

Research Paper

Descriptive Understanding of Keigo Usage

Learners' Analysis of Speech in a Japanese TV Office Drama in Relation to Japanese Business Communication

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Abstract

Criticizing essentialism implicit in prescriptive understanding of culture and language, the author conducted a project in which Japanese language learners analyzed speech in a Japanese TV office drama as an attempt to understand descriptively how keigo is used in real lives. This paper discusses the effectiveness of this project based on the data from the learners' analysis and the questionnaire conducted after the project. It was found that the learners were able to find keigo usage in the TV drama is more complex than the textbook's explanations. As a result, the question arose among the learners as to how to obtain clearer and more referable rules on keigo. Therefore, this paper discusses how to further develop the project to tackle this persistent question.

Keywords

Critical approach, Descriptive understanding, Keigo, Speech analysis, TV office drama

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