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?
   
   (d) Another point: Social identity, including factors related to gender, is to a large extent **constructed by speakers** — speakers choose more/less masculine/feminine expressions

(2) In Japanese, there are a whole lot of factors that are traditionally thought to vary according to the gender of the speaker

   • How can we examine language use **empirically** to reconsider these claims?

II. Language patterns with gender(?) distinctions in Japanese

(3) 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)
       - Comparison between Japanese and English (Hill et al. 1986)
       - Within Japanese, comparisons between men and women (Ide et al. 1986, Ogino 1986)
   
   (d) Patterns and levels of pitch (technically, \(f_0\) of glottal phonation)

(4) 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?

   (a) Study of pronoun use among junior-high students (Miyazaki 2004)
       - Is gender the only factor involved here?
       - Are adult patterns different? Is this a **generational** or an **age-related** difference?

   (b) Takano (2000) — language use by three different occupational groups of women

   (c) Study of pitch in interactions with customers vs. acquaintances (Ohara 2004)
       - Does higher pitch automatically signal femininity?
       - Are there gender-related differences in the use of higher pitch?

References


