USE OF THE EXPRESSION "*KANA TO OMOU*" IN SPOKEN LANGUAGE

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INTRODUCTION

- Language changes can occur over time.
- Many words and expressions that used to be rarely found, lately are widely used by speakers.
- In Japanese, one of the expressions that have evolved in its usage is the expression "*kana to omou*," which is a combination of the *shuujoshi* (sentence-ending particle) "*kana*" and the modality "*to omou*."

The aim of this research:
- to identify the use of the expression "*kana to omou*" along with its function and meaning, especially in spoken language
- to find out the social and situational factors that influence speakers to use the expression "*kana to omou*" in their speech

LITERATURE REVIEW

- Syntax is a branch of linguistics, a part of grammar that examines the structure or elements that form sentences or speech and the relationship between the elements (Sutedi, 2014).

- Sociolinguistics is an interdisciplinary subfield of language and sociology that examines the relationship between language and social factors in a speech community (Fishman et al., as cited in Chaer & Agustina, 2010).

- Ikue (2018) classified the usage of the expression "*kana to omou*" into seven categories, namely: (1) *teian* or suggestion; (2) *irai* or request; (3) *ishi* or will; (4) *ganbou* or desire; (5) *utagai* or doubt; (6) *nattoku* or agreement; and (7) *handan* or judgment.

METHOD

Research Design

Qualitative Approach

Data Collection

Note-Taking Method

Data Analysis

Descritive Writing Method

Data Source

12 video interviews from two YouTube channels: Ask Japanese and TAKASHii from Japan

Research Object

Japanese speeches containing the expression "*kana to omou*"

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

1. Forms of Use and Frequency of Occurrence of Expression "*Kana to Omou*"

No	Form of Use	Total Data	Percentage	No	Form of Use	Total Data	Percentage
1	かなと(は)思います *Kana to (wa) omoimasu*	16	30.8%	7	かなと思いながら *Kana to omoi nagara*	1	1.9%
2	かなって思います *Kana tte omoimasu*	15	28.8%	8	かなって思うから *Kana tte omou kara*	1	1.9%
3	かなと(は)思いますね *Kana to (wa) omoimasune*	7	13.6%	9	かなって思ってます *Kana tte omotte masu*	1	1.9%
4	かなと思って *Kana to omotte*	3	5.8%	10	かなと思っています *Kana to omotte imasu*	1	1.9%
5	かなって思う *Kana tte omou*	3	5.8%	11	かなって思いますね *Kana tte omoimasu ne*	1	1.9%
6	かなと(は)思う *Kana to (wa) omou*	2	3.8%	12	かなっていうふうに思います *Kana tte iu fuuni omoimasu*	1	1.9%
Total						52	100%

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

- Data HL08

「勤勉とか、あとは、やっぱアニメ文化とか（はい、はい、はい）、そういう所のイメージ、強いんじゃない<u>かなと思います</u>。」

"*Kinben toka, ato wa, yappa anime bunka toka (hai, hai, hai), sou iu tokoro no imeeji, tsuiyoin jyanai <u>kana to omoimasu</u>.*"

"<u>I think</u> Japanese people have a very strong sense of industriousness and anime culture." (TAKASHii from Japan, 2022)

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

2. Function and Meaning of The Expression "*Kana to Omou*"

No	Function and Meaning	Total Data	Percentage
1	*Handan* (judgment)	23	44.3%
2	*Teian* (suggestion)	12	23.1%
3	*Utagai* (doubt)	12	23.1%
4	*Ganbou* (desire)	2	3.8%
5	*Nattoku* (agreement)	2	3.8%
6	*Ishi* (will)	1	1.9%
	Jumlah	52	100%

- The category of usage that was not found was irai (request)

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

- Data HL01

「... なんか、恋愛というより、もしかしたら、もう一人のが、なんか、お金もかからないし、気持ちも楽だし、みたいな人が多いの<u>かなと思います</u>ね。」

"... *nanka, renai to iu yori, moshikashitara, mou hitori no ga, nanka, okane mo kakaranai shi, kimochi mo raku da shi, mitai na hito ga ooi no <u>kana to omoimasu ne</u>.*"

"… rather than a romantic relationship, many people may decide to live alone because it doesn't cost money and it's more comfortable." (Ask Japanese, 2023)

CONCLUSION

- The forms in which "*kana to omou*" is used in the video interviews are remarkably diverse. The most common form of usage is "*kana to (wa) omoimasu*."

- Of the seven categories of functions and meanings in Ikue's theory (2018), only six categories can be found in the video interviews. Those are *handan* (judgment), *teian* (suggestion), *utagai* (doubt), *ganbou* (desire), *nattoku* (agreement), and *ishi* (will).

- Each function and meaning has the same primary intention. It is to soften speech and protect oneself from disputes that might occur due to differences in views caused by video interviews that anyone can watch.

- Lastly, further studies are needed to find out when it is the right time to introduce the expression "*kana to omou*" to Japanese learners and how to teach it so that learners know the form, function, and meaning of the expression so that they can use it in Japanese conversation.

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THANK YOU!