Osaka Aunties: Negotiating Honorific Language, Gender, and Regionality

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Ideas about Japanese Language and Gender (based mainly on studies of SJ)

Prescriptive ideas:

- Women use:
 - sex specific sentence final forms & pronominal forms;
 - high[er than men] frequencies of honorific & distal forms;
 - use of these forms (above) are indirect indices of feminine characteristics such as: restraint, softness, indirectness, and so on
- Men use:
 - sex specific sentence final forms & pronominal forms:
 - low[er than women] frequencies of honorific & distal forms;
 - use of these forms (above) are indirect indices of masculine characteristics such as: direct, aggressive, [but] stoic & silent.

Ideas about Japanese Language and Gender (based mainly on studies of SJ)

- Empirical Observations:
 - Women:

SALSA XVI

- Frequencies of sex specific final forms & pronouns are context-, stance-, position- & interactional goal-based (Matsumoto 2002; Okamoto 1995; Miyazaki 2004; Lunsing and Maree 2004).
- Uses of honorifics, distal and neutral forms are likewise based on speaker 'identity' in the moment-to-moment interaction (Cook 1998).
- Men:
 - Very little empirical work done on SJ speaking men.

Why Regional Women?

Why Kansai Women?

Regional Needs:

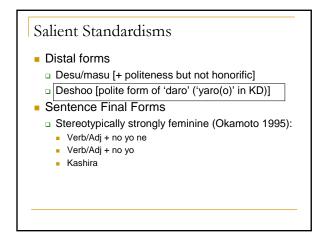
- How do women regionally positioned respond to SJ language norms?
- How do regional women's linguistic practices articulate with code choice(s)?
- Kansai Dialect (KD) Practices:
 - It is easily identified by all: it is a prestige dialect. Speakers routinely deny switching to SJ when traveling
 - outside region. It can be heard on mainstream TV throughout the archipelago.

Kansai in the Domestic Imagination

- Omoroi Yatsu 'That Interesting Guy' Makes up for a lack of sports and scholastic abilities (aligned with Standardness) with friendliness, familiarity, and jokes. (Sato 2000)
- Doketchi Obachan 'Super Cheap Auntie'
 - □ For items already on sale, she asks for a discount .
 - When a store is selling something with a limit of
 - "only 3 per person," she makes her family go along to buy the item. (Maegaki 2005)

Recognizable Regionalisms

- ~hen (SJ: ~nai; negation)
 - Iku ('to go') ikanai (SJ) ikahen (KD) = 'not go'
- Ya (SJ: da; copula) and its relative forms □ _Yanai (SJ: janai) = 'isn't'
 - Yaro
 - (SJ: daro) = 'probably'
 - Yakara (SJ: dakara) = 'therefore,' 'because'
- Haru (SJ: Nahara/Nasaru; Other Honorific) Ikinasaru -- ikiharu ('go' [+ other honorific])
- Nen (SJ: ne; Sentence final form)
- Akan (SJ: dame; 'no;' 'don't;' 'prohibited')



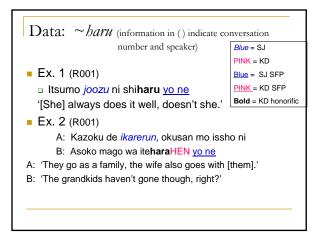
Participants: Groups 1 & 2

Same participants, two different occasions Conversations: 4020, 4015

NAME	OCCUPATION	AGE
Ami	Admin. Assistant	39
Hana	Law Clerk	32
Akiko	Office Worker	41

Conversa	tion: R001	
NAME	OCCUPATION	AGE
Kaori	Housewife	64
Na011		
Michiko	Housewife	61

Participar	nts: Group 4	
Conversa	tion: 4039	
NAME	OCCUPATION	AGE
Asako	Ikebana Teacher	58
	(Housewife)	
Sachi	Ikebana Student	63
	(Housewife)	
Reiko	Ikebana Student	76
	(Housewife)	



More ~*haru*

- Ex. 3 (4039, Sachi)
 TsuKOOte kurehattara EE NA:
 'If [they'll] make it for you, that's good!'
- Ex. 4 (4039, Reiko)
 Demo sensei son'nan iuteharaHEN kara, shirihareHEN no CHAU <u>kana</u>:
 'But the sensei hasn't said that, so you can't know it, do you, right?'

Data: Janai

- Ex. 5 (4020, Akiko)
 Yappari ki ni naru kara futto nanige ni ashimoto mitara, hiiru janai <u>NEN</u>, chotto futsu no . . .
- 'And, because I had noticed [her height], I casually glanced down at her feet and it wasn't heels [she was wearing] it was just regular [shoes].'
- Data: Desu, ~masu, and deshoo • Ex. 6 (4015, Ami, Hana & Akiko) Ak: tomodachi wa itteta ('my friend told me') H: on'na no hito soto derareHEN no *deshoo* 'women aren't allowed outside, you know?!' A: kon'nan koomutte ('they suffer so ...') H: kao dashitara AKAN ii*masu* yo ne 'they say they can't even show their face.' A: nan YAttake, nanka kina AKANkatta yo ne 'what's that thing? That thing they have to wear?'

Data: Sentence Final Forms

- Ex. 7 (4039, Reiko)
- Genki na hito ikan, iki**haru** hito mo ORU <u>kashira</u> 'Healthy people can't go, but I wonder if there will be some there, too?'
- Ex. 8 (R001, Michiko)
- Ima goro kara UMAKU detekitara, de, kyonen wa sore de kekko KIREKATTA no yo
- 'If they bloom nicely from now . . ., uh, last year with that [treatment] they were quite pretty.'

Discussion:

- Uses of Haru and SJ honorific forms
 - Use of dialect *haru* far greater than SJ honorific forms.
 - Use of SJ honorific forms tend to be sarcastic and/or highly formulaic.
 - Aside from its virtual exclusive use, the occurrence of *haru* is unremarkable; that is, its context of use is in line with descriptions found in reference guides.

Discussion:

- Use of distal forms
- Almost exclusive use of deshoo
 Avoidance of dialectal yaro(o)?
- Exclusive use of janai
- Avoidance of dialectal yanai
- Exclusive use of dialectal copula ya and avoidance of SJ copula da
- Use of sentence final forms
 - Use of stereotypically feminine forms definitely present
 - Appears highest among over 50 speakers.
 - Use of gender neutral forms also present

Some (in)Conclusive Thoughts:

- National Imaginary and Kansai
 - Omoroi yatsu, obachan, old merchant/shopkeeper
- What might it mean to be a 'Japanese woman' amidst standard and regional ideologies?
 - Not lower class
 - Not masculine
 - Not old
 - Not rural
 - But still clearly Kansai, female, and not Tokyo

Continuation of (in)Conclusive Thoughts

- How can/does one claim membership simultaneously in a non-Tokyo region and yet index the savvy of ideological 'Japanese woman' among friends?
 - Linguistic practices:
 - KD: haru, hen, ya, and a few other "pieces"
 - SJ: deshoo, desu/masu, janai
 - Linguistic avoidances:
 - KD: yaro, yanai,
 - SJ: da, naharu/nasaru,

A final (in)Conclusive Thought

- With regard specifically to gender & region:
 - Potential for haru to be statistically gendered; and thus, an index of stereotypically feminine gender?
 - Dependential for yaro & yanai to be an index of stereotypically masculine gender;

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