Language, gender, status, and power

I. Introduction

- (1) Language and ... gender?
 - (a) Many languages are said to have gender-specific language patterns
 - (b) However, many societies also have gender-related social roles or power structures
 - (c) Therefore, it is important to separate effects of gender from effects of power or status
 - Example: Do US-English-speaking men interrupt more often than women?
- (2) Gendered language and speaker identity

Social identity, including factors related to gender, is to a large extent **constructed by speakers** — speakers *choose* more/less masculine/feminine expressions

- (3) In Japanese, there are many characteristics that are traditionally thought to vary according to the gender of the speaker
 - How can we examine language use **empirically** to evaluate these claims?
- II. Language patterns with gender(?) distinctions in Japanese
- (4) Some traditionally identified domains with gender differences in Japanese
 - (a) Pronoun use traditional categories (normative, prescriptivist?)
 - (b) Sentence-final particles chart from Ide (1979), via Ide & Yoshida (1999)
 - (c) Levels of politeness / honorific use charts from Ide & Yoshida (1999)
 - (d) Patterns and levels of pitch (technically, fundamental frequency of glottal phonation)
- (5) But, consider the lessons learned more generally from studies of language and gender:
 - Is gender the only factor at play?
 - Are patterns changing over time?
 - Do different speech communities differ with respect to these patterns?

References

- Hill, B., S. Ide, S. Ikuta, A. Kawasaki, and T. Ogino. 1986. Universals of linguistic politeness: Quantitative evidence from Japanese and American English. *Journal of Pragmatics* 10: 347-71.
- Ide, Sachiko. 1979. Daigakusei no hanasikotoba ni mirareru danzyosa [The differences according to sex in university students' speech]. Handout for talk presented at the 6th ICU Symposium of the Study of Language and Society.
- Ide, Sachiko, and Megumi Yoshida. 1999. Sociolinguistics: Honorifics and gender differences. In Natsuko Tsujimura, ed., *The Handbook of Japanese Linguistics*. Malden, Mass.: Blackwell, 444-480.
- Miyazaki, Ayumi. 2004. Japanese junior high school girls' and boys' first-person pronoun use and their social world. In Okamoto and Shibamoto-Smith, eds., 256-274.
- Ogino, T. 1986. Quantification of politeness based on the usage patterns of honorific expressions. *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* 58: 37-8.
- Ohara, Yumiko. 2004. Prosody and gender in workplace interaction. In Okamoto and Shibamoto-Smith, eds., 222-239.
- Okamoto, Shigeko, and Janet S. Shibamoto-Smith, eds. 2004. *Japanese Language, Gender, and Ideology: Cultural Models and Real People*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Takano, Shoji. 2000. The myth of a homogeneous speech community: A sociolinguistic study of the speech of Japanese women in diverse gender roles. *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* 146: 43-85.