

Corpus Analysis of Japanese and Hungarian Negative Emotive Words from a Discourse Interactional Perspective



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Introduction

- Topic:

Negative Emotive Words (NEWs) in Hungarian and Japanese

- Rationale:

- To reveal the range of different usages and pragmatic functions of NEWs in Hungarian and Japanese
- To carry out a corpus research

- Material and method:

- Comparative analysis of some specific NEWs
- Corpus analysis of both languages
- Quantitative and qualitative analysis based on manual annotation of the data

Structure of the presentation

1. definition of the term NEW (*negative emotive word*)
2. materials
3. methods
4. annotation system
5. basic data of the corpora
6. results of the analysis (with special regards to pragmatic features)
7. discussion from a comparative perspective
8. final thoughts, planned future work

Definition

- The term *negative emotive word* (NEW) refers to those words that, on their own, i.e. without context, have a negative semantic content, but sometimes they lose this negative meaning (partly or totally). E.g. Eng. terribly nice or *the party was terrific!* (Szabó & Bibok 2019; Szabó et al. 2022)
- Some examples: the Japanese *yabai* and the Hungarian *brutál* ('brutal, brutish') or *durva* ('harsh, coarse')
- In the literature NEWs are mainly discussed within the group of intensifiers, e.g. *terribly*, *awfully* and *desperately* in constructions like *terribly nice*, *awfully good* and *desperately important* (Chang & Shao 2020). However, they can have several other meanings and functions as well, e.g.
 - they may express a positive evaluation, e.g. Hu. *brutális alaplapp* (lit. 'brutal motherboard' – 'high quality motherboard')
 - They may also express the surprise of the speaker, e.g. *D-23 for prints? That's crazy!*
 - They may be used as an interjection, e.g. Eng. *Terrific! What a coincidence!*; in Japanese: やばい！課題を提出し忘れた！('Shoot! I forgot to turn in my homework!')
- Despite their newer functions, they can still be used according to their original meaning. E.g. the Hungarian *durva* originally means 'coarse', e.g. *durva szemcse* ('coarse grain') but it also has a figurative sense, e.g. *durva férfi* ('rude man')

Materials

- Analyzed words:
 - the Hungarian *durva* (lit.) ‘coarse’ + word-form variation: *durván* ‘coarsely’
 - the Japanese やばい (*yabai*) (lit.) ‘dangerous’ + word-form variations: *yabe* and *yabaku* (Putri 2021)
- Corpora:
 - HuTongue corpus: Hungarian spontaneous speech texts (Vincze et al. 2021); size: 1,149,457 tokens, 247349 sentences (without punctuation)
 - Corpus of Everyday Japanese Conversation (CEJC corpus); size: approximately 2,400,000 tokens
- Principle of corpus selection: domain-dependent features of NEWs (Szabó 2018) (some functions are underrepresented or not represented at all in some specific domains such as political news).

Methods

1. All occurrences have been filtered out from the corpora; The raw frequencies of each form:
durva: 213 (0.0185%), *durván*: 44 (0.0038%)
yabai: 609 (0.025%), *yabe*: 32 (0.0013%) and *yabaku*: 57 (0.0024%)
2. We investigated and manually annotated of several meanings and functions; our annotation was a multivariable analysis
3. Based on the annotation, we revealed the linguistic features of the analysed NEWs in each language
4. Lastly, we compared the analysis results of the two corpora

Annotation

1. Syntactic features
2. Semantic features I: sentiment
3. Semantic features II.: meaning & function
4. Pragmatics

Annotation in details

▪ Syntactic features

We annotated whether the NEW is an adjective, adverb or interjection (in the latter case: they constitute an utterance by themselves; Ameka 1992, Norrick 2009), e.g. Hu. *Durva! Nem hiszek a szememnek!* 'Wow! I can't believe my eyes!'

▪ Semantic features I: sentiment

We annotated the evaluative semantic content: how the speaker evaluates what was said

There were three options: positive, negative evaluation or neutral (in the latter case: crazy, extreme; surprise of the speaker; neither positive, nor negative)

Several times the sentiment depends on the wider context → We considered the wider context of NEWs

▪ Semantic features II.: meaning & function

we annotated three types:

literal or figurative sense (e.g. *durva szemcse* 'coarse grain', *durva férfi* 'rude man' (manner));

intensifier (boosts meaning of another word(s) of the utterance);

emotive: original semantic content is bleached (e.g. *A parti örület volt!* 'The party was crazy!'), NEW expresses feelings or impressions of the speaker about the given information

▪ Pragmatics (next slide)

Some features about pragmatic analysis

- To the best of our knowledge, a research work systematically scrutinizing NEWs from a pragmatic viewpoint has not been conducted so far → during our corpus analysis, we did not have any systematization we could rely on → we used previous findings on interaction, with special regards to the Framework of Politeness Theory (Quirk et al., 1985; Östman 1995; Kockelman 2003; Kádár 2017)
- In relation to this, this part of the analysis was basically exploratory:
 - we did not have a predefined category system;
 - we investigated the range of pragmatic functions such as agreement and disagreement; calling attention; compliment; evidential marker; attention marker etc. (Fraser 2009);

Basic data of the annotation

HUNGARIAN

- *durva*: 173 cases were annotated (duplicates, ambiguous, etc. filtered out)
- *durván*: 30 cases (irrelevant usecases filtered out; irrelevant: *durván* is polysemic in Hungarian since it can also mean 'approximately' and this meaning was irrelevant from the viewpoint of our research)

→ 203 cases in total

JAPANESE

- *yabai*: 609 cases were annotated (adjectival use)
- *yabe*: 32 cases (adverbial use)
- *yabaku*: 57 cases (expletive use)

→ 698 cases in total

Main results I. – Hungarian *durva*

1. Surprisingly, Hungarian *durva* and *durván* have totally different features in the Hungarian language: the main function of *durva* is interjection
2. *Durva* does not have an intensifier function in our corpus at all
It is interesting to compare this finding with Szabó & Bibok (2019): based on that, *durva* theoretically may have an intensifier function
3. *Durva* has a positive or neutral meaning in most of the cases (69.64%); neutral cases express the extremity of the topic or the surprise of the speaker, so we can conclude that prior negative content has already faded in these cases.

Main results II. – Hungarian *durva*

5. Word *durva* is interesting from a pragmatic viewpoint: almost half the cases (47%) have some specific pragmatic function, e.g.:
- They occur in an agreeing utterance, expressing agreement and support of the partner towards the speaker (12.72%) → positive politeness. E.g. –*Nem tudtam jobbra fordítani a fejemet. Az nagyon szar volt. –Durva.* ‘I couldn't turn my head to the right. That was really shit. –Crazy.’
 - It also occurs in an utterance expressing even praise and recognition of the partner → positive politeness: –*Jók voltatok. Tényleg amúgy. –Köszönöm. Tiétek is durva volt.* ‘–You were good. But really. –Thanks. Your [performance] was awesome, too.’
 - Sometimes it is an introductory expression; here it introduces the information in order to attract attention or seek for agreement and support of the partner (4.05%): *De ez nagyon durva, hogy [...] volt egy pilóta aki rájött, hogy fejjel lefele is lehet repülni a géppel, és úgy repült még nem tudom mennyi ideig.* ‘But it's very crazy that [...] there was a pilot who realized that the plane can be flown upside down, and he flew like that for I don't know how long.’
 - Sometimes it is an attention marker (Fraser 2009): expresses that the listener can understand and follow the speaker, ‘I see’ (1.73%). E.g. –*Ki a „hedonista”? –Az az, aki öö. Érzéki örömöket hajszoja. –Hát fogalmam sem volt, hogy ez ezt jelenti. A „hedonista”. –Habzsolja az életet. –Habzsolja az életet? Durva.* ‘–Who is the „hedonist”? –The one who... uh.... pursues sensual pleasures. –Well, I had no idea that this word meant that. The “hedonist”. –The one who really enjoys life. –Really enjoys life? Ok / I see.’

Main results III. – Hungarian *durván*

6. As for sentiment: There are more negative and less neutral and positive cases than in the case of *durva*; but it is still mainly neutral (prior negative content has already faded in these cases as well)
7. In contrast to *durva*, it has an intensifier function in most cases (48.14%)
8. In contrast to *durva*, the category "emotive" is far less represented here, e.g. *durván alszik* 'sleeps brutally' ~ she sleeps in a crazy position; manner and not the intensity of sleeping, neither the original meaning
9. Most of the time it has no special pragmatic function \leftrightarrow *durva*; in those rare cases:
 - they occur in an agreeing, supporting reply
 - or they function as an evidential marker. E.g. *Hát igen, ez lenne az alap, csak ez Magyarországon már luxusnak számít, durván.* 'Well yes, this should be a basic thing but in Hungary it counts as something luxury, really'; *Amúgy durván mindjárt Karácsony, az is nagyon durva, hogy kimegyünk(...)* 'Anyway, it's really almost Christmas, it's also very crazy that we leave (...)'

Main results I. –Japanese

Results of corpus research

- Three forms of yabai

	yabai	yabaku	yabe	total
yabai	609 (87%)	57 (8%)	32 (5%)	698 (100%)

- Syntax: parts of speech

	adjective	adverb	interjection	noun	total
yabai	226 (32%)	32 (5%)	432 (62%)	8 (1%)	698 (100%)

- Semantics I: Polarity

	negative	positive	total
yabai	596 (85%)	102 (15%)	698 (100%)

- Semantic II: functions or meanings

	lit/fig	intensifier	emotive	total
yabai	266 (38%)	0 (0%)	432 (62%)	698 (100%)

Main results II. –Japanese

1. Though *yabai* is originally an adjective, 62% of *yabai* is used as interjections.
2. There is no use of *yabai* as an intensifier, when *yabai* is used as an adjective, it has content meaning (either literal or figurative) while when *yabai* is used as an interjection, it has emotive functions.
 - In emotive use, the word doesn't modify or intensify other words but it shows the speaker's emotion.
3. *Yabai* tends to hold its negative evaluation while it shows positive evaluation in certain contexts such as eating food and giving a praise to something.
4. Reversal of polarity is observed: 15% of *yabai* expresses positive evaluation. However, though in some examples, polarity is some how weakened, Japanese *yabai* seems to hold either positive or negative evaluation at least to some extent.

Main results III. –Japanese

5. Basically, the use of *yabai* can be classified into the two types.
 - The first type shows the state of nouns or clauses such as “it is yabai (Sore-wa yabai)” or “He is yabai (Kare-wa yabai).” This function tends to be realized as adjectives and adverbs,
 - The second shows the subjective emotion of speakers such as “I feel yabai to something”. This function tends to be realized as interjections.
6. In some examples of the interjectional use of *yabai* and *yabe*, emotional meaning is highly bleached, so they have a similar function to general fillers.
7. When various forms of *yabai* show positive evaluation or have pragmatic functions, they tend to be used in fixed forms such as “yabakune,” “yabai-yabai,” and “yabee.”

Main results IV. –Japanese

1. Interjectional use of *yabai* is related to various types of pragmatic functions such as holding a turn, showing one's emotion, and showing empathy to the addressee.
2. The various pragmatic use of *yabai* might emerge from lexicalization of contextual meanings. When *yabai* co-occurs with certain phrase such as *yabai doushiyou* or *yabai yabai yabai*, its contextual meanings are entrenched in the lexical meaning of *yabai*, and the pragmatic/contextual meanings become a part of lexical meaning.
3. A repeated use of *yabai* tends to have pragmatic functions. For example, *Yabai, yabai, yabai* has a function to ask for suggestions, meaning “what should I do.”

Discussion: comparison

- Similarities:

- NEWs are able to express a wide range of speaker's subjective and intersubjective stances.
- Polarity shift (the reversal of polarity and neutralization of polarity) is observed.
- Semantic bleaching of content meaning is observed.
- The change of word classes are observed.
- NEWs also tend to be used as interjections in both the languages, showing speaker's emotion such as *Wow* or *Oh my god*.

- Differences:

- *Durva* and *durván* are mostly neutral but *yabai* is negative in most case.
- *Yabai* tends to be used as interjections while Hungarian *durván* tends to be used as intensifiers.
- Different frequency distributions are observed in various levels.

Conclusion and future research

- Summary of this study

- Research revealed several features about the Hungarian and Japanese NEWs that have not been known so far (e.g. frequency distribution of different meanings and functions of NEWs).
- It also revealed specificities of NEWs from a comparative linguistic perspective.

- Future research

- We will carry out a more detailed analysis of pragmatic features.
- We would like to reveal the semantic and pragmatic development of NEWs over time. For this, we will utilize other corpora as well (historical corpora and corpora of other domains).

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Thank you for your attention!

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