

Abstract

The main purpose of the thesis entitled “A study on the pronominal use of Japanese address terms by Thai learners” is to study the pronominal use of Japanese address terms by Thai learners that is affected from factors such as the age, gender and the closeness of the interlocutors and compare the pronominal use of Japanese address terms by Thai learners and Japanese. This thesis studied only the pronominal use of Japanese address terms.

The findings were as follows; from the rules of pronominal using of Japanese address terms by Suzuki (1978), Thai learners makes the mistakes listed below.

1. For closed older acquaintance, Thai learners use name only. For non-closed older acquaintance, Thai learners use surname only.
2. For both closed and non-closed equal age acquaintances, many Thai female learners use surname only as same as Japanese male. However Japanese female tend not to use this pattern.
3. Thai learners use pronominal Japanese address terms that have the different politeness level from the end of the sentence expressions’.

Thai learners also make the mistakes of pronominal using of Japanese address terms caused by Negative Pragmatics Transfer, listed below.

1. For closed same aged acquaintance, most of Japanese use surname + san whereas most of Thai learners use name only just like they use name only with the closed same aged acquaintance in Thai.
2. For the older stranger, most of Japanese use no address terms whereas most of Thai learners use anata that refers to “you” in Thai.
3. For the older female stranger, most of Thai learners use kinship terms obaasan that refers to “grandmother” in Thai whereas Japanese rarely use this term.
4. For both in acquaintance and stranger situations, Thai learners use kinship terms without suffix, for example oji, oba.

Moreover, the statistical analysis by SPSS program clarified that Thai learners who have learned Japanese for longer tends to use more suitable pronominal Japanese address terms. Many mistakes are caused by Negative Pragmatics Transfer from Thai to Japanese. Therefore, when teaching Japanese, teacher should recognize these problems to be able to arrange effective lessons about pronominal use of Japanese address terms.