

This thesis focuses on verbal resources for affective stance display in Japanese conversational interactions. Its aim was to determine the major types of linguistic forms and formats that are systematically and methodically employed by Japanese speakers for the purpose of constructing affective stance displays in their everyday informal conversational interactions and to demonstrate some of the ways in which they may be used together with other resources to accomplish particular affective stance displays in the context of specific actions and activities. The thesis considers various affective-stance-display-related uses of lexical categories, verbal morphology, demonstratives, zero-marking, topic-marking, person reference, connective expressions, non-predicate-final constituent order, direct speech constructions, question forms, syntactically incomplete utterance constructions, and utterance-final elements. It is based on the study of recordings of spontaneous conversational interactions primarily of Japanese young adults in close personal relationships. Methodically, the thesis draws mainly on conversation analysis and interactional linguistics.