
SOCIOLINGUISTIC ISSUES AND MODERN JAPANESE

2 credits (Fall)

社会言語学の諸問題と現代日本語 2 単位(秋学期)

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Course Description/Objectives/Teaching Method/Intended Learning Outcome:

Whatever language we use, how we speak and write to others will reveal many aspects of ourselves, such as what we are, how we see a situation we are in, and how we treat others, etc. In this course, you will observe and discuss various aspects of Japanese language usage in relation to culture and society. By doing this in comparison to language usage seen in different cultures and societies and writing a final paper on one phenomenon describing Japanese language usage, you will explore what Japanese people living in this contemporary society are actually doing through their communicative practice.

Course Plan:

- 1 Introduction
- 2 The scope of Sociolinguistics
- 3 Standard language and dialect
- 4 Language and gender
- 5 Language and age
- 6 Language and register
- 7 Language and politeness
- 8 Language and conversation
- 9 Multilingualism
- 10 Linguistic landscapes
- 11 Preparation for your final paper
- 12 Preparation for your final paper
- 13 Presentation Day

Other None

Method of Evaluation:

1. Attendance and participation (45%)
2. Presentation in a written format (20%)
3. Final paper and its related activity (35%)

Textbooks:

Materials will be provided online.

Reference Books:

Coulmas, F. (2013). Sociolinguistics: The study of speakers' choices. 2nd edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Coupland, N. and Adam Jaworski, A. (1997). Sociolinguistics: A Reader and Coursebook. (Palgrave Modern Linguistics). New York: Palgrave.
Wardhaugh, R. and Fuller, J. M. (2014). An Introduction to Sociolinguistics (Blackwell Textbooks in Linguistics). 7th edition.

Lecturer's Comments to Students:

- **This course is designed both for international students and for local students.** You will be expected to actively exchange opinions and views with your classmates. **The number of students for this course is limited to 20.**
- **This course will be offered on an on-demand basis, but live-streaming sessions will be held via Zoom for several classes.** Further details of the course organization will be explained in the session of Week 1.
- **Relatively high proficiency (above intermediate level (e.g. above N2)) in Japanese would be required for discussing covered issues.**
- **Those who wish to take this course are required not only to register the course via Academic Affairs Web System but also to fill out a questionnaire by 16:45 on September 29th (JST), by logging in Google Forms with their Keio accounts and using the link: <https://forms.gle/oAYMG7P55CZRqETu5>**

The selection will be made based on the information provided to the instructor through the questionnaire.