

Sentences Ending with *-tte* in Formal Japanese Conversations Based on Its Usage According to Speaker Gender: Focusing on Service Relation Conversations

No. Abstract: ABS-24067

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INTRODUCTION

This study investigates the use of the sentence-ending with "~tte" in formal Japanese conversations, when it performs by female speaker nor male speaker in general, especially on service relation conversations. The study aims to understand the nuances and gender-specific characteristics of "~tte" in formal contexts. According to "~tte" usage meaning, it mainly has fourth usage: quotation, hearsay, interjection and oneself-thought. Refer to examples as follow.

a) それをNHKが流したって. (quotation)

Sore o NHK ga nagashitatte.

'They said it was broadcasted by NHK'

c) 光らせ(0.185)た時に:(0.179)あれーって。(interjection)

Hikaraseta toki ni, arette

When I tried to make it more shiny, I amazed!

b) で:(0.665)爪って透明なんだ:って. (hearsay)

De tsume tte toumei nandatte.

'I heard that our nails are basicly transparent'

d) もう無理だなって. (oneself-thought)

Mou muri danatte.

Think I couldn't make it.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Hui (1999)

"~*tte*" at the end of a sentence has been used to indicate quotations/hearsays such as "said", "heard", or "What do you mean?". Also "~*tte*" as final particle has three meanings: "to tell a third party's story", "to work on the other person (question back or oppose the other person's story)", and "to explain by citing your own thoughts"

Maruyama (2002)

Referred to newspaper, novels, and dialogues corpus in examining the usage of "~*tte*", which is a particle that spans multiple function such as case particle, solidarity particle, postpositional particle and final particle as captured in the conventional framework. As the result, the difference in usage status for each corpus while observing its distribution, the spoken conversation style "~*tte*", has many compound expressions and compresses expressions, is paraphrased to some extent to what seems to be the original form.

Rismelati (2022)

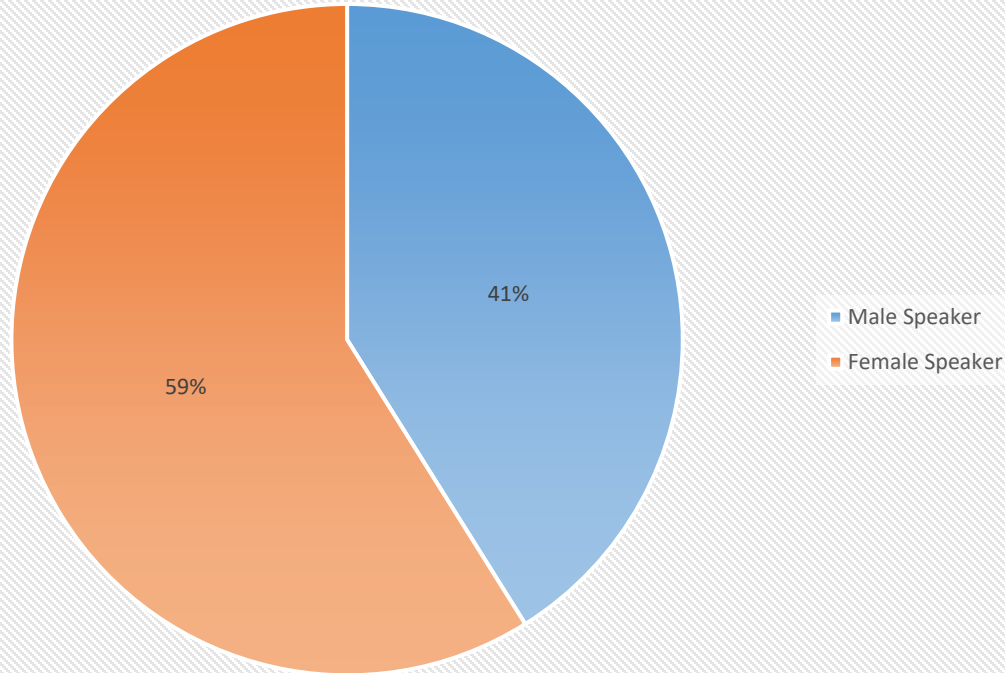
"~*tte*" form which is divided in to three groups in the past, now is updated in to three groups with three subgroups as a derivation meaning from quotation. As the result of the analysis the meaning of "~*tte*" form in the end of sentences are used to express quotation, hearsay, explanation marker, and interjection. And as quotation divided into three meanings when the speaker emphasizing a strong opinion, revising someone statements based on actual events/ opinion from the experts, conveying a surprised feelings and indirect request form.

METHOD

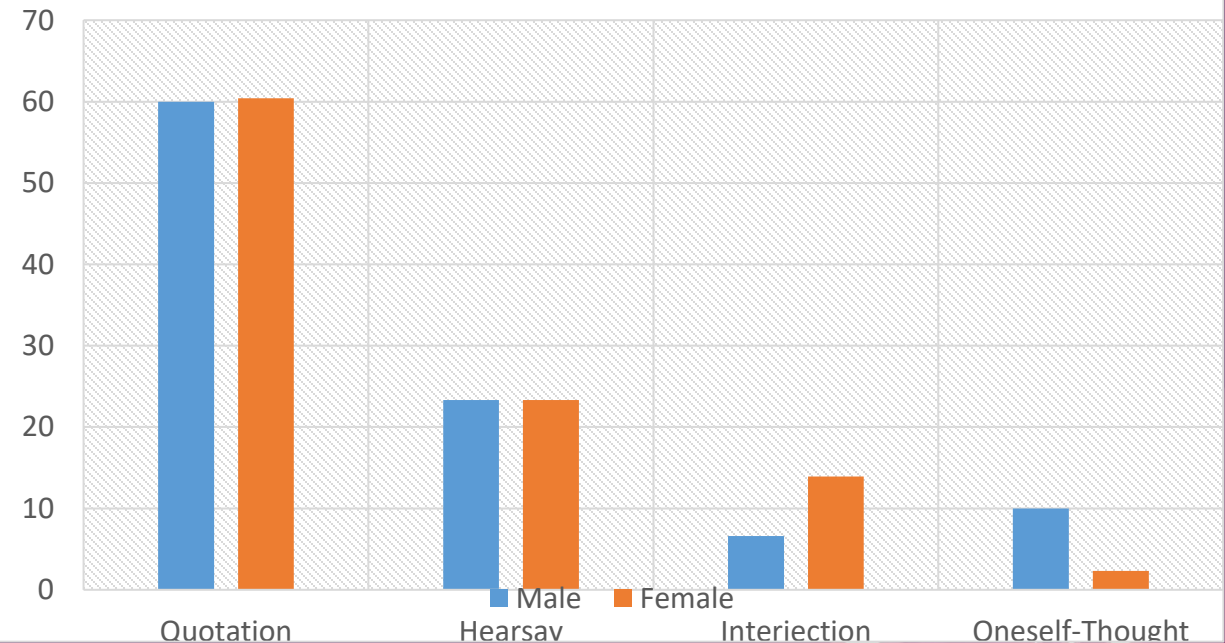
The study analyzes conversations from various service scenes, including restaurants, shops, and other customer service environments. The data is categorized based on the gender of the speakers and the formality of the situation. The analysis includes a detailed examination of how "*~tte*" is employed by male and female speakers. The method used in this research is an analysis descriptive method and In order to examine all of the classification of "*~tte*" at the end of the sentences. This research focusing on an analysis descriptive method and the data used is taken from Corpus of Everyday Japanese Conversation (CEJC version 2022.03). In this research, while referring to the classification of "*~tte*" as a final particle pointed out by Hui (1999), Maruyama (2002) and Rismelati (2022), it is also necessary to consider the situations in which are used and the background between speakers. Therefore, from the corpus data, there are 9 service relation conversations, with total of 73 sentences data has been obtained with length average from 15 to 60 minutes per conversation (taken from data year 2018-2020). And the conversation scenes is focusing on service communication relation which is represent the most ideal type of formal conversation. In the next step, we conduct an analysis based on the semantic changes and usage trends of the "*~tte*" in each category depending on the usage situation.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The Use of *-tte* Percentage based on Speaker Gender



-tte Based on Its Usage Meaning



The research highlights the gender-specific usage of the sentence-ending particle "*~tte*" in formal Japanese conversations within service scenes. It shows that while both male and female speakers use "*~tte*" to fulfill similar conversational functions, the frequency and subtle nuances differ significantly based on gender. This study contributes to the broader understanding of gendered language use in Japanese and provides insights into the pragmatic functions of "*~tte*" in formal and customer service contexts.

CONCLUSION

1. Gender Differences in Usage

- Male Speakers: Tend to use "*~tte*" less frequently in formal service scenes. When used, it often serves to emphasize a statement or to seek confirmation in a more assertive manner.
- Female Speakers: Use "*~tte*" more frequently than male speakers in the same contexts. It is often used to soften requests, show politeness, and create a more conversational and approachable tone.

2. Contextual Functions

- In service scenes, "*~tte*" serves multiple functions including:
- Emphasizing Information: Ensuring the listener understands the importance or certainty of the information.
- Seeking Confirmation: Indicating that the speaker is asking for agreement or confirmation from the listener.
- Politeness and Softening: Making requests or statements less direct and more polite, particularly in customer interactions.

3. Formality and Politeness

- The use of "*~tte*" in formal service scenes reflects a balance between maintaining politeness and creating a friendly atmosphere. Female speakers, in particular, use it to bridge the gap between formality and approachability.

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