

Abstracts:

The Style of “Mon”

— The Intention and Method of Soseki’s Continuously Changing Stylistic Style —

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It is well known that Souseki changed his writing style for each work. However, the intention and method with which he changed it have not been disclosed yet. The purpose of this paper is to clarify the way he changed his style with “Mon” as one example. In this paper, we focus on the relationship between depiction speed and style, and conclude that the style was changed by manipulating the description speed. Sometimes, using antithesis makes the reader feel the description more quickly. Sometimes, adding an unnecessary insertion phrase slows down the flow of the description. In some cases, increasing the number of words by using a periphrasis or duplicating expression makes the speed of description slow down drastically. The number of words and the speed of description are closely related to the expression effect, and when the depiction speed is high, the impression on the reader is light, and as the number of words increases, the impression of the description becomes heavier. Souseki skillfully exploited these effects, which compensate for his way of avoiding the direct expression of emotions. Some of the styles that he tried in “Mon” were those that had not been found in previous works. It contained some styles that were used in later works such as “Kokoro”, as well as some styles that were not used again thereafter. “Mon” was a work in which he experimented with various styles, and in writing this work, he seems to have grasped the techniques of manipulating style.

Correspondence between Japanese and Korean Grammatical Aspect Forms as Seen through the Korean-Japanese Parallel Translation Scenario Collection

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In Japanese textbooks in Korean high schools, it is explained that the Japanese “-teiru” form corresponds to the Korean “-go iss -da” “-eo iss -da” form. However, in recent studies, it has been made clear that several Korean forms correspond to different usages of the “-teiru” form. Does the “-teiru” form basically correspond to the “-go iss -da” “-eo iss -da” form only? In this paper, we used a collection of Korean-Japanese parallel translation scenarios to examine the Korean form corresponding to the “-teiru” form. We found that the correspondence between the “-teiru” form and the “-go iss-da” “-eo iss-da” form can be seen only in specific scenarios such as describing an event or depicting scenes and actions. From this result, it can be said that the “-teiru” form basically corresponds to the “-n-da” “-eoss-da” form, and it corresponds to the “-go iss-da” “-eo iss-da” form only in certain specific scenarios. This indicates differences in the usage standards of aspect forms in Japanese and Korean. Furthermore, it can be said that the explanation given in Korean high school Japanese textbook is the result of focusing on the similarities between Japanese and Korean aspect forms (V + [“te” form = “go, eo”] + existence verb [“iru” = “iss -da”]). Korean Japanese language learners often make the mistake of using the “-ru” form or “-ta” form where the “-teiru” form should be used. Thus, it can be said that to prevent such errors, grammatical explanation regarding the differences in usage standards between Japanese and Korean aspect forms is necessary.

Associative Relationship between Lexical and Conceptual Representations
in Chinese Proficient Learners of Japanese Language
— An Experimental Study Using Picture-word Stroop Naming Task —

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Two experiments were carried out to investigate the associative relationship between lexical and conceptual representations in Chinese proficient learners of Japanese language by using the picture-word Stroop naming task. In experiment 1, the subjects were required to name pictures in the second language while ignoring printed Kanji (Japanese ideogram) words. In experiment 2, other subjects were asked to name pictures in the native language while ignoring printed Kanji words. The results of two experiments suggested the following three points. The first is that when naming pictures, semantic processing of Japanese Kanji words is also performed at the same time. The second point is that in the mental lexicon of proficient learners, lexical and conceptual representations of Chinese-Japanese cognates and homographs were linked in the same formation degree. The third is that when the input language and output language were different in the picture naming task, Stroop interference could arise at both the semantic processing stage and the production stage.

Utilizing Generalizability Theory in the Evaluation of Dialogic Language Assessment

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The purpose of this research is to investigate how many test items and testers are required to maintain reliability in DLA (Dialogic Language Assessment), utilizing Generalizability Theory. DLA is a language testing method that aims to observe language ability based upon three different criteria: basic conversation, dialogue and cognition. Generalizability Theory is a statistical framework composed of two different studies: G study and D study. The G study validates and predicts the number of testers and pupils, and the number of test items necessary to maintain reliability, estimating the variable factors and the variance components. Based upon the data gained from the G study, the D study provides crucial information to obtain insights to design an effective test. The results indicate that a) if the number of the testers is less than four, it would be difficult to maintain reliability even though the number of test items is large, and b) factors that cannot be explained by the number of testers, pupils, and test items are found. The results also show that given the situation seen in schools where teachers are driven by school duties, employing twelve test items administered by five testers is a realistic solution.

A Survey of Phonological Similarity between Japanese Kanji-Words and Vietnamese Han-Viet sounds

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The Vietnamese language includes vocabulary derived from Chinese called “Han-Viet words (từ Hán Việt)”, and each Chinese character (Kanji) has a Vietnamese reading, which is referred to as “Han-Viet sounds (âm Hán Việt)”. The purpose of this study was to survey phonological similarity between Japanese Kanji-words and its corresponding Vietnamese Han-Viet sounds. Native speakers of Vietnamese who have never studied Japanese participated in the survey, and they were required to rate the phonological similarity between Han-Viet sounds and Japanese Kanji-words presented auditorily on a seven-point scale. The results of the survey were compiled in a list. After the survey, a memory experiment was conducted to verify the results. In the experiment, Vietnamese students learning Japanese as a second language were required to memorize visually-presented Japanese Kanji-words through reading aloud. The phonological similarity obtained from the survey was treated as an independent variable and the recall-test scores were dependent variables. The results showed that high phonological similarity led to better recall. This suggests that the phonological similarity data obtained from the survey is reliable.