

A Brief Analysis of Culture of Japan in Japanese Greetings — First Meeting as the Center

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Abstract: Communicative language is an important part of daily communication, and mastering its usage proficiently can leave a good impression on people. There are significant differences in the greetings between China and Japan. These differences also reflect the different cultures of the two countries. Focusing on the greetings of the first meeting in daily life, this paper selects TV plays with more daily exchanges, collects language materials of TV play types related to social life, friendship, schools, companies, etc., and makes a comparative analysis of the performance and functions of Japanese and Chinese greetings, and makes a study of Sociolinguistics.

Keywords: Communicative Language; Geography; History; Natural Consciousness; Cautious Personality

1. Introduction

In the modern era of globalization, Japanese as a foreign language also needs to cultivate the mutual understanding and communication ability of different cultures. Although the expression of 'small talk' is carried out every day and plays an important role as a lubricant in maintaining interpersonal and social relationships as an important part of daily communication, it has not been regarded as a main research object because it is not the center of conversation. However, this inconspicuous language behavior plays an important role in our daily life. This study focuses on the expression of "greetings" in Japanese work and life. By comparing the differences between the expressions of "greetings" in Chinese and Japanese languages, and through the characteristics of Japanese greetings, it talks about the Culture of Japan revealed by Japanese greetings.

2. Methodology

2.1 A Preliminary Study on the Expressions of Greetings in Japanese

Moving target tracking based on wireless sensor network mainly consists of three phases: detection, positioning and notification and each phase corresponds to the corresponding technology. Among them, the detection stage is to choose a variety of detection methods to determine whether the moving target appears in the detection area. The commonly use From the perspective of "Praxeology", Yasuo Suzuki (1981) analyzed the "greetings" itself, and divided the greetings behaviors combining language and action into three categories according to their forms. The first type is the "ヤア" used by people when meeting acquaintances. The second type is the "おはよ", "こんにちは", "さよなら" and other words used when meeting people who are not close but familiar with each other. The third type is used in some formal occasions, including three types of greeting words: congratulatory speeches, mourning speeches, and congratulations at banquets. Kyōsuke Kindaichi's New Ming Dynasty Dictionary of Mandarin explains that "when people meet with each other, they say goodbye to each other, and when they meet with each other, they do not say goodbye to each other."^[1] That is to say, "and" are social or ceremonial words and activities of people after meeting and when they are about to leave.

2.2 A Preliminary Study on the Expression of Greetings in Chinese

According to the definition of "greeting" in the Modern Chinese Dictionary, it is "asking for warmth and warmth. Nowadays, it generally refers to polite language such as discussing the weather and warmth when the guests and hosts meet, which is also some

social language."^[2] Chen Songcen (1989) summarized the five types of greetings in Chinese, including meeting, leaving, entrusting, thanking, and apologizing.^[3] Qu Weiguo and Chen Liufang also believe that "small talk" is a big concept that covers greetings, greetings, and other social speech behaviors.^[4] Although most pleasantries occur at the beginning of a conversation and can also be used as greetings, they do not only occur at the beginning stage.

2.3 The Influence of Geography of Japan's Geographical Location on the Characteristics of Greetings

Japan is an island country surrounded by the sea on all sides, surrounded by an endless sea. This not only cultivates the rich imagination and resilient personality of Japanese people, but also cultivates their delicate and conservative personality. And Masahiro Yamazaki once defined the Japanese as coastal peoples rather than maritime peoples, which is precisely because in the past, Japanese people were too conservative in their personalities and unwilling to be flexible, let alone active in the ocean like France, Portugal, Italy, and other countries during the European voyages. But at the same time, because the Japanese archipelago has been affected by the monsoon, the weather in four seasons in Japan is more distinct and the climate change is also very obvious. Not only is the weather of rainstorm and snow very common, but also it is frequently affected by extreme weather such as earthquakes and typhoons. So, because people are particularly sensitive to changes in weather conditions, climate change has naturally become a topic of frequent discussion. The weather is cold, and when people meet, they often say '寒いですね', and the other person responds with 'そうですね'. This kind of greeting gives people a sense of 'unity'. It can not only create a favorable impression on the other party, but also make them accept it. When both parties have a consistent mindset, it lays the foundation for true communication in the future, treating oneself and the other party as the same camp, and getting along with each other will be more free and smooth.

2.4 The Influence of History of Japan Factors on the Characteristics of Greetings

Rice and fishing have always been the main economic production methods in Japan, and collaborative production in the production process is also very important. Because of this, Japanese people who have been in the same group in their ideological and cultural life for a long time have gradually established a collaborative relationship. But at the same time, in such a relatively closed environment at that time, the economic organization of Japanese society was relatively simple and feasible, and the methods of interpersonal communication were also relatively simple. People's thinking methods, lifestyle habits, social customs, etc. were generally consistent. Since the 17th century, the Japanese government has implemented a lockdown policy to cut off communication and connections between the Japanese and overseas countries. And these policies not only block the main channels of Japanese life and international communication, but also further strengthen the deep-rooted conservatism and narrowness in Japanese personality. In the narrow territory and traditional Chinese social lifestyle, on the one hand, a country with almost the same culture and people's way of thinking has also emerged; On the other hand, it has led to the Japanese being unwilling to be innovative and overly expressing their personality traits. While Japanese people attach great importance to social and cultural development, they also place great emphasis on ranking according to seniority. Although they have also been influenced by traditional Chinese culture, Japanese people are also "better than blue". Because the same small talk can demonstrate the social status and cultural status of the two parties through significant differences in social identity, cultural status, and other means of expression.

3. The Differences in Communicative Language between China and Japan

3.1 Greetings when meeting

When meeting strangers for the first time in China, they usually ask the other person, 'What is your surname?'. Because in Chinese culture, asking the other person's name first and addressing them by name is a more polite way of communication. But this is exactly the opposite of the greeting from Japanese people when they first meet. When Japanese people meet unfamiliar people for the first time, they will first introduce themselves and express "初めまして、どうぞよろしく申し上げます". This is because in the eyes of Japanese people, hastily asking the other person's name on the first meeting is not a good way to grasp the sense of distance. On the contrary, greeting each other with this fixed sentence structure can not only bring them closer, but also break the awkward atmosphere. Introduce yourself first, so that the other party has a psychological impression of themselves without making them feel embarrassed. For students who are new to Japanese, if they are not familiar with this kind of communication habit, misunderstandings often arise

when communicating with Japanese people.

3.2 Farewell at the end

The farewell speech when ending a conversation and preparing to leave is also an important part of interpersonal communication. In Chinese, when saying goodbye to the person you first met, you usually only use "goodbye" to say goodbye. But in Japanese, it is very different. In Japanese, phrases such as "失礼しました", "お邪魔しました", and "いろいろご迷惑をかけて、お先に失礼します" are often used. And generally, honorific language should be used to show respect for the other party, and to convey whether it has encroached on the other party's space and time. If so, we apologize to avoid any offense.

3.3 Expressions of gratitude in daily communication

The best usage in the table table in Japan is "ありがとうございます". From the perspective of the emotional characteristics of this expression, it can be seen that this expression method has a high degree of emotional intensity, indicating a strong sense of gratitude. However, For Chinese people, the definition of gratitude level is not clearly distinguished by the level of language expression, and the most common way of expression is to simply use the word "thank you". Because compared to expressing gratitude verbally, Chinese people prefer to express gratitude to the person they want to thank through actions.

3.4 Apologies in daily communication

Japanese people are very interested in the way of expressing the table, " Japanese people are extremely enthusiastic about apologizing." In Japanese expression, The most commonly used apology is "すみせん", which means sorry. Japanese people use this word much more frequently than Chinese people. This is also because Japanese people use this word to express their own apologies when they cannot help or repay each other. Even if it may not be because of their own inconvenience, they will also use to express their apologies. But for Chinese people, they express their apologies more in their hearts In terms of emotional state, it is generally not possible to express apology directly by saying sorry.

4. Culture of Japan Reflected in Japanese Greetings

4.1 Strong group consciousness reflected in Japanese greetings

In Japan, there is a very special type of greeting expression, such as when preparing to go out, often saying "いってきます" to the family (I left), and at this time, the family will also respond with "いってらっしゃい" (you walk slowly); When I go home, I will say "ただいま". [5]These two sets of fixed greetings are the most common greetings among Japanese family members, and in fact, these greetings are also a manifestation of Japanese group consciousness. Because Japanese people view 'home' as a collective, these greetings not only express the remembrance of the collective by those who leave home. Similarly, it expresses the family's expectation that those who go out will return to the collective of their own extended family. And the Japanese view companies and groups as collective "homes", with a strong sense of "group belonging".

4.2 The rigorous personality of Japanese people reflected in Japanese greetings

Japanese greetings are mostly "stereotypical" and "quasi stereotypical", and most of them follow a certain format to the extent of standardization and formalization. [6]For example, before a meal, say "いたきす" (I started), and after the meal, say "ごちそさでした" (thank you for your hospitality). At the same time, the details of the greetings used for different people are also completely different. The same small talk can demonstrate the social status and cultural status of both parties through significant differences in social identity, cultural status, and other means of expression.

4.3 The rigorous personality of Japanese people reflected in Japanese greetings

The Japanese concept of nature is mainly reflected in daily greetings. Japan is surrounded by the sea on all sides and has a variable climate. Extreme weather such as earthquakes and typhoons occur frequently. These weather behaviors also permeate Japanese daily greetings. People often start their conversations with changes in weather or climate, just as China often says when meeting, 'Have you eaten your meal yet?'

Example: —— 今日はいいい天気ですね。

—— ええ、そうですね。

——最近暑いですね。

——そうですね、もうすぐ台風が来ます。

Throughout history, the distinct changes of the four seasons have shaped the Japanese view of seasons and nature. Japanese people experience the changes of the four seasons and appreciate the grandeur of nature. Starting with topics such as weather or climate has become a common way for Japanese people to communicate. Japanese people experience the ever-changing seasons, experiencing the fluctuations in life and emotions brought about by the changes in nature, and immersing this natural expression into their own language.

5. Conclusion

Greeting talk may seem simple, but it is indeed an indispensable part of interpersonal communication. Its connotation is very rich, not only containing the history and natural environment of a nation, but also deeply reflecting the cultural background and customs of a nation.

By studying the deep relationship between language and culture in Chinese and Japanese greetings, it is found that greetings are not only a simple system of interpersonal communication, but also a collection of a nation and a culture. By deeply understanding this cultural and historical background, we can have a deeper understanding of language for people of different ethnic groups. Simultaneously applying it in practice can also avoid misunderstandings caused by differences in language and culture.

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