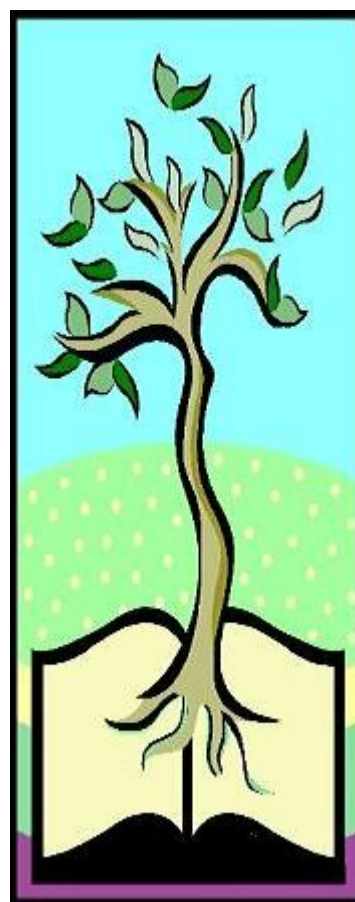
This study investigated the usages of Japanese apology-gratitude expressions such as *sumimasen* and *gomen-nasai* in several situations. Long found that as the physical burden of the situation increases, the number of usage of these expressions increases regardless of the social status of the interlocutors, supporting Brown and Levinson's politeness scheme. The second part of the study investigated the acquisition process of these expressions by children. Long's data show that children as young as 1st graders start using these expressions, and 7th graders use them like adults. He discusses that children acquire the usages of these expressions early on, but they do not use them in their natural speech except in role-plays. I wondered how we could study children's language in this sense. Children seem to know much about adult language, but they seem to stick to their own register when they talk. This paper prompted me to read more papers on child language acquisition.

Chang, Yuh-Fang. 2010. 'I no say you say is boring': the development of pragmatic competence in L2 apology. *Language Sciences* 32, 408-424.

This study also utilizes DCT and studies how Chinese L1 children acquire English apologies as a L2. Chang uses a CCSARP-like coding system and found some patterns of development. In an early stage, children use a formulaic expression of 'I am

sorry' or its variants, and as they grow older, they start using "request for forgiveness" strategies. She explains that although the formulaic expression of "please forgive me" uses a simple grammatical structure, the emergence is in a later stage of development, which is probably due to pragmatic reasons.

Reading these studies made me feel nostalgic, reminding me of the 90's.



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