

An analysis of Japanese honorific usage succession at home through Mixed Methods Research

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Mixed Methods Research (MMR) is a method that combines quantitative and qualitative approaches. However, this does not mean that it is simply the gathering of both quantitative and qualitative data. Rather, it attempts to establish a more elaborate method in relation to triangulation. This means that instead of adhering to a particular view in terms of a certain researcher, a theory, and a method, data from a wide array of perspectives are collected and observed.

The object of this study is to observe how Japanese honorific usage has been taught by mothers to their children and if it will change in the future. The study adopts ‘memory time’ in the investigation. The mothers are expected to remember the days they spent with their own mothers, and recall how they learned the honorific usage when they were children. Surveys through questionnaires for collecting quantitative data, and personal interviews and discussion in focus groups for qualitative data were conducted.

According to the results of the questionnaires (100), the interviews (20), and the group discussions (3), it is revealed that the number of opportunities to educate children about the Japanese honorific usage at home have decreased. However, the children learn from society through their great attention. By synthesizing both the quantitative and qualitative results, the external and internal appearance of language usage can be understood.