

外国語要旨

学位論文題目： Characteristics of Route-description Phase in Japanese Direction-giving
Discourse: A Comparison of Contact and Native Situations

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This study examines the route-description phase in Japanese direction-giving discourse. Conversations between a Japanese native direction-asker (JNS) and a Japanese native direction-giver (native situation), and a Japanese language learner direction-asker (NNS) and a Japanese native direction-giver (contact situation) were used as data. The objective of this study is to clarify the characteristics of both the native and contact situation, and to determine similarities and differences.

This study consists of three studies. Study 1 focuses on direction-giver utterances, Study 2 focuses on direction-asker responses, and Study 3 focuses on route repetitions by the direction-giver, which are an important characteristic of direction-giving discourse.

In Study 1, the utterances of the direction-giver were analyzed in terms of the amount and type of utterances, and structural elements in route-description utterances. The results show that utterances not directly connected with the route-description were observed. Furthermore, although the amount of all utterances and route-description utterances did not vary between the native and contact situation, the amount of orientation checkers was significantly higher in the contact situation. Concerning the route-description utterances, although the amount of directives in both situations is higher than descriptives, the amount of descriptives is still high. It is believed that descriptives play an important role in direction-giving and make route-descriptions more effective. Concerning the structural elements, in both situations the structural elements used most were environmental features, which confirms their importance. However, the amount of environmental features and modifiers was significantly higher in the native situation. From this we can say that the direction-giver in the native situation tries to provide more information in order to increase the efficiency of the route-description. On the other hand, the direction-giver in the contact situation uses fewer structural elements such as environmental features and modifiers in order to reduce the amount of information for the non-native direction-asker.

Study 2 focuses on the responses of the direction-asker in terms of the amount and type of utterances. The utterances were divided into backchannel utterances and substantial utterances. Concerning the backchannel utterances, the results show that in both situations mainly the “ha-type” backchannels, which encourage the development of the route-description, were used. Furthermore, repetition backchannels were used to express understanding. In order to confirm their understanding of the

route-description, in both situations the direction-asker used substantial utterances such as route repetitions and questions. However, the amount of repetition backchannels and route repetitions was significantly lower in the contact situation, which indicates that NNS are either unable to use these two types of utterances like JNS, or do not recognize their significance in direction-giving discourse.

Study 3 focuses on route repetition utterances produced by Japanese native speaker direction-givers. The percentage of route repetitions in route-direction, the percentage of forms of repetition, and the percentage of repetitions in response to different preceding utterances was analyzed. The results show that in both situations the route repetitions make up a third of the route-direction utterances. From this we can say that in a high memory load situation such as direction-giving discourse the percentage of route repetitions is high, which confirms their importance. Furthermore, it was found that the direction-givers adjust the forms and the amount of repetition in response to different preceding utterances depending on whether the direction-asker is a JNS or a NNS. In native situations, partial repetitions and repetitions following direction-asker route repetitions were frequently used as both the direction-giver and direction-asker actively participate in repeating route-directions by finishing each other's utterances. On the other hand, in contact situations the direction-giver frequently used paraphrase as a response to NNS's questions in order to facilitate their understanding. Moreover, the amount of repetition in response to information and confirmation requests was significantly higher than in native situations, which emphasizes the importance of these requests for NNS. Lastly, in order to increase the coherence and the efficiency of the route-description, in the contact situation the direction-givers actively used route repetitions after NNS's backchannels and their own utterances.

From the above, we can say that although the native and contact situations displayed many similarities, it was found that direction-givers adjust their utterances according to the speaker. Moreover, differences in responses of the JNS and NNS direction-asker were observed.

The significance of this study lies in demonstrating the characteristics of contact situations in addition to native situations, as they are important for language learners who by default participate in contact situations in real life communication. Moreover, by focusing on the direction-asker in addition to the direction-giver it was possible to provide a more comprehensive description of the characteristics of the route-description phase in Japanese direction-giving discourse.