

Gratitude Expressions by Sinhala and Japanese Native Speakers : Reference to the PAC Analysis

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In many of the past studies, the attention was paid only to verbal expressions in gratitude expressing situations and nonverbal gratitude expressions were overlooked. Hence, this study reveals both verbal and nonverbal gratitude expressions of Japanese and Sinhala native speakers and their cultural schema (way of thinking) in gratitude expressing situations.

In this study, for the research methodology, one Sri Lankan foreign student in Japanese university was investigated by the PAC (Personal Attitude Construct) Analysis. The survey revealed that both Sinhalese and Japanese native speakers realize the gratitude expressing situations through the position, or rank of the listener. However, realizing the situation under this fact, in intimacy relationships the Sinhala native speakers avoid verbal expressions as much as possible, and instead of nonverbal expressions such as a smiling face with narrowed eyes, salutes are used to show the gratitude. Contrariwise, the Japanese native speakers use a lot of verbal expressions while changing the politeness of them along with nonverbal expressions such as bow their heads, show smiling faces...etc., to show the gratitude in the same situation. It can be said that the Japanese native speakers use both verbal and nonverbal expressions in any place or relationship while the Sinhala native speakers alternate them according to the relationship and place.