Chapter 1


Kaori Okano and Claire Maree

How does time influence the construction of linguistic identities over time? How do speakers orient to life changes in their conversations over the course of a longitudinal study? How do they negotiate their self-presentation as they recall, recount and narrate events? These questions guide the Longitudinal Study of Kobe Ethnographic Interviews 1989-2019, ‘Thirty Years of Talk’.

This book is the first phase of the Kobe Study, examining one woman’s conversations. We plan to produce volumes regularly, each analyzing specific shared conversational data.

The Kobe Study is an interdisciplinary longitudinal project which charts and analyses the changing language use of a group of working class women in Kobe over 30 years, using recorded ethnographic interviews and data collected by the same researcher (Okano) between 1989 and 2019. The aim is to identify life transitions, changes in the women’s discourses and identities in specific sociocultural contexts as they shift from one stage to another in their personal, family and professional lives. It is a rare and ground-breaking ‘real time’ panel study that follows the same individuals and observes the same phenomena at regular intervals over three decades.

This book focuses on the discourse of one participant, Kanako Kadokawa (pseudonym) in interviews conducted by and social anthropologist Okano (who has requested a pseudonym not be used for research outputs from this project), one member of the research team. The interviews occur between the time when Kanako was a final year vocational high school student in 1989 and when she was a mother of three, over a decade later in 2000. As phase one of an ongoing
longitudinal project, our choice of Kanako is deliberate. Kanako’s life course and use of Japanese offers characteristics that are unexamined in the existing literature: First, she displays observable shifts in the use of dialect over this ten-year period, going from using mainly Kobe dialect in 1989 to a mixture of Kobe and Osaka dialect in 2000. Second, Kanako is not the usual Japanese woman subject in existing studies (who is an urban, middle-class housewife or university student). Kanako was born into a working class family, married soon after finishing high school after falling pregnant, gave birth to a child and joined her husband’s fishing community.

The specific aims of this book is to identify and discusses four specific aspects of linguistic and discursive practice in conversation between Kanako and the researcher Okano: (1) discourse markers and stance in relation to the choice of dialect varieties and youth language; (2) linguistic strategies that Kanako and the researcher adopt in negotiating gender/sexuality norms (silence and laughter); (3) stylistic features (e.g., regional variation, sentence-final particles, clause-final forms and politeness) in relation to their rapport; and (4) the researcher’s questions and information-seeking strategies that mark epistemic stance and create affiliation. In so doing this book provides original insights into contemporary Japanese language use by women who are dialect speakers from regional Japan, and how discourse by the same individuals change over time.

Employing a multi-analytical discourse (MAD) approach, this book brings together researchers of socio-cultural anthropology, linguistics, gender studies, and microanalysis of social interaction (i.e. Conversation Analysis). The interdisciplinary team consists of social-anthropologist (Okano) who collected the data and examined the life transitions of the women participants; and four linguists working in discourse-based approaches to language—pragmatics (Tanaka), sociolinguistics (Nakane), conversational analysis (Iwasaki), and language, gender and sexuality (Maree)—who investigate changes in the discourses of these women. This interdisciplinary
collaboration offers unique insights into the Japanese working-class women's lives and discursive transitions, and how they are interwoven in the course of the longitudinal ethnographic study.

Okano undertook fieldwork at two schools over the 1989-1990 academic year, and has conducted interviews with 21 participants from the original fieldwork on a regular basis since then. The data includes the standard ethnographic mix: detailed observational notes, documents, letters and recorded interviews (conversations). Anthropological analyses of earlier parts of the project have already been the subject of two monographs. *School to work transitions in Japan: An ethnographic study* (Okano, 1993) examines the girls’ decision making in their final year of high schooling. *Young women in Japan: Transitions to adulthood* (Okano, 2009) investigates the women in their 20s. These volumes analyze the women’s decisions and actions in relation to social change, life chances, identities and social inequality (gender, ethnicity and class). Okano approached the linguists in the team to collaborate on a new articulation of the project. The linguists have prepared detailed transcriptions of the recorded interviews to identify linguistic and discourse features. The ongoing analysis is guided by both ethnographic data and linguistic data to differing degrees. We see this aspect of collaboration between social anthropology and discourse-based approaches to linguistic analysis as being a major strength of our project, but also acknowledge the challenge analyzing existing ethnographic data collected by one member of the research team.

The term “interviews” analyzed in this volume refer to a particular type --- ethnographic interviews which gradually become more conversation-like over the course of the longitudinal study. In this book, we understand interviews to be speech events and verbally mediated interactions (Koven, 2014, p.500). In social science research the term “interview” covers a wide variety of formats: standard survey interviews, semi-structured qualitative interviews, focus group interviews and ethnographic interviews (Koven, 2014, p.505). Outside academic research, too,
many other types of interactions are called interviews; including job interviews, medical and psychiatric interviews, social interviews, job counselling, asylum interviews, police interrogation, courtroom interaction, school testing and confession (Koven, 2014, p.505). Ethnographic interviews are based on a researcher’s long-term specific relationship with participants and relies on the reflexivity of the researcher in collecting and analyzing the data in relation to the social world under investigation (e.g., Hammersley & Atkinson, 2007).

The book makes original contributions to two major research fields: (1) the longitudinal study of language variations and change at the discourse level, and (2) the linguistics of Japanese, based on analysis of longitudinal ethnographic data sets of Japanese language from the Kobe area. We shall discuss the two fields below.

**Discourse, Variation and Change: a Focus on Longitudinal Studies (Level 1 heading)**

This book expands the longitudinal studies in the field of traditional sociolinguistics to analyze change that occurs within situated discourse across differing life-stages. Variations exist in the vernacular discourse of daily lives. Language is also in constant change, as are the life-courses and speech of individuals. The question of variation in language and how specific languages change over time has been subject to detailed study. In classic sociolinguistic work such as Labov (1966), Trudgill (1974) and Milroy (1980), phonetic and lexical variations in the vernacular are largely explained in terms of social structure (e.g. social class), contextual factors (e.g. the speaker, the addressee, and the environment), interpersonal relationships (e.g. friendship networks) and identity (e.g. gender, youth). These studies have identified relationships between regionality, social mobility and identity, but have overwhelmingly focused on the micro level of phonetics (sound) and lexicon (words).
Longitudinal studies that investigate changes in language use in a speech community over time through multiwave surveys of the same community explain language changes in terms of migration, shifts in the community’s population composition, and fluctuations in local industries (e.g. Lodge, 2004). Community-level shifts from the use of one language or dialect variety to another are also well documented (e.g. Benor, 2011; Gal, 1993; Sharma, 2011). In the case of bilingual communities, change is theorized as being closely related to the degree of prestige associated with a particular language or dialect. In other words, the language used within a community may change over time due to social and environmental factors, and also be influenced by issues of perceived social mobility.

Very few studies have examined changes in language use in the same individuals over an extended period. Existing longitudinal studies that do examine language changes in the same individuals focus on language development. For example, development in first language acquisition (Karmiloff-Smith & Karmiloff-Smith, 2001); from infants to adolescents and second language acquisition (Tagliamonte, 2011); and in second language acquisition (see Ortega & Iberri-Shear, 2005 for an overview of this area). While some studies analyze the same data from related perspectives (see Ferri, 1993 on the National Child Development Study), very few outside of linguistic ethnography or linguistic anthropology explore language change in combination with social and ethnographic observation.

Qualitative sociocultural and ethnographic studies in second language acquisition that collect and analyze data on the same individuals over a period of time are another area of related research (see Ortega & Iberri-Shear, 2005, for an overview). Ethnographical studies such as Peirce (1995) or Vavrus (2002), for example, examine identity formation and negotiation in the context of second language acquisition, and the complex workings of the language market. Another related field are studies that examine changes in post-adolescent language use by drawing on the same

Subjects. For example, Kammacher et al. (2011) examines changes in Danish pronunciation of subjects over a 20-year period from when the participants were in high school. Woolard (2011) investigated change in bilingual repertoires amongst Castilian-speakers in Barcelona after adolescence over 20 years; and explained an increased use of Catalan even amongst those most resistant to Catalan in high school, in terms of a ‘maturation process’. Sankoff’s (2004) study of two participants’ speech over 28 years in the documentary series “Seven Up” in the UK is an example of research in which existing data is analyzed to explore changes in language use by the same individual. It utilizes the interview data for phonological analysis and sources of ethnographic information on the participants’ geographical and social mobility. There are several published longitudinal studies on Japanese language, but they are available only in Japanese language and have not entered conversation with global research community. We will refer to them later in the context of studies on Japanese studies.

Accounting for variations and change has been a more challenging research task than identifying them. The question of the relationship of time to age is key to discussions of language variation and change (Eckert, 1992). Research into ‘age-grading’ has suggested that individuals increasingly become more conservative in language use by conforming to the standard language as they age from teenage to middle adulthood (for example, Wagner and Sankoff, 2011). This could be due to the societal pressure to conform (e.g. from expectations in the workplace and of family roles); and/or to deliberate attempts to project themselves in certain lights. Middle aged adults have usually retreated from the non-standard language used in youth, with responsibilities at work and at home and a lessened desire to define themselves in relation to youth subcultural membership (Chambers, 2003, p.195). Rickford and Price (2013), for example, studied the speech of two African American females recorded as teenagers and twenty years later, and identified a significant reduction in their vernacular usage (morpho-syntactic features). The study explains that this was related to the two women’s desire for worldly success. A similar
explanation was offered to explain changes in Montreal French speakers speech (Sankoff & Blondeau, 2007; Wagner & Sankoff, 2011), and in Japanese where older speakers shifted towards the local norms in the midst of community-based diachronic shift to a new norm (Kataoka and Asahi, 2015).

Changes in language use in a community occurs simultaneously with individual language use that also changes across the lifespan in the direction of shifts occurring across the community (Sankoff, 2005, p.1011). Changes in language use over the lifespan occur at particular life stages. Although increased linguistic conservatism has been noted in adults, overgeneralization should be avoided (Eckert 1992, p.164). Without greater research into language in the “middle years” (Eckert, 1992, p. 158) it remains difficult and therefore a challenge to trace changes to specific life stages that may occur at different ages for individuals in diverse communities. It is instructive, therefore, to note that longitudinal studies of growing up and life-course transitions in social sciences suggest that young people’s decisions are affected by external conditions specific to industrialized societies and that these decisions are more complex than what previous generations experienced (see e.g. Arnett, 2004; Ball, Maguire & Macrae, 2000)

Variation in language does not merely “reflect the social but is essential to its construction” (Eckert, 2016, p.70), therefore to understanding shifts and changes in discursive patterns over time it is essential to employ a methodology that allows for critical examination of meanings that are emerged in interactions situated in macro-social patterns. This is where our study is particularly innovative, as it draws on preexisting research on the same individuals. Indeed, Okano’s previous research (2009) using this data suggests that young women’s aspirations, decisions and actions are shaped by their class background, ethnicity, gender and external circumstances (e.g., where they reside and economic recession); and simultaneously by the relative importance that individuals attach to different aspects of life (i.e., employment, family
and relationships). As a result, the women develop perceptions of themselves and adulthood inflected by those experiences. An examination of how these perceptions are articulated at the discourse level will lead to a fuller understanding of changes in language use in rapidly transforming contemporary societies.

**Studies on Japanese Women’s Discourse (Level 2 heading)**

This book makes original contributions to our understanding of Japanese language use by illuminating variations and shifts in women’s discourse over a period of three decades. In Japanese language scholarship, there is a long history of describing and cataloging “features of normative women’s speech style (personal pronouns, sentence-final particles, honorifics, and so on)” (Yukawa & Saito 2004, p. 24). Jūgaku Akiko’s early (1979) work noted the careful manipulation of various features of “Japanese to create the appearance of ‘natural’ femininity” (Jūgaku, 1979, p.22 as quoted in Yukawa & Saito 2004, p.27). However, much work in Japanese language and gender studies was influenced by classic English language sociolinguistics and informed by commonsense notions of ‘women’s language (joseigo/onna-kotoba)’ and ‘men’s language (danseigo/otoko-kotoba)’. As such, it was anchored in notions of gendered language used by homogeneous groups of women and men and overwhelmingly situated Tokyo dialect as the benchmark.

As interest in language and gender studies turned towards examining the construction of identity in language and early Japanese language work was re-evaluated⁴. Consequently, researchers have come to question the correlation of specific linguistic forms to the sex of the speaker. Emerging from this is work focusing on gender, sexuality and language that seeks to shed light on the historical trajectories of the categories of women’s and men’s language in Japan (Endo, 2001, 2006; M. Inoue, 1994, 1996, 2003, 2004a, b, 2006;
Jūgaku 1999; Nakamura, 2007, 2008). Subsequently, research on the linguistic work done by gendered and sexualized bodies, and representations in the media has identified a diversity of linguistic resources and strategies which speakers of Japanese manipulate in their gender performances (Maree 2007; Nakamura, 2004; Occhi, SturtzSreetharan & Shibamoto-Smith, 2010; Okamoto & Shibamoto-Smith, 2008; Okamoto & Smith, 2004; Smith & Occhi, 2009; Shibamoto, 1985; Shibamoto-Smith, 2010, 2011; SturtzSreetharan, 2004, 2006b; Sunaoshi, 2004; Tanaka, 2004, 2009). Recent research has also problematized the mapping of heterosexuality onto statically gendered fe/male bodies (Abe, 2004; Lunsing & Maree, 2004; Maree, 1998, 2002, 2003, 2008, 2013a, b, 2015, 2014; Ogawa & Shibamoto-Smith, 1997). Although the dominant trend in the field has been to examine so-called standard Japanese spoken by urban middle class women in Tokyo area, there is an emerging body of work that looks at how gender and sexuality are performed and negotiated in local interactions between speakers of regional variations of Japanese (SturtzSreetharan, 2002, 2004 2004, 2006a, b; Sunaoshi, 2004, Okamoto, 2008; Smith & Occhi, 2009). This book builds on this area of research by providing an in-depth analysis of interview recorded with women from the Kobe region of Japan.

Scholars in Japanese linguistics also analyze diverse dialects, sociolects and styles. Studies of dialects include their distribution (e.g. F. Inoue, 1986; Tokugawa, 1999), phonology (F. Inoue, 1986; Kibe, 2003; Kindaichi, 1990; Satō, 2003), semantics (Muroyama, 2001), syntax (e.g. Y. Inoue, 2003), honorifics (F. Inoue, 1986), modern dialects (e.g. Hanzawa, 2003; Sanada, 1999), and specific dialects such as Hyogo dialect (Kamada, 1979). These studies focus on specific linguistic elements, and there is a paucity of research from a discourse perspective, including change over an individual’s lifespan (Kobayashi & Shinozaki, 2003) and the way in which speakers negotiate their multi-dimensional identities by shifting between different styles and dialect variations (e.g. Matsumoto, 2004, SturtzSreetharan, 2006b). Recent studies have explored
how particular linguistic variables from standard Japanese are incorporated into speech conducted in dialect (e.g. Takagi, 2005). Although it has been shown that there are shifts between standard Japanese and dialect in the same conversation (Didi-Ogren, 2011; Hosotani, 2004; Okamoto, 2008; Sunaoshi, 2004; Tsuji, 2003), as yet there is little research on the sociocultural and personal motivations for these changes. Furthermore, although the Gendai Nihongo Kenkyūkai released two studies that examine language and gender in the workplace in which the same discourse data was analyzed by multiple researchers (Gendai Nihongo Kenkyūkai, 1997, 2002), there are few studies that include analysis of the same conversational data at multiple temporal points over 30 years as this project does.

Linguists in Japan have also been long interested in language change. The National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics has conducted three major longitudinal studies on language change in Japan; the Tsuruoka project (1950-) (Kokuritsu Kokugo Kenkyūsho, 2015), the Okazaki Project (1953-) (Inoe, Abe, Yarumizu, Yanagimura & Jeong, 2016), and the Hokkaido Project (1958-60, 1986-88) (Kokuritsu Kokugo Kenkyūsho, 2017) (See Chapter 3). Each project is concerned with how local dialect use is affected by increasing exposure to the standard Japanese in regions during the postwar period. The Tsuruoka study identifies a change towards standard Japanese, and the Hokkaido study identifies movement towards a regional koine. The Okazaki study examines the relationship between social changes and language attitudes towards honorifics, indicating that there has been a shift towards the non-use of honorifics in the home over a twenty-year period. The Kobe Study is a valuable addition to this group of studies in that it focuses on Kobe-Osaka region, unexamined by the above, and includes the school to work transition phase of life course when overt changes emerge.

Thirty Years of Interviews and the Multi Analytical Discourse (MAD) approach (Level 2 heading)
All data used in this book originates from Okano’s ongoing socio-cultural anthropological research into women’s life-course trajectories. It includes recorded interviews with the same group of participants – women of working-class backgrounds who were in their final year at one of two vocational senior high schools in working-class suburbs of Kobe in the 1989-1990 academic year. Okano conducted a participant observation of the two schools for one year, and interviewed the students six months after her entry into the schools in 1989. She has interviewed each of these subjects on several occasions since then, at locations preferred by the interviewees (e.g., in their homes, restaurants or parks). Interviews gradually take the form of informal conversation as the participants graduated from school and craft individual identities. The participants are now between 44 and 45 years old (in January 2016). All experienced the Kobe earthquake in 1995, which displaced many of them and affected their lives significantly.

Overall, the Kobe Study will examine the conversational, ethnographic interviews of 21 women conducted over a thirty-year period. A small number of individual participants is common to the majority of longitudinal studies on language change (Wagner, 2012, p. 377). This is because of the practical difficulties in interviewing the same individuals at different points of time over a long period of time. Our study is no different. Nevertheless, it is the first longitudinal panel study of Japanese language discourse, situated in the interdisciplinary space of collaboration and data sharing between an anthropologist and linguists working with diverse approaches to the analysis of spoken Japanese at the discourse level.

The unstructured interviews include questions about the participants’ experiences and interpretations of life events involving their own families, natal families, employment, relationships and recreational activities since the previous interview, as well as the 1995 earthquake. The sharing of this data collected over almost 30 years enables us to create new
knowledge about life transitions, shifting identities, gender, and discourse. It has given the
linguists on the team a rare opportunity to trace discourse- and interactional-level changes among
the same individuals over the long duration, and make significant contributions to sociological
and linguistic theories of identity, mobility and change.

The sharing of Okano’s ethnographic data between the team also gives rise to unique ethical
issues. In this project, access to all research material is mediated through Okano, and governed by
initial consent with the participants. The linguists collaborating on this project have not been
involved in the data collection, and the interviews are not designed to elicit a set of predetermined
variables as is common in sociolinguistic interviewing. Furthermore, as the one of the main aims
of the project is to examine shifts and changes at the discourse level, each interview is
approached as a situated interaction enabled by talk made by both participants. Each member of
the research team approaches the interview data from their area of expertise, and at each stage of
the project the transcription and analysis are workshopped within the team.

In this volume we maintain the use of pseudonyms used in the ethnographic research emerging
from Okano’s original project (Okano 1993, 2009). We have adopted a system of transcription
and presentation that reflects the concerns of ethnographical approaches to representations of
talk-in-the-field, and discourse-pragmatic approaches to talk-in-interaction. The team approach
(referred to as MAD) we use enables efficiency and innovation in a large-scale research project.
The Multi-Analytical Discourse (MAD) approach combines macro and micro perspectives to
illustrate shifting and changing identities in both local and global social contexts. The focus on
discourse, and multi-layered analysis, advances our knowledge of changes and shifts beyond a
conventional diachronic linguistic analysis of the single-feature, whether phonetic, grammatical
or lexical.
The innovative multi-analytical discourse (MAD) approach combines sociolinguistic analysis grounded in interactional sociolinguistics, social networking theory and pragmatics, with conversational analysis, linguistic anthropology, critical gender studies and social-anthropological analysis. The combination of sociological, linguistic and anthropological approaches enables a comprehensive multi-dimensional and multi-layered examination of the data and the sociocultural context in which it is embedded. Furthermore, the MAD approach facilitates a full examination of socio-cultural constructs, institutions and ideologies that inform and shape the linguistic interactions (cf. Stubbe, Lane, Hilder, E. Vine, B Vine, Marra, Holmes, & Weatherall, 2003). In this approach, we position discursive identities as localized expressions of self that are projected in moment-by-moment interactions, and at the same time consider that both inter-speaker and intra-speaker patterns of language use enable individuals to negotiate their multi-dimensional selves (Eckert, 2008).

By employing the MAD approach to the analysis of ethnographic interviews conducted over three decades, the project explores language variation and change at the level of discourse-pragmatics, while investigating how stance-taking occurs and evolves in longtime discursive relationships. The triangulation of analysis enabled by the MAD approach allows a multi-layered analysis and exploration of the effects of developing rapport between the interviewer and interviewees as well as the possible explanations for changes and shifts in discourse. Employing the interdisciplinary MAD approach each chapter in this volume is draws on the expertise of the author, and collaboration between the research team on the overarching theme of the project: shifts and changes in 30-years of talk. Through this collaborative interdisciplinary approach, shifts and changes in the use of specific linguistic resources (such as morphological units, self-reference tokens, lexicon, and discourse markers) can be examined in relation to the sociocultural changes
in the local and domestic contexts in which the interview take place. This can then be contextualized in the changing interpersonal relationships of the participants over a 30-year period. These shifts and changes will also be contextualized in the unfolding talk of each specific interview situation through analysis of practices such as turn-taking, stance-taking, topic-development, story-telling (narratives), recounting events and giving accounts. Changes to individual speech and interactive strategies can be quantified over the totality of the interview data and extrapolated to form a theory of how and why shifts in language use occur across the group of participants. Similarly, a multi-layered qualitative analysis of the performance and negotiation of self in the interview context will lead to developing theories of historical configurations of the self that is informed by socio-anthropological analysis.

The uniqueness of the Kobe Study, therefore, lies first in our longitudinal analysis of language at the discourse-pragmatic level, which is fully situated within a sociological analysis of the same interviews and other primary sources. This was made possible because the recorded interviews and the accompanying ethnographic data of the same participants are available. Secondly, the Kobe Study explores the complex interactions of regionality, social mobility and discursive identities. Drawing on our study of Japanese language, this study contributes to wider discussions on language variations and change, and shifting identities.

Upon first listening, the two conversations between the two individuals recorded 11 years apart analyzed in this book are notably different. There are distinctive differences in the atmosphere surrounding the interactions, and the impressions they leave. Detailed discourse analysis of the two conversations presented in this volume identifies the discourse features that create such differences, and explains these in the context of the life course of the two participants, and the wider sociocultural context in which they communicate, and reside.
Organization of the Book (Level 2 heading)

We begin with Okano’s chapter (Chapter 2), which sets out the anthropological and sociological context of the study. The chapter paints an ethnographic portrait of Kanako, a working-class woman whose recorded interviews are analyzed in the following four chapters. It demonstrates that Kanako accumulated social roles and multiple identities deriving from the roles (e.g. carer for her natal family, carefree high school student, fulltime permanent worker, wife and mother) as she navigated her life in her 20s, in making decisions, acting on them and interacting with other people. How she felt about, and projected, each of these identities varied in terms of intensity, urgency and significance over time; as she prioritized her multiple identities. Growing up in the working class continued to contribute to her identity formation.

In Chapter 3, Tanaka studies use of regional morphological variety and discourse markers; and raises questions such as ‘What is working class women’s speech?’ ‘To what extent does a woman’s speech alter over the years?’ ‘What factors influence those linguistic changes?’ ‘How prevalent are regional dialects and in what contexts?’ Tanaka focuses on the degree of and use of discourse markers within Kanako’s speech in both interviews. The chapter suggests that specific life experiences, including marriage and motherhood, have had a strong influence in shaping Kanako’s speech over a decade.

In Chapter 4, Maree examines the ways in which participants negotiate expectations and norms in the two interviews. This chapter focuses on the discursive practices of the participants in relation to gender, identity and sexuality. A micro-analysis of stance-taking strategies used in the interviews shows that, in 1989, the interviewee, Kanako, engages in prolonged negotiation of an aspect of the interview topic, which is punctuated with laughter. The interviewee’s reticence, or
resistance, is resolved as the non-judgmental stance towards male/female relationships between high-school students that gradually becomes apparent over the course of the interview. In the 2000 interview, laughter is also salient. An analysis of a section of ‘trouble-talk’ that closes with joint laughter illustrates how the participants negotiate local articulation of their multiple identity positions by aligning with heteronormative expectations. This microanalysis highlights how participants negotiate local expectations, and dominant norms of gender and sexuality.

In Chapter 5, Nakane focuses on the rapport between the two interlocutors in the ethnographic interviews that Okano conducted with Kanako in 1989 and 2000. It explores how repeated interviews by the same interviewer/researcher over a decade affect the language of the interviewee, and how the two interlocutors’ discourse practice changes over the period. Stylistic features such as regional variation, interactional particles, clause-final forms and politeness, as well as interaction dynamics are analyzed. A number of contextual factors, including the life experiences of the interviewee and the interview settings, are also considered in the data analysis. This chapter reveals a complex and nuanced negotiation of the relationship between the interlocutors, as their social identities and other shared aspects of life are transformed over a decade. The findings also have some implications for trends in language and regional identity in contemporary Japan.

In Chapter 6, Iwasaki investigates and compares question-response sequences in the interviews, employing the situated and sequential perspectives of Conversation Analysis. Building on studies of questioning, Iwasaki demonstrates how particular types of questions contribute to marking epistemic stance, and create affiliation and disaffiliation between the participants. Focusing on the actions, question formats, and information-seeking strategies of the speaker who asks questions, the chapter considers the role of grammatical form in the construction of social action and examines turns that either assert or request information. The analysis shows that declarative
questions were used frequently in both interviews, however, there are some noticeable differences over time. The 1989 data is characterized by the use of quotative particle, repetitions, paraphrasing, and explicative declarative questions, in addition to explicit requests for information, all of which display the participants’ orientation to institutionality. By contrast, by 2000, the questions reflect enhanced epistemic relationships between them, leading the researcher to ask questions in such a way as to co-construct utterances with the respondent and to provide possible responses before the respondent has finished replying. The analysis of question-response sequences elucidates the role that increasing familiarity plays in institutional interview talk.

Notes

i The project is currently funded by an ARC Discovery Project Grant 2017-2019 (DP170102598). It has also received funding from the University of Melbourne, La Trobe University, Monash University, and the Japan Foundation Research fellowships (2006, 2015).

Minerva Access is the Institutional Repository of The University of Melbourne

Author/s:
Okano, K; Maree, C

Title:
Phase one of the longitudinal study of Kobe women's ethnographic interviews 1989-2019
Kanako 1989 and 2000

Date:
2018-01-01

Citation:
Okano, K; Maree, C, Phase one of the longitudinal study of Kobe women's ethnographic interviews 1989-2019 Kanako 1989 and 2000, DISCOURSE, GENDER AND SHIFTING IDENTITIES IN JAPAN: THE LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF KOBE WOMEN'S ETHNOGRAPHIC INTERVIEWS 1989-2019, PHASE ONE, 2018, pp. 1 - +

Persistent Link:
http://hdl.handle.net/11343/222390

File Description:
Accepted version