This study aims to reveal the characteristics of an "inviting act" and the mechanism of considerate act in Japanese and Korean conversations between friends.

The existing studies on an "inviting act" have been overly weighted toward questionnaires survey, discourse completion test or the qualitative analysis of conversation, so it is not to say that they have revealed the real condition of language operation. Therefore, through both qualitative and quantitative analysis, this study analyzed conversation data conditionally controlling the factors which influence language acts (the power that hear has over speaker, the social distance, and the degree of imposition). The mechanism of considerate act is investigated on the view point of 'politeness theory' (Brown and Levinson, 1987) and 'discourse politeness theory' (Usami, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2003b, 2008) that introduced the concepts of the hearer's view point and relative politeness of discourse level.

This study composed of 9 Chapters.

The first chapter explained in details purpose of the study that to reveal the characteristics of an "inviting act" and the mechanism of considerate act in Japanese and Korean conversations between friends.

Chapter 2 explained the concept of invitation in this study, generally investigated study approaches on invitation, politeness, discourse, and conversation, and suggested the direction of this study.

First of all, this study pointed out the obscurity of predicate verb 「kanyu(suggestion)」 revealed in the existing studies, and instead this study presented predicate verb 「sasoi(invitation)」 as a function of inviting person and an 「sasokoodoo(inviting act)」 including the interaction between an inviting person and an invited person. Also, after presenting the establishing requirement of 「invitation」 as an illocutionary act, the study presented a new view point that 「invitation」 is a language act where the property violating a negative face of the other and the property satisfying a positive face coexist.
In order to reveal the mechanism of a considerate act happening in an ‘inviting act’, the study insisted on the necessity to investigate by using both ‘politeness theory’ and ‘discourse politeness theory’. In addition, to dig out the characteristics of an ‘inviting act’, the study explained that ‘comprehensive conversation analysis’ including local viewpoint and global viewpoint is effective.

Chapter 3 explained in details the method of data collection in accordance with ‘comprehensive conversation analysis’ (Usami, 2008) and the order of recording. Also, to analyze the interaction in inviting conversation through qualitative and quantitative analysis, the study mentioned the effectiveness of transcribing the data according to ‘BTSI’ (Usami, 2007) and ‘BTSK’ (Usami et al., 2007), and explained Cohen’s Kappa, a method of confirming the utterance sentences and the reliability of coding the analyzed items in the transcribed data.

Chapter 4 specified the basic information of the experimented subjects, conversation time, and the number of utterance sentences. In addition, the study confirmed the validity of data through follow-up survey on ‘naturalness’ of the data, the ‘social distance’ between the experimented subjects and the ‘degree of imposition’ about invitation, and confirmed the utterance sentences and the reliability of coding the analyzed items in the transcribed data.

Chapter 5 pointed out the necessity that the whole conversation should be analyzed in order to reveal the characteristics of an ‘inviting act’. Furthermore, it examined the structure and flow of inviting conversation in the discourse level.

First of all, in the beginning and at the end of both Japanese and Korean conversations, there was a tendency to choose the topic unrelated with invitation. Concerning such choice of topic, in both Japanese and Korean, the mechanism toward positive face that claim ‘common ground’ with the other was investigated to be affected. In particular, in Korean, the topic emphasizing intimacy with the other was noticeable.

Compared to Korean, Japanese had the strong tendency to insert the topic unrelated to invitation (uninviting discourse (hisasoidanwa)) in the process of an inviting act. On the other hand, Korean had the strong tendency not to insert uninviting discourse once an inviting act has begun. In view of the utterance level, the insertion of uninviting discourse in the course of an inviting act is a strategy toward positive face of the other, but in view of discourse level, it could be inferred as a strategy toward negative face of the invited person.
Chapter 6 investigated the process of an inviting act in the utterance level focused only on an inviting act (inviting discourse (sasoidamwa) and discourse related to invitation (sasoidammenta)).

First of all, concerning the process of an inviting act in the inviting discourse, both Japanese and Korean showed a chain of utterance related to invitation before invitation started, and showed the tendency to continue the chain of utterance related to invitation (subsequently related chain) even after acceptance or refusal from the suggested person occurred (core chain). However, in Japanese, in case there was no precedent chain, it became an act of breaking-away (marked), but in Korean, in case there was no precedent chain, it was not the act of breaking-away (unmarked), which made the difference.

Moreover, in subsequently related chain, in both Japanese and Korean, negotiation for deciding the case related to invitation and a chain of utterance for maintaining the communication became the center. However, in negotiation, in case of Korean, it showed the tendency not to negotiate about other objects until the negotiation about some objects was completed, but differently in case of Japanese, even in the state that the negotiation was not established, the new negotiation about others could start.

In addition, the study could get the interesting result that the degree of sharing information about the content of invitation between the inviting and the invited could have an effect on the process of an inviting act and considerate act.

Discourse related to invitation meant resuming temporarily stopped an inviting act, and Japanese showed the tendency to continue negotiation about the object that did not conclude in inviting discourse or was not dealt with as a form of supplementing inviting discourse. Therefore, the number of negotiating utterance sentence increased almost double, compared to inviting discourse. On the other hand, in Korean, the number of negotiating utterance sentence reduced into a fourth of inviting discourse, which was interpreted because of the style starting the new negotiation after the negotiation has completed. Also, confirming utterance sentence showed the function to booster the end of an inviting act in Japanese, but in Korean, the function to resume temporarily stopped an inviting act was spotted.

Chapter 7 noticed on inviting utterance sentence, the core of an inviting act, and responsive utterance sentence.

Inviting utterance sentence was analyzed focused on the verb expressions. As the result, direct inviting expressions, 「～shiyoo」 (Japanese) and 「～ca」 (Korean) were most frequently used. It's because in case of Japanese, the parts except verbs (insertion of uninviting discourse, the existence of a precedent chain, etc) supplemented a considerate act toward the other, whereas in Korean, invitation was recognized as the act to satisfy positive face of the other.

In responsive utterance sentences, in both Japanese and Korean, accepting just after invitation became an act of non-breaking-away (unmarked). Also, in Japanese, there were lots of acceptances using expressions
of hope, but there was no expression of hope in Korean and instead acceptance was frequently expressed in form of suggesting the case related with invitation.

When it came to the relationship between the method of invitation and the method of response, Japanese showed the tendency to make positive acceptance toward both direct invitation and indirect invitation. The inactive acceptance conveying just the meaning of affirmation had the big possibility to be accepted just out of obligation, so it was examined that the intention to convey acceptance of the invited person was hidden. On the other hand, Korean had the strong tendency of inactive acceptance toward direct invitation and of active acceptance toward indirect invitation. It was interpreted that in Korean, even with inactive acceptance, the effect to satisfy positive face of the inviting person was enough. In addition, active acceptance toward indirect invitation where the intention of the inviting person did not come to the fore means considering the desire of the invited person, which strengthened the effect satisfying the positive face of the inviting person.

Chapter 8 dealt with the result obtained in this study in view of 'discourse politeness theory' as a whole. It inferred the effect of relative politeness through the interaction between the inviting person and the invited person, by extracting inviting conversation, an inviting act and the basic state of each element constituting an inviting act. Therefore, it suggested that the effect of politeness could change relatively according to the difference of estimation on the violation of the face of language act of the speaker and the hearer. Also in order to clarify the mechanism of considerate act, it is required to introduce the view of the relative politeness.

Chapter 9 concluded through the result of this study that Japanese showed the tendency to recognize the invitation as the act violating negative face of the other but Korean showed the tendency to recognize the act satisfying positive fact of the other as the expression of intimacy. Also, it concluded that in both Japanese and Korean, the invited had the strong tendency to satisfy positive face of the inviting.

In addition, the chapter pointed that there might be a coexistence of the function as both positive politeness strategy and negative politeness strategy in one illocutionary, and proposed that in the study of politeness, studying both the level of utterance and the level of discourse side by side would be effective.