

## 英 語 要 旨

学位論文題目 Change in JFL Learners' Language Expressions Concerning Conveying Information  
by Continual Use of Online Chat

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This research focuses on online chat, in which many language expressions concerning conveying information are used as it is a highly synchronous and interactive (bidirectional) communication tool. An analysis of JFL language learners' language behavior both as a provider of information and a receiver of information was conducted.

For the analysis of the language behavior as a provider of information, I have focused on the final particle *ne* as well as direct and indirect sentence-final expressions. As for the analysis of the language behavior as a receiver of information, I have focused on backchannels.

The data for this study are 12 weeks of online chat log and transcriptions of audio conversations between a native speaker and a language learner. For the online chat, the participants were required to do online chat once a week for an hour in the period of 12 weeks. As for the audio conversations, three 15 minute audio conversations were recorded via the internet video chat and voice call service Skype on the first, sixth and twelfth day of online chat.

In Research 1 I have analyzed the characteristics and changes in the use of the final particle *ne* by the JFL learners. The results showed that ① when compared to native speakers the frequency of *ne* is considerably low, ② the JFL learners use “optional *ne*” (used when stating information which belongs to the territory of the speaker) frequently without correctly determining whether it is adequate or non-adequate, ③ the non-use of “obligatory *ne*” (*ne* which is added to information which belongs to the territory of the listener) was also frequently observed. These characteristics change through continual use of online chat. As ① the frequency of *ne*, especially the “obligatory *ne*”, increases, and ② the non-use of “obligatory *ne*” decreases, we can say that the JFL learners are getting closer to the use of *ne* by the native speakers.

Research 2 investigates JFL learners' mixing final particles *ne* and *yo* and how it changes. The results show that the JFL learners have trouble differentiating between *ne* and *yo* when the information of topic belongs only to the speaker's territory (territory A). Furthermore, there is a high possibility that the JFL learners' misuse of *ne* results from mixing *ne* and *yo*. The JFL learners' use of the final particle *ne* and *yo* in territory A has not improved from continual use of online chat. This can be attributed to the fact that the rules of use of *ne* in territory A are complicated and because there was not enough input, as the native speakers didn't use *ne* in territory A that often.

In Research 3 I have focused on the characteristics and change in the use of direct and indirect sentence-final expressions by JFL learners. The results showed that while there were only a few cases of incorrect use of indirect sentence-final expressions, there were many cases of incorrect use of direct sentence-final expressions. In the case of native speakers, even if they use a direct sentence-final expression form, native speakers tend to avoid the direct sentence-final expression by dropping the end of sentence in a vague way, using adverbs which lessen the degree of certainty and such. This study classifies these unfinished sentences and the use of adverbs as semi-direct sentence-final expressions and makes a clear distinction from direct sentence-final expressions. It is believed that in this way we can

present the characteristics of native speakers more prominently. Through continual online chat with native speakers the incorrect use of JFL learners' direct sentence-final expressions has decreased considerably. Moreover, in cases where one can use both the direct and indirect sentence-final expressions, the use of indirect sentence-final expressions has increased.

Research 4 investigates the characteristics and change in the use of JFL learners' backchannels. The results showed that at the beginning of the online chat period ① when compared to native speakers the frequency of backchannels is low, ② the native speakers combine several backchannels in one utterance, whereas the JFL learners in most cases use only one backchannel independently, ③ the JFL learners frequently use low language burden backchannels such as "laughter" and "symbols", and the number of backchannels which express opinion or impression is small. Through continual online chat with native speakers the frequency of backchannels increased and the tendency to use backchannels independently decreased. Moreover, the number of backchannels with a low language burden decreased by half and there was a rising tendency of using backchannels which express opinion or impression.

The aim of Research 5 was to see whether any change in language learners' language expressions concerning conveying information would be observed in audio conversations after continual use of online chat. The data for Research 5 are transcriptions of audio conversations. The same analysis as in Researches 1 to 4 was conducted. The results are as follows.

In the case of the use of the final particle *ne*, unlike in the online chat results, the incorrect use of *ne* has increased. However, similar to the online chat results, the use of *ne* altogether, as well as the use of "obligatory *ne*" has increased, whereas the non-use of "obligatory *ne*" has decreased. Thus, we can say that although the issue of the incorrect use of *ne* remains, there was a great improvement in the use of *ne* as an obligatory element.

As for mixing *ne* and *yo*, similar to the online chat results, there was no considerable change. It has been pointed out that this can be attributed to the fact that as native speakers do not frequently use *ne* in territory A (information of topic belongs only to the speaker's territory), which is a territory where mixing *ne* and *yo* (or mis-use of *yo*) is likely to occur, there was not enough opportunities to be exposed to examples of appropriate use.

Concerning the use of direct and indirect sentence-final expressions, similar to the online chat results, while there was no change in the mis-use of indirect sentence-final expressions, the mis-use of direct sentence-final expressions has decreased, and consequently the correct use of indirect sentence-final expressions has increased, with nearly 80% cases of appropriate use of both direct and indirect sentence-final expressions.

Lastly, as for the use of backchannels, similar to the online chat results, the use of backchannels altogether increased. Furthermore, the number of backchannels per utterance has also increased and combining of several backchannels was observed. As for the expression forms of backchannels, there was a rising tendency of using backchannels which express opinion or impression, as well as an increase in use of backchannels which express attitude towards information conveyed by the speaker.

As seen above it is evident that through continual use of online chat with native speakers the JFL learners' use of final particles *ne* and *yo*, direct and indirect sentence-final expressions and backchannels is getting closer to the characteristics seen in native speakers. We believe it is noteworthy to show that it is possible to improve the spoken language of learners in JFL environment who in everyday life have very little opportunity for contact with the Japanese language.