Grammar and Communication Strategies in Japanese Conversation

Instructor: Dr. Mariko Karatsu (karatsu@email.arizona.edu)

Time: Monday & Wednesday 1:00pm-2:30pm

Course Description:
The purposes of this course are to learn methods of analyzing everyday conversation and conversational interaction and to study major topics in discourse/conversation analysis in Japanese. Topics include 1) how conversational participants use grammar such as word order, particles, and demonstratives to mobilize their conversational interaction, 2) how they use communication devices such as aizuti (‘back channel utterances’), and 3) how they collaboratively organize conversational activities.

Course Materials:
We will be reading selected book chapters and journal articles throughout the semester. See the course schedule for required readings. Other materials such as handouts will be distributed in class.

Grading:
Grades will be based on the following components:
- Class participation 25%
- Reading log 25%
- Homework assignment 10%
- Final project 40%

Class attendance and participation (25% of final grade):
You are required to attend every session and do the required readings. Your active participation is expected. Regular attendance and participation in classroom discussions and activities are important for your understanding of topics. You are required to complete the assigned readings by the date listed on the course schedule. You are expected to share your insights on each reading with others in discussions. If you miss a class, be sure to contact the instructor for assignments, announcements and/or changes in the schedule.

Class attendance policy:
YiJ Course Policies require an automatic reduction to students’ final course grades in the event that students have unexcused absences in excess of one week’s worth of classes, i.e., 2 classes. That is, you are allowed two unexcused absences during the semester without penalty. A third unexcused absence will reduce your grade in the course by 10 points (equivalent to one letter grade in the American system). A fourth unexcused absence will reduce your grade by another 10 points. More than four unexcused absences will result automatically in a failing grade for the course. Legitimate excuses for absence are normally limited to illnesses or accidents that require medical attention. Please consult with the Resident Director in advance if you believe that you have some other legitimate reason for absence. Students must document all legitimate excuses.

Rubric for participation evaluation
• A (Exemplary/ 5 points): Student came to class punctually, well prepared, showed active interest in class proceedings and in mastering course material.

• B (Acceptable/ 4 points): Student come to class punctually and satisfactorily prepared, displayed adequate interest in class proceedings and in mastering course material.

• C (Unsatisfactory/ 3 points): Student come to class late and/or left before the scheduled time. He/she was insufficiently prepared, or displayed little interest in class proceedings or in mastering course material.

• F (Fail/ 0 points): No participation due to student absence. He/she was extremely late, left class well before the scheduled time, or was a disruptive presence.

Reading log (25% of final grade):
Before you come to class, you are required to finish all the required readings and write some insights on each reading. (You are expected to share your insights with others in class discussion.) Prepare a Word file and accumulate your log for each reading in the file. Your log for each article should consist of a minimum of 3-4 sentences. You will occasionally submit your log. See the class schedule.

Homework assignment (10% of final grade):
You will be given transcriptions of Japanese conversation with English translation and be required to analyze them in terms of topics which we cover in class. For example, after we cover back-channel utterances in class you will be required to analyze and describe the conversation participants’ back-channel behavior based on the readings and what we discussed.

Final Project (40% of final grade):
You will write a research paper observing and analyzing conversation in Japanese. You will be required to choose a topic, and analyze conversation in Japanese in real life settings. You will observe the conversation and pick up segments which you will need for your analysis. Then, you will write your observation and analysis.

- Proposal (10%):
  Write a 1 page, single spaced proposal of you project.
- Paper outline (10%):
  Write a 3 page, double spaced paper outline, including examples (data) and a bibliography
- Final paper (10%):
  Write a 10 page, double spaced paper, including examples (data), and references.
- Presentation (10%):
  You will make a presentation of your project (15-20 minutes presentation followed by 10 minutes question-answer). You should make power point slides and handouts for your presentation.

Assignment submission policy:
Each assignment is due at the beginning of class on the day listed on the course schedule. Late assignments may be accepted if you submit them by the date the instructor assign
(usually within one week after the original deadline). However, the grade will be lowered by 20% of your grade for each late assignment.

**Academic Honesty:**
All work you submit must be your own and must not have been submitted for any other course elsewhere. If you include ideas or words from someone else, even if it is “only” one of your classmates, that person must be properly cited. Work not your own will be given a failing grade and may result in a failing grade for the course.

**Classroom Behavior:**
You are expected to behave as a college student in the classroom. The use of cell phones, smart phones, and text messaging is not allowed during the class.

**Accommodations:**
Students who may require academic adjustments and/or reasonable accommodations in order to fulfill course requirements should speak with the instructor about them.

**Useful information:**
Corpus (Audio/Video data in Japanese conversation with transcript)
- CABank (CallFriend, CallHome, Sakura)
Course Schedule:
- The schedule is subject to change.

Unit 1: Introduction to Spoken Japanese

1. 1/15 (M) - Orientation
2. 1/17 (W) - Characteristics of Spoken Japanese
   Reading: Maynard (1989) pp. 19-44
3. 1/22 (M) - Different back-channel behavior in Japanese and English
   Reading: Maynard (1989) pp. 159-177
4. 1/24 (W) - Japanese in real life conversation and textbook conversation
   Reading: Mori (2005) pp. 255-289
5. 1/29 (M) - Reading: TBA
   *** Submit your reading log #1

Unit 2: Different use of Grammar in Japanese and English

6. 2/7 (W) - Interjection (hee, e!, etc.) / Conversation Analysis
   Reading: Mori (2006) pp. 1175-1205
7. 2/14 (W) - Reading: TBA
8. 2/19 (M) - Causal markers (demo, datte, etc.) / Conversation Analysis
   Reading: Ford & Mori (1994) pp. 31-61
9. 2/21 (W) - Reading: Lerner & Takagi (1999) pp. 49-75

Unit 3: Grammar in Japanese Conversation

10. 2/26 (M) - Final particles (ne, yo, etc.)
    Reading: Cook (1992) pp. 507-539
11. 2/28 (W) - Reading: Squires (1994) pp. 1-29
    *** Homework Assignment
12. 3/7 (W) - Reading: Matsugu (2005) pp. 423-436
13. 3/12 (M) - Case particles
15. 3/19 (M) - Demonstratives
16. 3/26 (M) - Reading: TBA
    *** Submit your reading log #2

Unit 4: Communication Strategies in Japanese and English

17. 4/2 (M) - Speech style shift
    *** Project Proposal due
19. 4/9 (M) - Conflict management
21. 4/18 (W) - Strategies to tell and listen to a story
    Reading: Fujii (2007) pp. 183-211
    *** Submission of your reading log #3
23.  4/25 (W)  TBA
    *** Paper Outline due
24.  5/7 (M)  - Presentation of your project
25.  5/9 (W)  - Presentation of your project

*** Final Paper due is at 1:00pm on May 14 (Mon) ***

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**Reading List:**

**Unit 1:**  **Introduction to Spoken Japanese**


**Unit 2:**  **Different Use of Grammar in Japanese and English**


**Unit 3:**  **Grammar in Japanese Conversation**


**Unit 4: Communication Strategies in Japanese and English**


