

The Functions of Address Terms in English and Japanese: Analysis Using Scenarios

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Address terms are substantives which designate collocutors or refer to them in some other way (cf. Braun 1988), and include personal nouns, kinship/role terms, and proper nouns (Suzuki 1973). This paper investigates address terms in English and Japanese by using movie and TV drama scenarios as data. First, as address terms are used as vocatives and pronouns, I will discuss the functions of vocatives and the way address terms are utilized as pronouns. Although Biber et al. (1999) list three functions of vocatives, I will show that there are other functions that cannot be explained in the listed functions. I will also discuss the use of address terms from a viewpoint of politeness. The paper analyzes politeness strategies in English and Japanese concerning the vocatives. Lastly, I refer to the significance of using scenarios as teaching materials.