

Abstract

This thesis focuses on category of honorific expressions *keigo*, which consists of language means expressing politeness, courtesy and respect. It deals with classification methods of honorifics and puts emphasis on current system. All relevant subcategories are also introduced. The main part of the thesis consists of the description of the categories themselves. From the perspective of pragmalinguistics, the light is shed on usage rules concerning these categories and it concentrates especially on formal description of morphological and lexical means functioning when different levels of politeness is are being used.

Key words: japanese language, linguistics, keigo, politeness, courtesy, respect