The subjectivity and Sentence final Particles in the citation clause

<Re-construct their story in Japanese mass-media>

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Key word

[Gender-differenciated language, Sentence Final Particle, voice in citation clause, subjectivity, small corpus]

<Abstract>

Japanese language is well known for the significant difference in expression used by woman and man, this notable difference can be observed rarely in other Western languages.

Even though it has been claiming that the number of young generation who prefer unisex expression to the traditional gender-specific expression, still now the differently used expression are adopted in literatures, comics, and plot in Dramas aiming for the extra effect.

Especially, the difference by gender are considered to appear most frequently in Sentence final particles (SFP) that add a certain modality or nuance to each utterance by attached to the end of it.

However, according to Kamana (2000), there is a case though male speaker is not qua, they end his own utterance by using SFP for woman only inside the citation clause (adaptation: example 1). Furthermore, there’s other variation exist inside the clause, in which man adjust the SFP inside clause to their own SPF.

(1) Original utterance

Woman: Sumiso no guai ga wakara nai wa

[ Miso dressing of ingredient NOM Know-not-SFP for woman]

(2) Adoption

Man: (Sumiso no guai ga wakara nai wa) tte iundayo.

[ Miso dressing of N NOM Know-not-SFP for woman] SCI say-present

(3) Adjustment

Man: (Sumiso no guai ga wakara nee) tte iundayo

[Miso dressing of NO NOM Know-not-SFP for man] SCI say-present
Based on the theory above, this research hypothesizes these phenomena would happen from the reflexion of speaker’s own subjectivity about the female original speaker they are citing, and by manipulating SFP as voice in citation, they might intend to achieve to re-construct of their experience and their own subjective view.

This research aim to clarify the how they re-construct their experience and what they actually want to convey as a message, by utilizing two types of ways: adaptation and adjustment.

As a data, TV discussion program which topic is about the complain toward opposite sex are selected as the subject of data collection, in order to compensate the deficit of large corpas (lack of context) and small corpus (quantitative insufficiency).

And based on this data, the frequency of adoption and adjustment are extracted, and then then this two cases are further divided in two categories, depending on the speakers subjectivity or objectivity towards the original speaker cited. And These two categories are examined by T square to fine some relevances.

As a result, the relevance of adoption in citation clause and subjectively towards original speaker are found statistically. In addition to that, when male speaker adjust woman’s utterance by adjusting it to their own male SFP, all cases belong to objective and just convey the fact as it is. This may mean that when man and woman cite opposite sex’s utterance by using the original speaker’s SFP, it adds extra discursive and subjective.

And the qualitative analysis clarified that there’s some inequiality in the content of discursive message in man and woman’s adoption. Though male’s adoption are mainly claims that woman’s cognitive inferiority or intellectual competency, the female speaker tend to claim man’s machism, oppresiviness and self-centered way.

Thus there’s tendency common in both of gender in which the opposite sex’s SFP in citation clause stand for the subjective and discursive view towards original speaker, the content of discursive seems to be different depending on the speaker’s gender and social assersion about how society categorize both gender’s characteristics.