

Today's topics:

- **Social distance (horizontal)**
- **Social hierarchy (vertical)**
- **In-group/out-group**

Background preparation:

- *Sociolinguistics discussion from last time*

0. Today's objectives

After today's class, you should be able to:

- Explain the social factors involved in choosing **formal or informal** forms in Japanese
 - Identify formal / informal forms based on their morphology
- Define **SSS**, and explain how the **social hierarchy** affects choice of 'going' verb in Japanese
- Explain the **in-group/out-group** distinction
- Discuss how these three factors **interact** and determine options for 'polite' language in Japanese

1. Warm-up / review

- What is sociolinguistics?
- Our focus in this unit
 - claims about social factors in language
 - data that could be used to test these claims
 - how social factors interact with other structural levels of language (phonology, morphology, ...)

2. Formal/informal

- We've previously seen morphology that indicates **informal** or **formal** forms of verbs and adjectives

<i>Informal</i>	<i>Formal</i>	
yom-u	yom-i- mas -u	'read-NPST'
tabe-ta	tabe- masi -ta	'eat-PAST'
taka-i	taka-i des -u	'high-NPST'
hon datta	hon desi -ta	'book COP-PAST'

- More exx on handout - [Dimensions of politeness](#), sec (I)

- Language learners:* What are some **factors** that determine **which** to use?

2. Formal/informal: Social distance (horizontal)

- *Genki I* textbook (1ed.), pp 156-7, on social factors determining use of **informal** vs **formal** morphology
 - Two people who are **close friends or family members** speak with [informal] forms at the ends of sentences, using them as a sign of **intimacy**.
 - The use of [formal] forms [...] tends to imply the speaker's intention to “keep a proper **distance**” from the listener.
 - Japanese speakers are often very conscious of **seniority** [in the use of formal forms].
 - License to use [informal] forms is **not mutual**.

2. Formal/informal: Social distance (horizontal)

- Using formal forms expresses social distance from your interlocutors (the use of formal forms is also called **performative politeness** or “addressee honorifics”)

Kaigi-ga ar-u. **informal** / ‘direct style’
meeting-NOM exist-NONPAST

Kaigi-ga ar-imas-u. **formal** / ‘distal style’
exist-FORMAL-NONPAST

Kaigi-ga goza-imas-u. **formal+** / ‘neutral-polite’
exist.FORMAL-FORMAL-NONPAST

- These three examples show **increasing horizontal distance** between speaker and hearer

3. Social hierarchy (vertical)

Work groups

- Data set - [Verbs meaning 'go'](#)
 - How are these verbs different?
 - When are they used?

3. Social hierarchy (vertical)

- Data set - Verbs meaning 'go'
 - How are these verbs different?
 - When are they used?
- Handout - Dimensions of politeness, section (II)

Some points to note:

 - 'SSS' — socially superior to the speaker
 - How do the vertical and horizontal dimensions of politeness interact?

4. Honorifics

- An **honorific** is a linguistic form (morpheme or larger structure) that expresses politeness and sometimes additional information about the social context of the utterance
 - We have just seen that formal forms are sometimes called addressee honorifics, because they reflect the relative social position of the speaker vs. the addressee
 - *Language students:* What are some other examples of honorifics that are used in Japanese?

4. Honorifics

- Some examples from Japanese:
 - **Name suffixes**
 - san* Default politeness
(example: between adult acquaintances)
 - sama* Elevated politeness
(example: addressing/referring to a superior)
 - Examples (*desu* = COPULA.FORMAL.NONPAST)
 - Tanaka desu.* 'I am Tanaka.'
 - Tanaka-san desu.* 'It is Mr./Ms. Tanaka.'
 - Tanaka-sama desu.* (Tanaka is a social superior)

4. Honorifics

- Some examples from Japanese:
 - **Honorific prefixes**
 - o-* (usually for native words; sometimes for SJ)
 - go-* (for Sino-Japanese words)Indicate politeness toward addressee or referent
 - Examples (*desu* = COPULA.FORMAL.NONPAST)
 - denwa* 'telephone'
 - Denwa desu.* 'It's a telephone.'
 - O-denwa desu.* (indicates 'Telephone call for you.')
 - See also handout - [Dimensions of politeness](#), sec (III)

5. Kinship terms and honorifics

Work groups

- Data set - [Kinship terms and honorifics](#)
 - In what contexts are kinship terms with **honorifics** used?
 - Is there a way to **generalize** over these contexts?

5. Kinship terms and honorifics

- Data set - [Kinship terms and honorifics](#)
 - Do you use honorifics to...
 - ✓ talk about someone else's relative ('your mother')
 - ✗ talk to someone else about your relative ('my father')
 - ✓ address your own relative ('good morning, Mom')
 - Is there a way to generalize over these contexts?

6. In-group/out-group

- Social/cultural concept of **in-group** (*uti* 内) and **out-group** (*soto* 外)
 - Extremely context-dependent:
Depends on the **relevant** situation and participant relationships for a given utterance
 - If you are talking with (or about) A and B, and one of them is **more closely connected with you** than the other, your conversation has an in-group/out-group structure

6. In-group/out-group

- The in-group/out-group distinction is relevant for various linguistic phenomenon, including:
 - Which verb to use in order to express “giving” or “receiving” — *more on this next time*
 - **Honorific use**
 - Not appropriate to treat an **in-group** member as **SSS**
 - Example: Can you use honorifics to talk about your boss?

6. In-group/out-group

- Data set - Kinship terms and honorifics
 - Do you use honorifics to...
 - ✓ talk about someone else's relative ('your mother')
 - ✗ talk to someone else about your relative ('my father')
 - ✓ address your own relative ('good morning, Mom')
- Can we use the concept of in-group/out-group to understand the kinship terms data?

7. For next time

- Many aspects of Japanese sociolinguistics
 - language and gender identity
 - language and socioeconomic class
 - shifting language use in different contexts
 - ... and more

are related to these concepts:

- Distinguishing in-group and out-group
 - Calibrating dimensions of politeness
- Next time, we will look more at some of these interactions | See also **prep questions** for practice