This study analyzes linguistic behavior in Japanese and Russian in the situation of collaborative work between three persons aimed at task solving and describes patterns of collaborative work in the languages. The conversation data was collected under controlled conditions and studied from different angles focusing on turn-taking, speech acts and linguistic politeness. Revealing similarities and differences between Japanese and Russian linguistic behavior, this study explores the way of participation in collaborative work aimed at accomplishment of a common goal in the two languages. As a result, the author found two patterns of collaborative work. These are "shoulder to shoulder" type for Japanese and "face to face" type for Russian.

The paper consists of 7 chapters. Chapter 1 provides the purpose and research questions, as well as significance of the study. Chapter 2 outlines previous researches related to turn-taking organization, the speech act of "suggestion" and linguistic politeness. Chapter 3 is on the methodology used for data collecting and analyzing.

Chapter 4 deals with turn allocation techniques in turn-taking. The data showed that participants taking turns used the "self-selection" technique more frequently than the "current speaker selects next" technique in both languages.

Both Japanese and Russian data showed that the current speaker selected the next tacitly. The difference found out was Japanese speakers employed social identities by shifting sentence-final expression to limit eligible responders to a single participant. Meanwhile, Russian speakers used the singular form of pronouns and verbs to indicate a single recipient was being addressed.

Concerning turn-taking based on "self-selection", utterance overlaps were
analyzed. From the point of transition-relevance place (TRP) I categorized the overlaps to those that occurred at TRP of the previous utterance and to those that occurred at not the TRP. Both in Japanese and in Russian current speakers were found to yield the turn when an overlap occurred. In the cases when he/she did not, Japanese self-selectors claimed the turn tacitly repeating short overlaps. In contrast, Russian self-selectors claimed the turn explicitly by the expressions restraining the interlocutor's actions.

Chapter 5 deals with the speech act of "suggestion" which is important in task solving. Japanese speakers were found to use much more question forms but less declarative and imperative forms in "suggestion" utterances than Russian speakers. The analysis of the hearer's response to the suggestions revealed that Japanese avoided indicating his/her approval or disapproval of the suggestion, while Russian speakers used explicit expressions to make his/her position clear. Furthermore, the author analyzed conversational extracts in which Japanese speakers made suggestions in question form to urge a clear response from the hearer.

Chapter 6 is on linguistic politeness in turn-taking and the speech act of suggestion.

Analyzing linguistic politeness in the cases "current speaker selects next " the author focused on the content of the utterances. The results showed that the current speaker selecting the next sought approval or ideas from the interlocutor. Thus he/she tried to make other participants in group supporters by leading them into the work. In contrast, Russian speakers were found to pay attention to the logic of the interlocutor's ideas by calling for a more detailed explanation.

The author regards hesitation in speaking and utterance co-construction in self-selected turns with overlapping utterances as linguistic politeness. Japanese speakers were found to express hesitation in turn-taking by fragmented speech and repetition of syllables in overlapping parts. Thus self-selectors postponed starting his/her turn to express consideration of the current speaker's right to speak. In addition, Japanese speakers assured himself/herself for the right to speak next not impinging the current speaker's right by sharing a turn with him/her in utterance co-construction. However, Russian self-selectors employed fillers to express hesitation and avoid co-construction in overlapping utterances.
Considering linguistic politeness in the speech act of "suggestion", hedges were analyzed as devices mitigating illocutionary force of the speech act. The result showed that Japanese speakers employed hedges in "suggestions" much more than Russian speakers. However, in "suggestions" in question form, hedging was observed much more frequently in Russian data than in Japanese.

In "suggestions" in declarative form, "approximators" such as "mitai(na/nki)" (look like) were employed more frequently in Japanese. While in Russian, "shields" such as "mne kazhetsya" (it seems to me) were preferred more. In "suggestions" in question form, Japanese speakers were found to make suggestions most frequently as a question directed only to himself/herself by using "kana" (question marker + final particle). Thus Japanese avoided direct addressing the suggestion to the interlocutor. In contrast, in Russian the most frequent expression was "mozhets by't" (maybe) indicating speaker's uncertainty of the suggestion. In "suggestions" in imperative form, both in Japanese and in Russian "approximators" expressing a low degree were used to mitigate illocutionary force of the speech act.

In response to the suggestion, Japanese speakers were found to show interest and understanding by an "additional explanation" and employ a "deferment" to avoid refusing the suggestion. In cases when responder refused the suggestion, he/she did so indirectly through pointing out on problems or mistakes in the suggestion. In contrast, Russian speakers indicated the approval/refusal clearly to prevent the work from being retarded.

Chapter 7 summarizes results provided in Chapters 4-6. This study characterizes Japanese linguistic behavior in collaborative work as avoiding monopolizing the turn, avoiding indicating his/her position clearly, seeking approval or ideas from others. While Russian linguistic behavior is characterized as actively competing for turn-taking, clearly indicating his/her position, demonstrating the will to solve the task and to understand the interlocutor correctly. Considering the results comprehensively, the author suggests a "shoulder to shoulder" type of collaborative work for Japanese and "face to face" type for Russian.

The study concludes that Japanese speakers form a community "standing shoulder to shoulder" and solve a task as a single entity looking the same direction.
While Russian speakers form a community “facing each other” with a common aim in the core of the community. And the common aim is what joins Russian speaking participants standing at different positions and maintains the community in collaborative work.