

Abstract

The present diploma thesis examines the manifestation of transitivity in Japanese and English as an expression of subjectivity across registers. The aim of the thesis is to determine whether there is a difference in subjectivity, specifically transitivity and voice and its potential register-conditioned manifestation, in Japanese and English. The focus is also on whether the characteristics of the texts influence the degree of subjectivity in the same way in both languages.

Subjectivity is viewed through the lens of cognitive linguistics, specifically Ikegami's DO-language and BECOME-language typology and objective and subjective construal in Langacker's Cognitive Grammar. Corpus analysis is employed to conduct a quantitative of corpus data and a qualitative analysis of selected texts from five different registers.

First, we outline the theoretical framework for the present research – the notion of subjectivity according to Ikegami and Langacker in and alternative cross-linguistic views in Chapter 1, the approach to discourse and its linguistic variation in Chapter 2 and the understanding of transitivity and its manifestation in Japanese and English in Chapter 3. Methodology and hypotheses are presented in Chapter 4. In Chapter 5, we present the results of the analyses, and Chapter 6 concludes the thesis by assessing the results, addressing the study's limitations, and outlining potential future research.

Keywords: subjectivity, transitivity, voice, agentivity, discourse, cognitive grammar, corpus analysis