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ABSTRACT

The notion of „language worldview” as a tool in effective acquisition of Japanese horizontal honorifics (*teineigo*) to adult Polish language native speakers

The basic Japanese term describing horizontal aspect of honorifics in didactic sources - both textbooks and teachers' manuals - is *teineigo* or *teineitai*. Usually translated as “polite/kind/affable language” or “polite/kind/affable style”. It can be associated with broader notions of “politeness/affability/kindness”.

„Meaning has to be based on a particular cultural context and it does not exist without it.” (Shūichi Hida, 1990). This statement can become a starting point to reflection how didactic materials can be comprehended and used by their potential receivers. Can they use them effectively? Do they understand the content properly? Author thinks that this question about didactic sources efficiency is strongly connected with “language worldview”.

Professor Jerzy Bartmiński, one of renowned Polish linguists, defines a notion of “language worldview” as world interpretation hidden in language, implied in words, solidified in collocations or expressions. This is the way how objects of real world are described by means of any natural language.

The notion itself has a long and complex background. It can be associated with Wilhelm von Humboldt's *Weltansicht* (linguistic worldview) or linguistics relativity based on Sapir-Whorf hypothesis. Many Slavic linguists, mostly in Poland and Russia, have been using this notion in their research with success. This notion can be also applied in process of L2 acquisition in Polish language native speakers environment.

According to author's didactic experience, *teineigo* - horizontal honorifics - causes problems in effective acquisition among adult Polish native speakers. *Teineigo* is a honorific modification performed automatically through adjusting to language savoir-vivre requirements. This adjustment ability is based on long-lasting process of enculturation all native speakers go through from childhood. It is not easy to achieve this enculturation effect during classes, especially among adult learners. While learning foreign language as L2, adults have to use their native language as a cognitive basis and source of analogies. Therefore creating a solid cognitive frame based on learners' native language is the must-have step to make the necessary process of automation easier for both sides - teacher and students.

The presented questionnaire and its findings on “language worldview” notion is a part of the author's PhD thesis research. The aim of the questionnaire is to define prototype elements of understanding “politeness/kindness/affability” notion among young adult Polish native speakers learning Japanese as L2. Author hopes that these findings will become a basis for more exact and precise Polish vocabulary, which can be used both by teachers and learners in *teineigo* acquisition process. Moreover acquisition based on “language worldview” framework will let adult learners gain Japanese language self-reliance and give teachers a useful didactic tool.