

Abstract

The goal of this thesis is to contribute to a long-lasting debate between proponents of the collectivistic view and proponents of the individualistic view regarding the way in which the Japanese comprehend themselves by analyzing and contrasting language behavior of Japanese and Czech speakers, specifically willingness of the speakers of the two languages to adopt non-egocentric view when expressing spatial relations.

The opening section of the thesis presents a brief introduction of the two discussed stands and the theory of language relativity which serves as a substantial part of the used methodology because it connects language and thinking.

In the following section, the model experiment done by Imai et al. (1999) which examined the preferences in the use of spatial expressions among Japanese respondents, is summarized. The used variation of the experiment is explained, and the results are presented and interpreted in the given context.

Keywords: Japanese language, spatial relations, collectivism, individualism, linguistic relativity