

定例研究会要旨

日時：平成 26（2014）年 10 月 15 日 17:40～19:40

会場：東京外国語大学 語学研究所

題目：“Person reference and intersubjective alignment in youth interaction”

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Benveniste (1971) famously writes that language is “marked so deeply by the expression of subjectivity” such that it is inconceivable to think of human beings not being defined by it. He also singles out ‘I’ and ‘you’ as indices of subjectivity par excellence. In this talk I lay out some of the theoretical challenges in applying this view to a study of intersubjectivity. Previous studies on the topic have focused on different aspects of grammar such as modals and negation, demonstrating how semantic, pragmatic, and cognitive approaches to intersubjectivity can be robustly operationalised. However, in terms of analysing person reference in discourse, the challenge remains as to how to show that self and addressee references are intersubjective beyond the general sense of the term that any communication entails intersubjectivity. Based on examples from Indonesian youth interaction, I propose that person forms are intersubjective in the following respects. First, they derive intersubjective meanings from their being used to index positioning and alignment in interaction. Second, in being used as such, they bear an indexical relation to perduring social meanings (i.e., meanings not tied to interactional contingencies). Such meanings may result from a typification of speakers and their ways of speaking, introduced as an ideology by an institutional framework, or other social practices. As will be shown, intersubjectivity is overtly indicated by participants’ responses to a speaker’s use of forms, as well as the speaker’s responses to them.