Announcement

There will be Quiz 2 at the beginning of the next week.

The quiz will cover the topics we discussed after Quiz 1 (dialect, social variation, language change, and gender).

Gender

Gender differences in language

An extreme example: In some communities in north-west Amazon, men must marry outside their own tribe, so a child's mother and father speak different languages.

Less dramatically, in the Gros Ventre tribe, pronunciation differences between men and women: women say [kja'tsa], while men say [dʒa'tsa] for ‘bread’
What kind of gender differences in language can you think of?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>masculine?</th>
<th>feminine?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nouns, verbs, &amp; adjectives</td>
<td>meshi (meal), umai (to taste good) kuu (to eat) oyaji (father)</td>
<td>gohan (meal), oishii (taste good) taberu (to eat) otōsan (father)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st sg. pronouns</td>
<td>boku, ore</td>
<td>watashi, atashi, uchi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>interjections</td>
<td>yō, oi</td>
<td>ara, kyaa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>discourse particles</td>
<td>-da yo, -da ne -zo, -ze</td>
<td>(noun)-yo, (noun)-ne -wa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In English..

- Women use finer-grained color terms like mauve instead of purple
- Women avoid swear words
- Women more often use hedges such as sort of to avoid strong assertion
- Women prefer tag questions like isn’t it?


But..

Aren’t they just stereotypes? Do men and women really speak differently nowadays?

How to call yourself?
1st pronouns

In case of ゆうた-kun

Yuuta > boku > ore/boku > ore/boku/watashi

In case of まり-san

Mari > uchi/atashi > watashi

The same person use multiple 1st pronouns — a male student may use ore in his club, boku in his class, and watashi in a job interview.

Example taken from 石黒 (2013) 日本語は「空気」が決める.

Do women speak in a more standard/polite manner?

Differences in common nouns, verbs etc.

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Is this really a gender difference? Aren’t they just differences between formal/standard and vernacular expressions, and women are expected to use more formal expressions?

Why do women use standard forms more often?

There are a number of different theories.

- Women are more status-conscious than men
- Women are expected to show ‘better’ behavior
- Women are subordinate and need to be more polite
- Vernacular forms carry connotations of toughness
- Men are more relaxed when they participate in a sociolinguistic study, particularly because the researchers are more often male?
Gender difference in linguistic behavior

Women prefer *rapport talk*, which seeks for sympathy and symmetrical relationship

Men prefer *report talk*, in which they try to take a lead and provide information

towards gender-neutral terms

Generic *man* and *he*

*Everyone should bring his(?) deposit on Monday.*

*policeman, fireman, salesman*

*lion/lioness, actor/actress, hero/heroine, etc.*

Sexist language
Examples from Japanese

女王 (joō, ‘queen’), 女医 (joi, ‘female doctor’), 女流作家 (joryū sakka, ‘female author’)

children’s nurse: 保育士 (hoikushi) < 保母 (hobo)
nurse: 看護師 (kangoshi) < 看護婦 (kangofu)

主人 and 奥さん

Gender-neutral pronouns?

Japanese used to lack the gender distinction for 3rd person pronouns. 彼 (kare) and 彼女 (kanojo) were invented in Meiji era.

The reading of 彼女 wasn’t well established yet in 1908

Reaction paper

Do you think we need a gender-neutral pronoun?

Note:

There are languages with grammatical gender.