

## Contrasting Comparison of Chinese and Japanese Imperative Clauses based on Pragmatic Function

Fangliang Dong

Department College of Foreign Studies, Jinan University, Guangzhou, Guangdong, 510630, China

**Keywords:** Chinese and Japanese Imperative Clause, Pragmatic Function, Contrasting Comparison

**Abstract:** The tone has a close relationship with the person of the subject. The subject of the imperative sentence is generally the second person or the first person plural, and the minority is played by a proper noun or a noun phrase, which is often implicit in a certain context. This applies to both Japanese and Chinese imperative sentences, but because of the different languages, the two have similarities in the subject looming. This paper extracts the corresponding Japanese imperative sentences and Chinese imperative sentences from the old Japanese and Chinese classics Lao She teahouse, and classifies them according to their pragmatic functions. By comparing the distribution of subject implicit sentences and subject expressions in the corresponding classifications of the two languages, try to find the similarities and differences between Japanese imperative sentences and Chinese imperative sentences in the looming subject are analyzed, and the main reasons for the similarities and differences are analyzed.

### 1. Introduction

Since the definitions of imperative sentences are not uniform in Japanese and Chinese academic circles, it is necessary to find commonalities from different definitions before extracting imperative sentences. Regarding the definition of imperative sentences, Yoshida Yoshida pointed out that "praying" refers to the "transitive attitude" of the listener to achieve a certain behavior according to his requirements, with the "pending" tone. The sentence is called "Praying sentence. Fang Wei points out that when people use modern Chinese for verbal communication, they convey in the literal meaning and general conversational meaning that "the speaker wants the listener to do something or not to do something. The sentence, or the speaker's instruction to act with the speaker to do something or not to do something, and use the sentence of the corresponding command tone, called the imperative sentence. Although the text is different, The essence is the same, that is, the purpose of the speaker's speech is to let the listener or the listener together with the speaker maintain the existing state or change the existing state according to the speaker's instruction.

### 2. Concepts and scope of Chinese and Japanese imperative sentences

With regard to the concept of Chinese imperative sentences, the earliest establishment of the definition and scope of the "church" that we now recognize is Lu Shuxiang's "Chinese Grammar". He clearly stated that the imperative is the tone that "does the purpose of our actions" and divides this tone into categories such as "prohibition, order, request, urging, persuasion". Wang Li's views in "Chinese Modern Grammar" are basically consistent with Lu Shuxiang. He believes that ": those who express orders, advise, request, and warn are called imperative tone," and banned words such as "other," "not," or "less" are common expressions of imperative tone. In addition, Mr. Wang also discussed "promoting tone" and thought: "It is very close to imperative tone, but it is more urgent." Subsequently, Gao Mingkai did not explicitly use it in the book Chinese Grammar. The concept of "practice sentence", but the "command proposition" he mentioned is roughly consistent with the meaning of "imprisonment sentence". Mr. Gao divides the "command" into two types: one is mandatory orders, including orders and bans; the other is non-mandatory orders, including requests and advice. Although scholars have different expressions of the concept of imperative sentences, in general, there are two main starting points for the definition of imperative sentences in modern

Chinese: tone and function. The two were proposed by Lu Shuxiang and Zhu Dexi respectively. The two viewpoints have their own advantages and disadvantages. The researchers who use tone theory generally do not clearly define what is "tone", but only say that "praying" is a kind of "voice", but most of the specific definitions borrow the functional classification criteria. The imperative sentence is used to express the speaker's orders, requests, and prohibitions. At the same time, the definition of imperative sentences from the pragmatic function is in line with its communicative function, but it is easy to include sentences that are formally declarative, exclamatory or interrogative, but can also play an imperative role in a specific context. .

Through the above introduction to the imperative sentence from the naming to the concept and scope in the Chinese-Japanese language, we can see that: From the naming point of view, compared with the Chinese imperative sentence, the Japanese imperative sentence does not have a relatively uniform naming method. The imperative sentence is the naming of Chinese. This naming basically summarizes the main imperative sentences in Chinese from the name, while the Japanese imperative sentence does not have a unified and generalized naming, whether it is "command text" or "wish text." "It is only a part of the Japanese imperative sentence from the name. It can be said that the meaning and name of the two are not equal." From the concept and scope, as a basic general grammar concept, whether it is a complete imperative sentence in Chinese, a command language in Japanese, or a wish text, has been introduced as a concept to grammar learners, but in fact, in both languages The controversy of imperative sentences is widespread. These two concepts have both narrow and broad understandings in both Chinese and Japanese. The starting point of this understanding is basically the same in both languages. Whether it is Chinese or Japanese, the narrow imperative sentence is an imperative sentence with the characteristics of the imperative sentence from the grammatical point of view. The Japanese is concentrated in the command form. The generalized imperative sentence is a sentence that expresses the effect of letting others perform the action from the perspective of pragmatic function. Therefore, the connotation is relatively broad. The Chinese and Japanese languages have various forms of requests, hopes, etc., as long as they are the words that ultimately achieve the purpose of the listener's actions as a generalized imperative sentence. The conceptual scope of general imperative sentences is relatively unclear, mainly measured by pragmatic functions.

### **3. Comparison of Japanese and Chinese imperative clauses based on pragmatic classification**

According to the commonality of the above imperative sentences, this paper collects 315 Chinese imperative sentences and Japanese imperative sentences from Laoshe Teahouse. Among them, 4 original subjects are composed of proper nouns or noun phrases. The proportion is very small, so this article only discusses the subject in the second person or first person plural and the subject implicitly 31 1 case. According to statistics, among the 311 imperative sentences, there are 203 Chinese original texts and corresponding Japanese translations, which are subjective sentences. There are 80 Chinese original texts, and the corresponding Japanese translations are subjective sentences; there are 28 Chinese originals and The corresponding Japanese translations are presented to the subject. Why does the Japanese-Chinese imperative sentence have such a big difference in the subject's looming? Does the Japanese-Chinese imperative sentence have certain rules in the subject's looming? To effectively solve these problems, the collected imperative sentences must be classified for further comparative analysis. . Chinese subject implicit sentences account for about two-thirds of the total, Japanese Japanese subject implicit sentences are more, and the Japanese and Chinese imperative sentences of the implicit subject are dominant. This is because, regardless of Japanese or Chinese, the imperative sentence mainly appears in the conversation, the speaker directly makes commands and requests to the listener, and the use of context to supplement the language expression, the subject is generally not plain, so it can often be implicit.

Compared with 65% of Chinese. The proportion of Japanese subject implicit sentences is as high as 91%. It can be seen that the subject implicit phenomenon of Japanese imperative sentences is more common than Chinese. Since the Japanese translations corresponding to the Chinese implied sentences are all subjective sentences, that is, 65% (203 cases) of the imperative sentences are the

original and the Japanese translations, which are 26% (80%). Example) The imperative sentence Chinese is the subject of the sentence, which is implied after being translated into Japanese. It can be seen from Table 1 that these 80 cases are distributed in the four pragmatic categories. Analysis of these sentences can reveal that the Japanese imperative sentence is more likely to appear subjective than the Chinese imperative sentence, and it is specific to Japanese. Imperative tone expression has a lot to do with it.

There are 61% of the requests to pray for the Japanese-language translation of the subject-language implied sentence, and the corresponding Chinese original text appears in the main language. Compared with the other three categories, the Japanese request imperative sentence is the most prone to subject implicit phenomenon. This is because Japanese uses the respectful homage in the honorific language to express respect and politeness, and the subject of the action is clear, so the subject can often be implied. Supporting the Japanese imperative sentence subject implicitly respected his honorific expression form mainly with nouns before the joint words. 35% of the consultations impeded the Japanese-language translation as the main language implied sentence, and the corresponding Chinese original text appeared in the main language. It can be seen from this that Japanese-language imperative sentences are also more prone to subject implicit phenomena. Different from the other three categories, the main body of the imperative sentence can not only be the listener, but also the speaker and obedient.

In the Chinese imperative sentence, only the subjective expression rate of the request sentence exceeds 50%, while Japanese is the opposite. The requesting imperative sentence has the lowest proportion of the subject appearing sentence in each kind of imperative sentence, and only 4% of the Japanese request sentence is the subject appearing sentence. This is because when expressing a request in a respectful and polite tone, Chinese is accustomed to using the second person pronoun "you", while Japanese generally uses respectful words to avoid using personal pronouns. In the imperative sentences corresponding to 311 Japanese-Chinese languages, the original text and the translated text accounted for 9% of the total, and a total of 28 cases. Although the number is not large, the analysis of them can still find some common rules in the expression of the imperative subject in Japanese and Chinese. The imperatives of these imperative sentences are inconsistent with the actors of the preceding and following clauses, as in examples (12) to (16). Among them, the main body of action before and after (12)(13)(14) is "you" and "me", which are more common. In addition, assign tasks to multiple people present, the subject of the imperative sentence is "you", but the subject of each task is different, so this situation can also be classified as such. It can be seen that when the imperative sentence is different from the main body of the preceding and following sentences, Japanese and Chinese tend to appear as subjects.

#### **4. Conclusion**

Japanese imperative sentences and Chinese imperative sentences are different in subject spoofing. The same point is that Japanese imperative sentences imply subjective subjects are dominant; Japanese and Chinese imperative sentences have some commonalities in subject expression, such as imperative sentences and the main body of pre- and post-sentences. Different, the speaker emphasizes that when the listener performs some behavior that is unfavorable to the implementer and the speaker requires the listener to perform the same behavior as the other, the Japanese Chinese imperative sentence tends to appear the subject. The difference is that the implied proportion of Japanese imperative clauses is significantly higher than that of Chinese imperatives. This is related to the specific imperative tone expression in Japanese, which can clearly imply the subject. These expressions mainly include the honorific and respectful sentences in the request sentence. The persuasive auxiliary verbs and the verb command forms and supplementary verbs in the command and request sentences.

#### **Acknowledgements**

1) Ministry of Education Humanities and Social Sciences Research Project 2017 Youth Fund

Project “Comparative Study of Language Strategies of Chinese and Japanese Imperative Sentences from the Perspective of Multimodality”, Project Approval Number: 17YJC740016

2) The 14th batch of education technology "innovation project" wisdom teaching application project of Jinan University, 2018

## References

- [1] Fang Wei. Pragmatic Study of Imperative Sentences in Modern Chinese (J). Language Research, 1999, (4): 14-18.
- [2] Gu Wei. Japanese imperative sentence analysis [J]. Japanese Language Learning and Research, 2005, (2): 79-82.
- [3] Hu Zhiqiang. A Study of the Modality of Verb Predicate in Modern Japanese Imperative Sentences [D]. Master's thesis of Nanjing Agricultural University, 2007.
- [4] Xia Jufen. The expression of imperative behavior in Japanese communication [J]. Journal of Zhejiang University of Technology (Social Science Edition), 2006, (1): 65-69.
- [5] Fang Wei. Pragmatic Study of Imperative Sentences in Modern Chinese [J]. Language research. 2000. (1)