

Essential Pragmatic Guidance on the Use of Gratitude Expressions in Various Situations for Japanese Learners:

An analysis of gratitude expressing conversations in Japanese and Sri Lankan textbooks

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The use of gratitude linguistic expressions and understanding of gratitude-worthy situations by Sri Lankan Japanese learners is an important inter-language topic. One of the causes for error is arguably due to the presentation of problems that appear in Sri Lankan Japanese language textbooks. Therefore, in this study, I analyzed high school students' textbooks "*Suriranka Koko Nihongo A Level Sachini-san to Issho*" (Part 1 and 2), which were developed and published in Sri Lanka. Firstly, I identified conversational scenes in them in which Japanese native speakers would typically express their gratitude verbally, but no such gratitude expressions were found. Then, those conversational texts were analyzed using three methods: (1) comparing them with the results of previous research, (2) comparing them with similar conversational texts as published in textbooks in Japan, and (3) collecting opinions from native Japanese speakers.

As a result of the analysis, I identified numerous important points for improving the textbooks in Sri Lanka. Notably, many situations in "*Sachini*" lack indispensable information about human relationships, places, context, etc., that will help learners to fully understand gratitude expressing situations. Furthermore, it became clear that there were no sort of descriptions of the apology type expressions that are often used in Japanese gratitude situations. Finally, I found that gratitude expressions are not given as study assignments in the textbooks to develop learners' Japanese conversational skills.