

**The discourse strategy of request used by  
Japanese native speaker and South Korean foreign students  
— From the perspective of pragmatic politeness—**

Kazumi, TSUCHIDA

**Keywords :** requests, pragmatic politeness, regulation factors,  
preface of request, omission of the end of a sentence

The discourse strategies used in requests are regulated by many factors, for example, the difficulty of a request, and the relationship and distance between the two speakers.

Previous research, IZAKI(2000A), IKEDA(2000), highlighted three characteristics of discourse strategies used in requests in Japanese.

(1) A person making a request uses a preface or notice of intent before the request.

(2) The preface or notice of intent more often contains a statement of “offering information” than of “demanding information” .

(3) The end of the sentence in a request utterance is omitted.

This study examines the discourse strategies ((1)(2)(3)) that are used by Japanese native speakers (JS) and Korean advanced Japanese learners (KS) in situations with different regulation factors, and aims to reveal the rule chosen in discourse strategies.

The data in this study was collected from 8 role-plays that combined three regulation factors, and was analyzed by following three perspectives in order to clarify the use of the discourse strategies stated above:

A. The use/non-use of a preface statement

B. The proportion of “demanding information” used in a notice statement

C. The omission of the end of a request sentence

The following figure shows the strategies which could be considered used most frequently in situations with different

regulation factors (figure 1).

Figure 1

	Difficulty of Request		Power		Distance	
	High	Low	High	Low	Close	Far
PS	●		● ■			
DI				● ■		
NO		■		● ■		
OS			●			

● shows the discourse strategy used by JS. ■ shows the discourse strategy used by KS.  
 PS:preface statement DI:demand for information  
 NO:not omitting the end of a request sentence OS:omitting the end of a request sentence

The following points seem to be suggested by figure 1.

1) The use of a preface statement

1. Both JS and KS used a preface statement in a request to a person of a higher status, and did not use it when making a request to a person with the same status.
2. JS used a preface statement in a "difficult request", and did not use it in an "easy request". However, KS did not use it differently depending on the difficulty of request.

2) The proportion of "demanding information" used in a notice statement

1. Both JS and KS had low rates for use of "demanding information" in a preface or a notice statement.
2. Both JS and KS used "offering information" to "a person of a higher status", and "demanding information" to "a person of a lower status".

3) Omission of the end of a request sentence

1. JS showed a high proportion in omitting the end of request sentence compared to KS.
2. Both JS and KS omitted the end of a request sentence toward "a person who is in higher status" and did not do so toward "a person who is in lower status."
3. Only KS omitted the end of a request sentence in a difficult

request.

This paper has examined several rules of the discourse strategies of request seen in JS and KS in situation with different regulation factors. The rule governing the choice of discourse strategies, including request expressions, will be further investigated.

(Kokushikan University)