



# Yakuwarigo – real or fictionalized speech?

## How real Japanese influences role languages and how role languages are reflected in real Japanese

A hybrid *u: japan* lecture by Patrycja Duc-Harada

Thursday  
2023-05-04  
18<sup>30</sup>~20<sup>00</sup>







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The aim of this lecture is to present the widely discussed concept of *yakuwarigo* 役割語 ‘role language’ from two perspectives: fictionalized speech (using examples of characteristic lines and dialogue taken from popular anime, manga and drama series), as well as real Japanese language used in private and public spheres. This discussion promises to reach interesting conclusions concerning the impact of

and Japanese sociolinguistics. In this part, standard language (*hyōjungo*), Japanese standard honorifics (*keigo*), but also non-standard honorifics (e.g. *-ssu* form) will be introduced as examples of role languages that play a significant part in portraying appropriate (demanded) or inappropriate (undemanded) behaviours. The topic of *yakuwarigo*’s potential impact on the language and behaviours of contemporary people and their speech will also be briefly discussed.



**Patrycja Duc-Harada** is an assistant professor at the Department of Japanese and Chinese Studies of Jagiellonian University in Cracow, Poland. She obtained her Ph.D. degree in linguistics in 2017, with a dissertation on Japanese youth sociolect. Her doctoral thesis was published as a monograph entitled *Japoński socjolekt młodzieżowy jako manifestacja świadomości językowej młodego pokolenia* (Eng. *Japanese Youth Sociolect as a Manifestation of Linguistic Awareness of the Young Generation*) in 2020. Her research focuses on various aspects of Japanese sociolinguistics, ethnolinguistics, pragmatics, as well as Japanese language education. She has conducted qualitative research on Japanese language during several fieldwork stays in Japan. Her recent research interest focuses on changes and transformations occurring within the category of Japanese honorifics.

Japanese language and culture on role and character languages, and the ways and reasons for which role languages are occasionally and intentionally implemented in real speech as a communicative strategy.

The first part of the lecture discusses major terms (*yakuwari* and *yakuwarigo*, *kyarakutā* and *kyarakutā gengo*, *kyara*, *rashisa*, *sutereotaipu*, *rejisutā*, etc.) from the perspective of linguistic stylization

stylized speech. Finally, the occurrence of role language in language education (based on examples from textbooks) will be briefly presented to indicate the impact of role language and stylized language on young people’s linguistic competencies.

The lecture is based on selected published sources referring to the discussed subjects, as well as the outcomes of the individual research conducted by the author in recent years.

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