

This thesis addresses the speaker's age as a factor influencing their politeness strategies.

The theoretical part defines politeness and language that express it in Japanese within the bounds of a specific illocutionary act – instruction to stop an inappropriate activity (forbiddance), in other words the so called negative face-threatening act.

The practical part introduces the results of a qualitative study based on the method of a controlled structured interview with female representatives of three generations of a Tokyo family. I analyze language behavior of each generation's representative throughout their speech act in dependence on the formality of the situation and the concrete social constellation, with the aim of defining the influence of the speaker's age on her usage of strategies and concrete language means.

The conclusion summarizes the outcomes of the research and confronts it with the general theory.