

## Lesson 13: Refusals 断り - 2

- ▶ Refusals (saying ‘no’) as a face-threatening dispreferred act 相手のメンツに脅威をもたらす好ましくない言語行動である断り
  - ◆ possibly hurting other’s feelings 相手の心証を害する可能性あり
  - ◆ refusing requests, invitations, suggestions, or offers 依頼・招待・提案・申し出などを断る行為
- ▶ Intercultural understanding through the act of refusing 断りという言語行動からみる多文化理解

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## Case Study - 1

Observing the language of refusal 断りのことばを分析してみよう

### Expressions

- ▶ head office (n.) main office, headquarters 本社
- ▶ sound out feel out 打診する、意見を仰ぐ
- ▶ transfer to - move to - ~へ転勤する
- ▶ branch (n.) subdivision 支店、支社
- ▶ turn down decline 断る、辞退する
- ▶ absolutely (adv.) definitely 絶対に、完全に
- ▶ extremely disruptive very disturbing 非常に混乱を引き起こす・障害となる

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Scenario: You work at the head office in New York. Your boss, Michael Williams, sounds out your opinion about a transfer to the Beijing branch from next month, but you want to stay in New York for the moment considering your children's education. You refuse his proposal. You say:

(adapted from Shimizu 2016: 151-156)



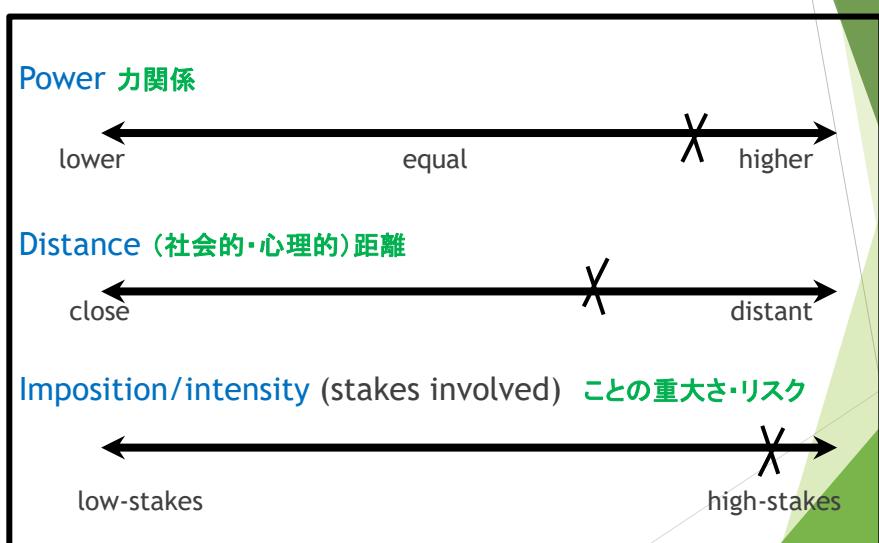
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## Considering the Context (Brown & Levinson 1987)



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Filling in the blanks 穴埋めをしてみよう



1. Thank you so much for the offer! I would really love to go, but I don't think that'd be good to move my kids into a new school at this stage. I think I'm going to turn this down.
2. Wow! Beijing! That's a fantastic opportunity. Thank you for considering me. I wish I could accept the offer, but considering my son's education and everything else, I feel that we should stay put for the moment. Sometime in the near future, absolutely. For the moment, though, I can't accept. Sorry.

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3. I appreciate the opportunity, Mr. Williams, but to be honest, I really think New York would be the best place for me right now, especially as my children have just started at St. Gardner School, and moving to Beijing would be extremely disruptive for them.
4. Oh, Michael, that sounds like an exciting idea!!! Beijing can be a really interesting place for my next step. But to be honest with you, it might be good for me to stay in New York for the time being. As you know, Ken goes to St. Gardner and really likes it. It'd be great if he could continue his education here.

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## Case Study - 2

### Observing gender differences in refusals 断りのことばにおける性差を観察してみよう

(adapted from Ishihara 2022: 102-104)

Refusals by a man and a woman 男性と女性による断り表現

1. How are they similar? 共通点
2. How are they different? 相違点
3. Why the differences? なぜ違うのか



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#### ▶ How are they similar? 共通点

- ◆ Refusal as a dispreferred response 好まれない言語行動  
としての 断り : delays and hedges 遅れやためらい



- ◆ PDI

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▶ How are they different? 相違点

◆ (In)directness 直接度・間接度



直接的

間接的

◆ Refusal expressions/strategies 断りの表現やストラテジー



◆ Positive/negative politeness ポジティブ/ネガティブ・ポラ  
イトネス



▶ Why the differences? 相違点の原因

- ◆ “Report talk” 情報伝達の言語 vs. “rapport talk” 関連性  
の言語 (Deborah Tannen 1990)
- ◆ “Men are from Mars, women are from Venus” 『男は火  
星人 女は金星人』 (John Gray 1992)

Beware of gender stereotypes! 性別に関するステレオタ  
イプにご用心！

## Case Study - 3

### Observing refusals in different languages/cultures 多言語・文化における断りを観察してみよう

- ▶ Ritual refusals in Chinese 中国語における儀礼的な断り  
(Chen & Zhang 1995; Jiang 2012: 137)
  - ◆ I'm not coming; it's too much trouble [for you].
  - ◆ Please don't bother this time; it takes [you] too much time.
- ▶ Ostensible invitations in Persian (Farsi) ペルシャ語における儀礼的な誘い
- ▶ White lies in Japanese 日本語における方便

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### Example of ritual refusals in Chinese



- 1 A: It has been such a long time since we last got together. We have been thinking all the time of inviting you to have dinner with us. I am off next week, so I want to invite you to have dinner with us.
- 2 B: Please don't bother. You are just being too polite, and it is not necessary.
- 3 A: It is no bother at all. You know, nothing fancy, it is an informal get-together. You are actually being polite now.
- 4 B: No, you are being polite. Let's do it next time.
- 5 A: No, let us do it this time, and let's have fun together.
- 6 B: It's nice to have fun, but it is just too much trouble.
- 7 A: No trouble at all, and I am just going to prepare a few dishes. Please come.
- 8 B: I know, but it is still a lot of work.
- 9 A: I promise it is going to be very simple. Please come!
- 10 B: Okay, we will come, but you must promise not to spend too much time preparing for it....

(adapted from Jiang 2012: 137)

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- ▶ Ritual refusals are closely tied to Chinese cultural values and discourse conventions. 儀礼的な断りは中国の文化的価値観や談話的な慣習と深く結びついている。
- ▶ Miánzi 面子・面目 is oriented toward a person's public image. 公的なメント・公のイメージに関連している。
- ▶ Refusals are realized through reciprocal avoidance of face-to-face confrontation. It's necessary to preserve the interlocutor's face and to leave a way out for the refuser. 断りはメントとメントの衝突を相互に避けることで実現する。相互の面目を保ちつつ断る側と断られる側の両方に逃げ道を残しておく必要がある。

(Chen & Zhang 1995; Jiang 2012)

### Example of *ostensible invitations* in Persian



C: Xob Salar mašino park kon berim xuné nahar  
**Salar, park your car here and let's have lunch together.**

A: Næ, mæmnun. Mæn bayæd beræm danešgah kar daræm.  
**No, thanks. I have to go to my office. I should work.**

B: Biya tu ječizi dore hæm mixorim bæd miri dige, ta'arof mikoni?  
**Come in, and let's have something together. You might leave afterwards. Are you making ta'arof?**

A: Jakeræm. Sobhæm goftæm ke bayæd beræm danešgah  
**Thank you. As I said earlier in the morning, I have to go to my office.**

C: ε, injuri ke xeli bæd šod, miumædi, ye nahar særí amade mikardæm.  
**That's too bad. You should come and I will prepare lunch very soon.**

A: Mersi, išala ye forsæte dige.  
**Thanks, hopefully another time.**

B: dæstæ golet dærad nækone hajj, hala hæmahæng mikonæm bia ye fifa bahæm bezænim!  
**Ok, thank you very much, bro. We'll arrange a get together to play Fifa!**

A: Are hætmæn  
**Sure! Yes.**

C: dæstet dærd nækone, xodafæz  
**Thank you, bye.**

(adapted from Eslami 2016 cited in CARLA 2023)

### White lies in Japanese

- ▶ “Honesty is the best policy”: How true?(Hancock 2008)
- ▶ Acquaintance or fiancée? (Kubota 1996)
- ▶ White lie as a mutual face-saving strategy (Moriyama 1990)
- ▶ Understanding of social acceptability of white lies: key to successful intercultural marriage? (Ishihara 2022)

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### Case Study - 4

Practicing and observing the language of refusal  
断りのことばを練習・観察してみよう

Remember:

Negative politeness strategies  
敬意を表し相手の自主独立を尊重するネガティブ・ポライトネス

Positive politeness strategies  
親しみを表現し、連帯感を強調するポジティブ・ポライトネス

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## Understanding the scenario in context シナリオのコンテキストを理解しよう

### Characters/location 登場人物・画面設定

- ▶ Ben (man)
- ▶ Tyler (man)
- ▶ Location: on campus



PDI



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Scenario: Ben and Tyler are good friends at college. Ben sees Tyler on campus for the first time in a while and comes to talk to him.

Comprehension:

1. What invitation does Ben make to Tyler?
2. Why is this occasion important?

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## 英語S(2) 第13講 ハンドアウト (英語情報が多いスライドのみ)



Ben: Hey Tyler, how's it goin'?

Tyler: Dude, what's happening, it's been forever.

Ben: Oh man, no kiddin', no kiddin', I'm so glad I saw you, man.

Tyler: Yeah.

Ben: Check this out, next weekend, on Friday night, 8 o'clock,  
my 21st birthday party at my house man.

Tyler: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Your Reflection 振り返り・考察

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## Discussion ディスカッション機能を用いた 話し合いフォーラム

以下について皆さんの回答をディスカッション機能使って共有し、他の受講者の方が書いた考察を読んだり、それに対してコメントしたりしてみてください。

第12課・13課で断りについて学んだことを踏まえ、取り組んでください。

- a. 第13課 Case Study 4 のシナリオでの断りを書いてみましょう。この状況のPDI (Power, Distance, Imposition 力関係、社会的・心理的距離、相手の負荷) はどの程度かを踏まえ、相手の心情を考慮して断ってください。
- b. ほかの方が書いた回答がすでにフォーラムに掲載されている場合には、ほかの方3~4名の断りと自分の表現にはどのような類似点や相違点があるでしょうか。断り表現の直接度・間接度、断りのストラテジー、そしてポジティブ・ポライトネス、ネガティブ・ポライトネスなどの観点から分析してみましょう。