

ANALYSIS OF VERBAL AND NONVERBAL USAGE OF *AIZUCHI*
IN JAPANESE REALITY SHOW
TERRACE HOUSE: OPENING NEW DOORS EPISODE 1
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Wieke Nadya Suci Ariesty

Nuria Haristiani





INTRODUCTION

Aizuchi is a conversational strategy in the form of a response in Japanese which shows that the other person is listening, paying attention, and responding to the speaker's speech.

The purpose of this study:

- This study aims to find and analyze the form of *aizuchi* and analyze the verbal and nonverbal communication using *aizuchi* in a Japanese reality show Terrace House: Opening New Doors episode 1. In this reality show there are six strangers gather in a house in Karuizawa. Aged 19 to 31, they've got one thing in common, they'll be living together in a beautiful town which includes a lot of conversation using *aizuchi*.
- The results of this study can be used as a reference for Japanese language learners to be able to use *aizuchi* as a conversational strategy in Japanese communication.

LITERATURE REVIEW

- *Aizuchishi*

This *aizuchi* indicates that the listener understands what the speaker is talking about. Examples of this *aizuchi* are はい、ええ、うん、はあ、そう、なるほど etc. *Aizuchishi* has four forms, namely *tandokukei* (single/ one vocabulary), *kurikaeshikei* (repeating a single form), *fukugoukei* (a mixture of several single forms), and *fukugoukurikaeshikei* (a mixture of a single repeated form).

- *Kurikaeshi*

Kurikaeshi is the repetition of part or all of the speaker's sentence by the listener.

- *likae*

likae is a substitute word that changes the speaker's speech, used by listeners to make the speaker's speech easier to understand.

- *Sonata*

Sonota is another form of *aizuchi* like gestures. In addition to verbal *aizuchi*, Mizutani (in Indraswari and Wistri, 2016: 7) expressed his opinion that there were also nonverbal *aizuchi* such as nodding head, shake one's head, laughing, surprised, confused and other facial expressions.

Based on Saita Izumi's theory on 相づち: たのしい会話への鍵 (online) at

<http://www2.sal.tohoku.ac.jp/nik/aizuchi/>

Aizuchi (back-channeling) is a key to smooth conversation.

Aizuchi has five varieties that are used based on the situation. The five basic situations are listed below.

1. When you accept new information
2. When you are surprised at or skeptical about the new information
3. When you agree with your interlocutor
4. When you disagree with your interlocutor
5. When you are praised and give modest reaction

METHOD

This research uses a qualitative descriptive method by classifying data and describing detailed data analysis, then interpret it with the elaboration of words. The data source used is conversational dialogue taken from a Japanese reality show Terrace House: Opening New Doors episode 1.

The analysis steps in this study are listed below:

1. Classify data based on form of *aizuchi*
2. Classify and describe the use of *aizuchi* based on the situation
3. Classify verbal and nonverbal communication found in the *aizuchi* expression
4. Summarize the results of data analysis
5. Compile a report on the results of data analysis



FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Data Results of Form of *Aizuchi* According to Horiguchi Theory

No.	Form	Amount
1.	Aizuchishi	55
2.	Kurikaeshi	3
3.	likae	13
4.	Sono ta	27
Total		98

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

- *Aizuchishi*

Context: Yuudai and Mizuki are in the living room and it's their first time meeting. They introduced themselves and asked their age.

ゆうだい: いきなりですみません。何歳ですか？

Yuudai: Sorry for the suddenness. How old are you?

みずき: えっと26です。

Mizuki: Well, I'm 26.

ゆうだい: え？

Yuudai: Huh?

In this conversation Yuudai uses *aizuchi* え？ which means "Huh?". This *aizuchi* is response from Mizuki's sentence えっと26です which means "Well, I'm 26". During the conversation, Yuudai is surprised because Mizuki is older than him.

In accordance with Horiguchi's theory, the expression of *aizuchi* え？ (Eh?) is a single form of *aizuchishi* (*tandokukei*) because this *aizuchi* only consists of one vocabulary.

- *Sonota* (another form of *aizuchi* like gestures and nonverbal)

ゆうだい: 仕事とかどうしたんですか？

(What happened to your job?)

みずき: 仕事とかは基本韓国にいても日本にいても

(My job is basically in Korea or in Japan)

ゆうだい & あみ (nodding head)

みずき: パソコン業務とかだから

(Because this is a job that uses a computer)

ゆうだい: あ あ (nodding head)

みずき: あんまり出勤とかしてなくて、もともと

(I don't go to work very often, but originally)

ゆうだい: あ あ (nodding head)

みずき: だからどこにいてもできる仕事だし

(So it's a job you can do anywhere)

ゆうだい: (nodding head)

みずき: ウェブサイトで記事を書く仕事とか

(Like writing articles for websites)

あみ: (nodding head)

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Data Results of *Aizuchi* Based on the Situation According to the Theory of Saita et. al

No.	Situation	Amount
1.	When you accept new information	35
2.	When you are surprised at or skeptical about the new information	16
3.	When you agree with your interlocutor	40
4.	When you disagree with your interlocutor	2
5.	When you are praised and give modest reaction	5
Total		98

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

- When you agree with your interlocutor

Context: They are meeting in the living room. Because today was their first day, they want to go around the house immediately.

みずき: 早く 中回りたい。

Mizuki: I want to go around immediately.

ゆうだい: そうなんですよ。

Yuudai: Yes, so do i.

たかゆき: そうそう。 (nodding head)

Takayuki: Oh yeah.

In this conversation, Yuudai and Takayuki use *aizuchi* with the utterances そうなんですよ which means "Yes, so do i" and そうそう which means "Oh yeah". These *aizuchi* is a responses to Mizuki's sentence 早く中回りたい which means "want to go around immediately". Yuudai and Takayuki agree with Mizuki's opinion and responded by using *aizuchi*.

In accordance with Saita's theory, this *aizuchi* expression belongs to the situation when you agree with your interlocutor.

- When you are praised and give modest reaction

Context: Tsubasa is praised by Takayuki because she is an ice hockey player. Then Tsubasa responded by denying the statement.

たかゆき: じゃあ 全然バリバリ。

Takayuki: Well then, it's full of energy.

つばさ: 全然全然。。。そんな。 (shake one's head and laughing)

Tsubasa: Not at all. . . Not like that.

In this conversation Tsubasa uses of *aizuchi* with the utterance 全然全然。。。そんな which means "Not at all. . . Not like that". This *aizuchi* is a response to Takayuki's sentence じゃあ 全然バリバリ which means "Well then, it's full of energy". Hearing such praise, Tsubasa immediately responded with the *aizuchi*.

In accordance with Saita's theory, this *aizuchi* expression belongs to the situation when you are praised and give modest reaction.

CONCLUSION

- The results showed that the form of *aizuchi* used in the data source was 98 data.
- There are 55 data of *aizuchishi* form, used for
 - 1) Situations of receiving new information,
 - 2) Situations of surprise or doubt about the other person's speech,
 - 3) Situations of agreeing with the other person's speech,
 - 4) Situations of disagreeing with the other person's speech, and
 - 5) Situation of receiving praise.
- There are 13 data of *kurikaeshi* form, used for
 - 1) Situations of receiving new information,
 - 2) Situations of surprise or doubt about the other person's speech, and
 - 3) Situations of agreeing with the other person's speech.
- The *iikae* form consists of 3 data, all of data are used for situations of agreeing with the other person's speech.
- And the *sonota* form (another form of *aizuchi* like gestures and nonverbal) consists of 27 data, used for
 - 1) Situations of receiving new information,
 - 2) Situations of surprise or doubt about the other person's speech,
 - 3) Situations of agreeing with the other person's speech, and
 - 4) Situations of receiving praise.

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THANK YOU!

