# Research on Tone Adjustment Mechanisms of Commanding Sentence of Chinese and Japanese

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**Abstract:** This paper analyses the tone adjustment mechanisms of commanding sentence of Chinese and Japanese to provide some references for the relative researchers.

#### 1. Introduction

Order means that the speaker requests the hearer to do something, and the hearer must obey. The speaker is often superior, elders, and has certain authority, and the required behavior is mandatory. The prototype category theory in Markedness Theory provides us with an effective paradigm to grasp the tendency of language use. The theory was put forward by the American psychologist Rosch (1975). By investigating 10 different categories, such as birds, fruits and vegetables, he found that the status of each member in the category was unequal. The best and most representative members were typical members of the category, i.e. the prototype, while the other members were atypical members or marginal members. The boundary of category is vague and unfixed, and interacts with other categories on the edge. Yuzomi's (2002) discourse politeness theory further develops and perfects this theory by calculating the frequency of the use of a language element in the discourse to determine the "prototype" expression in a situation or behavior pattern, that is, the "basic state", that is, what is the most frequently used expression. On this basis, the pragmatic functions of the special markedness of the expression of marginal classes are observed.

This paper chooses 120 episodes of "I Love My Home" in Chinese, about 600,000 words. Japanese chooses "No Marriage", "Housewife Mita", "Naoko Banzawa", "Gold Medal" and other movies and TV plays with high ratings in Japan. The spoken language corpus of more than 600,000 words is used as the research material and the discourse politeness theory of Usami (2003) is used as the theoretical framework. Based on many corpus statistics and according to the frequency of the use of language elements, this paper determines the expression of the "basic state" of Chinese and Japanese in the expression of commands. On this basis, using the method of contrastive linguistics, this paper observes and analyzes the strategic rules and mood regulation of the two languages in the expression of commands. Mechanism.

## 2. Tone Adjustment Mechanism of Commanding Sentence of Chinese

Imperative sentences need to complete the function of speaking, the most important predicate verb. The imperative sentence in Chinese is mainly accomplished by self-help verbs and specific sentence patterns.

- (1) A. Fu Lao: test me what to do, therefore filial piety needs father to move forward, Zhi Guo Shang!
  - B. Fu Lao: Zhixin, you take away this pack of cloud smoke.
  - C. Zhixin: a coconut juice, a grain of orange, let your boss personally bring it up!
  - D. Rita: (take a beeper from the schoolbag) and hold it!
- (2) A. Zhi Guo: Chi Xin, Ming Er, you go to the traffic team to tell our father about this situation with the police.
  - B. Fu Lao: you have many 8 questions. Think for yourself first.

C. peace: Hello... Oh, wait a minute. (to Zhi Xin) or your old friend will continue to talk to you.

- (3) A. peace: you shut up! (give a round mouth)
- B. Fu Lao: (gas) do you still get it? Roll! Get out of here!

Example (1) is a common way of expressing commands, especially (1) A, which is used as an autonomous verb to express commands, occupies most commands and can be said to be its "basic state". In addition, "Ba" sentence, "Rang" sentence, "V + zhe" is also a more commonly used form of command expression, with obvious formal markers. The examples in Example (2) are euphemistic expressions of imperative sentences, in which the form of "VV" is frequently used, and the mood of the sentences is eased by the overlapping "trial meaning" of verbs. Secondly, "V-V" and "V-a-minute" are used to achieve the effect of euphemism by adding a small number of quantifiers. For example (3) to reinforce the imperative mood, we often use strong autonomous verbs to express the speaker's persistent mood, or add "give me" to reinforce the imperative mood of the sentence, which cannot be violated by the other party.

Table 1. Basic model, palliative form and strengthening form of commanding sentence of Chinese

palliative form	basic model	strengthening form
a. go slowly!	Go!	Hurry up!
b. listen carefully!	Listen!	Listen! Listen up!
c. study hard! Learn!	Learn! Must	Must /study hard!
d., Please help!	You have to help!	must help!

In addition to adjusting the mood of a sentence through morphological changes, the addition of adverbs and auxiliary verbs is also an important means of Chinese. For example, a-c in Table (1) softens the tone of the sentence by adding overlapping adverbs such as "slowly", "well" and so on, and strengthens the tone of the sentence by adding adverbs such as "quickly" and "quickly". C and d, by adding modal verbs "de", "certain" and "must" to enhance the strength and hardness of the speaker's command tone, making the command more inviolable.

Besides, whether or not the subject is used plays an important role in regulating mood. In order to investigate the use of subject in command sentences, we have made statistics on the use of subject in command sentences in I Love My Home. The ratio of explicit subjects to implicit subjects in command sentences is 49:51. In the use of explicit subjects, the most frequently used personal pronouns are "you" and "you", accounting for 58.13% of the total use of the main sentence. In addition to personal pronouns, the second most frequently used is name, accounting for 34.15% of the main sentence. Appellation is the most widely used name, which is used to refer to the younger generation, especially the younger ones.

- (5) A. peace: (for Xiao Zhang) pour tea for the guests.
- B. Fu Lao: you listen to Zhixin!
- (6) A. Wang: you are going to stay away!
- B. Fu Lao: Jia Xiaofan! You listen!
- C. peace: (surmounting) surname Meng. You are in the dark today!
- (7) A. peace: Xiao Fan... Come on.
- B. Zhixin: Xiao Zhang! Make tea!

Subject ellipsis and the use of personal pronoun "you" in Example (5) are the most frequently used forms of imperative sentences. Subject ellipsis is the most frequent in this case when the hearer is very clear and does not need to point out the subject. Most of the speakers who use "you" or "you" are elders, such as Fu Lao. Occasionally there are high-powered people like policemen. Or equal status and close relatives, such as between husband and wife, between hands and feet. Example (6) "you" in a can make your voice more intense when expressing anger and curse. The Fu Lao in B and Jia Xiaofan, originally parents, usually use the nickname "Xiaofan", but in the case of anger, using the full name will make the tone of command more intense. Moreover, the use of the insulting Title "Meng's" in C exacerbates the intensity of the imperative tone. On the contrary, the nickname "Xiao Zhang" and "Xiao Fan" with "Xiao + surname" are used in Example 7, which can effectively alleviate

the aggressiveness of the imperative tone and make it more acceptable for the hearer to execute the instructions desired by the speaker.

In addition to the use of the subject can adjust the intensity of the command mood, the use of auxiliary at the end of the sentence can also play a moderating role.

## 3. Tone Adjustment Mechanism of Commanding Sentence of Japanese

Compared with Chinese, Japanese relies more on verb morphemes and specific sentence structures in expressing command mood. Its sentence structure is richer than Chinese.

(9) A. Yau Li: when is this time? The number of seconds is positive.

What time is it now? Look at your watch and tell me! Accurate to seconds! Gold medal.

B. leisurely Lane: crazy, sand, desert, and water. 3

It. (screaming like water hoarse in the desert, 3, shout!) "Gold medal"

(10) A.: 1 weeks, 10kg. I am very sorry.

(lose ten kilograms in a week, or you'll be expelled).

B. Yau Li: I am sorry to hear that you are not satisfied.

(if you have any objected to this result, please submit your resignation!) "Gold medal"

(11) a. Date Kawahiro: what's the word?

(listen to me!) gold medal.

B. president of the great spring: the trees, the trees, the trees.

So, straight tree, you have to consider it!

Unlike Chinese, which uses invisible markers to express commands, Japanese is the most frequently used euphemistic form of "V+\_" in command sentences. This form is an ellipsis of the basic form of Japanese command expression "V + For example (9) A, the president Youli's order to the interviewer is more tactful, so that the other party can accept it more easily. In order to avoid the imperative tone caused by impoliteness, Japanese is often used in the form of ellipsis, half the words, the rest to the listener's own experience. For example, in Example (9) b, the predicate form. For example, (10) for Japanese, the basic form of command is "V+", "V +". The former has a rather strong tone, for example, (10) a is the leader's command of subordinates. He is very tough. The latter B is used more frequently in the formal occasions, and the tone is relatively relaxed. Ex. (11) is a tougher form of command in Japanese. A uses the verb imperative form. B is the form of "V + 24 The latter are mostly used by senior elders, and the tone is very tough.

Table 1. Basic model, palliative form and strengthening form of commanding sentence of Japanese

palliative form	basic model	strengthening form
a. Go ahead	Go!	Go now
b. Do it!	Do!	Must do!
c. Stop!	Stop now!	Must stop now!
d. Don't be afraid!	Don't be weak!	Never be timid!

In addition to expressing strong or weak command and prohibition mood through morphological changes and specific sentence patterns, Japanese also uses mood words or adverbs to regulate command mood. Besides, the use of a specific subject can also play a role in regulating Japanese imperative mood.

### 4. Conclusions

Based on the actual spoken language data, we use marker theory and discourse politeness theory to determine the basic state of Chinese and Japanese imperative sentences, and observe and summarize the operation mechanism and language strategies of tone adjustment. Through the analysis above, we can draw a conclusion that Chinese relies more on lexical means when expressing command sentences, and adjusts the command or forbidden mood by changing morphology or adding auxiliary

verbs and adverbs. Japanese, on the other hand, mainly relies on syntactic means to adjust its mood through exquisite and rich verb morphemes and specific sentence patterns. We will use the highest frequency expression to be defined as the "basic state" under this function.

When expressing command sentences, the basic form of Chinese is to use unmarked active words, which are direct and frank, strong and powerful. Its form of expression is a common form without any form of change. We call it "constant body". Thus, in daily life, especially in family-centered conversations like I Love My Home, Chinese people tend to express the speaker's will directly and frankly, that is, the bald on record strategy, without much concern for each other's face. In contrast, Japanese does not use the original form of the imperative sentence, but the form of "V + \_" or ellipsis, which is omitted and polite, to express the order. Euphemism and neutralization, try to avoid hurting each other's face. Japan is a very good observer of the nation, so in daily life, even among close relatives, but also retain a friendly and not alienated euphemism expression, we call it "euphemism". Unlike Chinese commands, which usually use direct strategies, Japanese tends to use passive politeness strategies to show respect.

In terms of mood adjustment mechanism, Chinese is mainly realized by lexical means, such as verb reduplication, or adding verb-object phrase "give me", auxiliary verb and adverb. Japanese relies mainly on syntactic, adverb and modal particles. The former focuses on lexical means, while the latter focuses on grammatical means. The similarity between them lies in the use of adverbs. The adverbs with enhanced mood have basically the same meaning whether they are ordered or prohibited.

From the above analysis, we can draw the following enlightenment:

Firstly, the use of the basic state can show the tendency of different languages in expressing different functions. It is convenient for us to grasp the most typical expressions and to see the different thinking patterns and cultural characteristics behind different languages. We can see from the comparison of the two basic states that Chinese tends to express the content of orders directly and frankly, while Japanese emphasizes the use of euphemism or ellipsis, which is relatively indirect.

Secondly, the similarities and differences of mood regulation mechanism can clarify the pragmatic strategies of different languages in expressing different functions, and facilitate the flexible choice of appropriate language expression according to different objects and topics in foreign communication and second language acquisition. Chinese is a parataxis language, and the verbs themselves have no morphological or tense changes, so when adjusting the mood, either imperative sentences into interrogative sentences in the form of a gentle tone, or by adding auxiliary verbs, adverbs, modal words and other lexical means to strengthen or ease the mood. Japanese verbs, on the other hand, have very rich forms of tense (present tense, past tense), aspect (present progressive tense, past progressive tense, etc.), tense (passive voice, causative voice, possible voice, grant-receive expression, etc.) and complex and changeable syntactic structures, thus showing extreme tone modulation. For the powerful adjustment function, the mood expression is more exquisite and changeable.

Third, in language expression, the length of a sentence is not necessarily proportional to the degree of euphemism, and politeness does not mean appropriateness. When Chinese expresses imperative, the politer expressions are used, the politer the language will be. But Japanese is different. For example, when expressing suggestions and requests, ellipsis is rather polite and appropriate. In addition, it is not always appropriate to use euphemism or respectful expressions. The use of respectful expressions between people who are close to each other will widen the distance between them, resulting in unique pragmatic meaning and even the result of impoliteness.

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