

Grammar and Communication Strategies in Japanese Conversation

Instructor: Dr. Mariko Karatsu (karatsu@email.arizona.edu)
Time & Class Room: Wednesday 2:40pm - 4:10pm at KIEC Lecture Room
Friday 1:00pm- 2:30pm at Room 524-2
3/4 (Tue) & 4/29 (Tue) 2:40pm - 4:10pm at KIEC Lecture Room
(No class on 3/26 & 3/29)

Course Description:

The purposes of this course are to learn methods of analyzing everyday conversation and conversational interaction and to study major topics in discourse/conversation analysis in Japanese. Topics include 1) how conversational participants use grammar such as word order, particles, and demonstratives to mobilize their conversational interaction, 2) how they use communication devices such as *aizuti* ('back channel utterances') and repetition, and 3) how they collaboratively organize sequences of turn-taking in conversational activities.

Course Materials:

We will be reading selected book chapters and journal articles throughout the semester. See the course schedule for required readings. Other materials including study questions and handouts will be distributed in class.

Grading:

Grades will be based on the following components:

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| - Class participation | 30% |
| - Reading log | 15% |
| - Homework assignments | 30% |
| - Final project | 25% |

Class Participation (30% of final grade):

You are required to attend every session and do the required readings. You should be able to offer some insights on all the required readings in the course of the class discussion.

Participation in classroom discussions is important for your understanding of topics, and your active participation is expected. If you miss a class, be sure to contact the instructor for assignments, announcements and/or changes in the schedule.

Class attendance policy:

You are allowed two unexcused absences during the semester without penalty. A third unexcused absence will reduce your grade in the course by 10 points (equivalent to one letter grade in the American system). A fourth unexcused absence will reduce your grade by another 10 points. More than four unexcused absences will result automatically in a failing grade for the course. Legitimate excuses for absence are normally limited to illnesses or accidents that require medical attention. Please consult with the Resident Director in advance if you believe that you have some other legitimate reason for absence. Students must document all legitimate excuses.

Reading log (15% of final grade):

Before you come to class, you are required to finish all the required readings and write some insights on each reading. Prepare a Word file and accumulate your log for each reading in the

file. Your log for each article should consist of a minimum of 3-4 sentences. You will occasionally submit your log. See the class schedule.

Homework Assignments (30% of final grade):

You will be given transcriptions of Japanese conversation with English translation and be required to analyze them in terms of topics which we cover in class. For example, after we cover back-channel utterances in class you will be required to analyze and describe the conversation participants' back-channel behavior based on the readings and what we discussed.

Final Project (25% of final grade):

You will write a research paper observing and analyzing conversation in Japanese. You will be required to choose a topic, and record approximately 10 minutes of conversation between two to three people, for example, conversation between you and your friend and conversation among your host family members. You will observe the conversation and transcribe segments which you will need for your analysis. Then, you will write your observation and analysis.

- Proposal (5%):

Write a 1 page, single spaced proposal of your project.

- Paper draft (5%):

Write a 5 page, double spaced paper draft, including examples (data)

- Final paper (10%):

Write a 10 page, double spaced paper, including examples (data), and references.

- Presentation (5%):

You will make a presentation of your project (15-20 minutes presentation followed by 10 minutes question-answer). You should make power point slides and handouts for your presentation.

Assignment submission policy:

Each assignment is due at the beginning of class on the day listed on the course schedule. Late assignments may be accepted if you submit them by the date the instructor assign (usually within one week after the original deadline). However, the grade will be lowered by 20% of your grade for each late assignment.

Academic Honesty:

All work you submit must be your own and must not have been submitted for any other course elsewhere. If you include ideas or words from someone else, even if it is "only" one of your classmates, that person must be properly cited. Work not your own will be given a failing grade and may result in a failing grade for the course.

Classroom Behavior:

You are expected to behave as a college student in the classroom. The use of cell phones, smart phones, and text messaging is not allowed during the class.

Accommodations:

Students who may require academic adjustments and/or reasonable accommodations in order to fulfill course requirements should speak with the instructor about them.

Course Schedule

Unit 1: Introduction

1. 1/22 (W) - Orientation
2. 1/24 (F) - Characteristics of Spoken Japanese
Reading: Maynard (1989) pp. 19-44
3. 1/29 (W) - Different back-channel behavior in Japanese and English
Reading: Maynard (1997) pp. 211-215
Reading: Maynard (1989) pp. 159-177
4. 1/31 (F) - Japanese in real life conversation and textbook conversation
Reading: Mori (2005) pp. 255-289
5. 2/5 (W) Reading: Ono & Jones (2008) pp. 21-51
***** Submit your reading log #1**

Unit 2: Different use of Grammar in Japanese and English

6. 2/7 (F) - Interjection / Conversation Analysis
Reading: Mori (2006) pp. 1175-1205
7. 2/14 (F) Reading: Shimotani (2008) pp. 121-133
8. 2/19 (W) - Causal markers / Conversation Analysis
Reading: Ford & Mori (1994) pp. 31-61
9. 2/21 (F) Reading: Lerner & Takagi (1999) pp. 49-75
***** Submit your reading log #2**

Unit 3: Grammar in Japanese Conversation

10. 2/26 (W) - Final particles
Reading: Cook (1992) pp. 507-539
11. 2/28 (F) Reading: Squires (1994) pp. 1-29
***** Homework Assignment #1**
12. 3/4 (T) - Case particles
Reading: Ono, Tohmppson & Suzuki (2000) pp. 55-84
13. 3/12 (W) Reading: Fujii & Ono (2000) pp. 1-39
14. 3/14 (F) - Demonstratives
Reading: Naruoka (2006) pp. 475-512
15. 3/19 (W) Reading: Karatsu (2010) pp. 113-143
***** Homework Assignment #2**
16. 4/2 (W) - Modal expressions
Reading: Karatsu (2012) pp. 69-79
17. 4/4 (F) Reading: Matsugu (2005) pp. 423-436
***** Submit your reading log #3**

Unit 4: Communication Strategies in Japanese and English

18. 4/9 (W) - Strategies to tell and listen to a story
Reading: Maynard (1989) pp. 98-133
19. 4/11 (F) Reading: Fujii (2007) pp. 183-211
***** Project Proposal due**

- 20. 4/16 (W) Reading: Fujii (2008) pp. 325-370
- 21. 4/18 (F) - Speech style shift
Reading: Ikuta (2008) pp. 71-89
***** Homework Assignment #3**
- 22. 4/23 (W) Reading: Cook (2998) pp. 9-38
- 23. 4/25 (F) - Repeating one's and other's speech
Reading: Fujimura-Wilson (2007) pp. 319-339
- 24. 4/29 (T) Reading: Kumagai (2004) pp. 199-220
***** Paper draft due**
- 25. 5/7 (W) - Conflict management
Reading: Watanabe (2004) pp. 65-93
- 26. 5/9 (F) Reading: Noda (2004) pp. 95-123
- 27. 5/14 (W) Reading: TBA
***** Submission of your reading log #4**
- 28. 5/16 (F) - Presentation

***** Final Paper due is at 1:00pm on May 19 (Mon).**