

論 文 の 英 文 要 旨

論文題名

*A New Language Order of Japanese Abroad:
A Study in the Use of Japanese Honorific Expressions among People of
Parentage in Brazil*

氏 名

Akemi Yamashita

Aim.

The aim of this study is to clarify "the birth of a new language order in Japanese among people of Japanese parentage in Brazil," and to consider the usage of honorific expressions in Japanese among people of Japanese parentage in Brazil from the view of "a new system born in the new society."

Outline of survey

Based on the results of a survey, I first describe the present situation concerning the use of honorific expressions and forms of address by which persons are greeted among people of Japanese descent in Brazil. I then go on to discuss the "new system" of honorific expressions adapted by the "new society" by analyzing the results of the survey and explaining what causes this usage.

Survey results and analysis

First, I introduce and explain four elements of language use relevant to this survey:

- 1) formal honorific verb forms
- 2) "o~/go~" prefix to nouns and adjectives
- 3) forms of address between husband and wife and other family members
- 4) dialect forms still apparent in Brazilian Japanese usage.

Additionally I explore the crossover between each of these four elements in language use.

Secondly, I discuss the non-linguistic consequences of a speaker's social environment and background on his or her use of language. For Japanese Brazilians, the experience of being raised in a ghettoized existence combined with the language taught in the home and the generation to which they belong, has been found to be a greater determining factor in the use of honorifics than the status of the person being addressed. In Japan, it is the speaker's gender and age that are the determining factors—for example, generally speaking the older generation and women will speak more politely. With Japanese Americans, the situation is similar—the speaker's gender and age remain a major factor, but it is also true that the better educated a person is, the more politely he or she will tend to speak.

Thirdly, I look at the use of honorific expressions in European languages especially Portuguese, and examine how the Portuguese spoken in Brazil, that is, Brazilian Portuguese, has influenced Japanese Brazilian honorific expressions. For example, results from a survey carried out in Porto Alegre in the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sur, show that the Brazilian Portuguese polite 3rd person "voce" form is used to express respect for seniority rather than respect for a person's status, as can also be seen in Japanese Brazilian.

Method

This survey is based on the combined results of computer-processed data, the hayashi-III-ru method and cross-section analyses. Although this paper is specifically about Japanese Brazilian honorific systems, I have also compared Japanese American and indigenous Japanese honorific systems to help clarify results. The principal geographical areas covered are:

- 1) Rio Grande do Sur in Brazil
- 2) the prefectures of Shizuoka, Gunma, Ibaraki in Japan, where second- and third-generation Japanese Brazilians have returned to work
- 3) California, Colorado, Minnesota, New York and Hawaii in the USA, where Japanese descendants now live.
- 4) the western part of Japan, Hiroshima, Yamaguchi, Fukuoka, Okinawa, Kumamoto, Kagoshima, Koochi, Shimane and Toyama, where the majority of Brazilian Japanese immigrants originated.

Conclusions

The following is clarified by this survey:

- 1) By using the hayashi-III-ru method, I found a tendency, among all groups of Japanese Brazilian, for a general crossover of the four elements of language outlined above, that is, a combination of formal honorific verb forms, "o~/go~" usage, forms of address among family members, and use of dialect. The "~reru/~rareru" form which is based on the Japanese of western Japan and the "desu/~masu" polite form are commonly used as honorific expressions, while the "o~,go~" prefix is used mainly for everyday words. A husband and wife will tend to use "bem" ("my good ...") when addressing each other—a reflection of the Japanese Brazilian democratic family system.
- 2) Use of Japanese honorific expressions among people of Japanese parentage in Brazil is influenced by dialects spoken in the southern and western parts of Japan where the majority of Japanese immigrants originated. Even among immigrants originally from Hokkaido or Tokyo, dialect forms from western Japan have been adopted as the standard form. In this way a new Japanese language has been born.
- 3) Japanese Brazilian honorific expressions are a reflection of the family system and democratization of society. The speaker's gender status has little influence on the way he or she learns Japanese, and because children are mainly educated in the home, the language taught in the home will be a major determining factor in the use of honorific expressions.

- 4) While social status determines the way honorific expressions are used in indigenous Japanese, in Japanese Brazilian the speaker will be influenced by the age of the person he or she is addressing rather than that person's status when deciding to use the polite form. Additionally, when addressing older women there is a tendency to use more honorific expressions.
- 5) Both the process of change and the democratization of Japanese honorific expressions in Brazil are different from that of Japanese in Japan. During the 1960s a great change took place in Japanese Brazilian society when some groups migrated to the city in search of employment often in the areas of business and commerce, thereby securing a place in middle-class society. At the same time simplified Japanese language forms such as "desu" and "~masu" became the standard form of honorific expression for the purpose of adapting quickly to the conditions demanded in commercial business activities, that is when employed by Japanese businesses set up in Brazil.
- 6) Middle-class Japanese Brazilians emphasize politeness and kindness rather than respect and formality. Where "desu" and "~masu" usage is considered insufficiently polite or kind, a sentence will often end in "~ne" preceded by the Japanese plain form.