

# CONTRASTIVE *MEIREI BUN* WITH IMPERATIVE DIVERSITY:

‘JAPANESE AND INDONESIA’

Abdul Latif Jaohari<sup>1</sup>, Dinda Gayatri Ranadireksa<sup>2</sup>

**Abstract:** Language is not just a sequence of sounds that can be digested empirically, but also rich with non-empirical meanings (Alwasilah, 2007: 14). Thus, language is a vital means of expressing and embodying the contents of thoughts and facts and reality in our lives. Because with language the consideration of truth and justice can be done. The purpose of this article is thus to provide a contrasting comparison between Japanese and Indonesian language by looking at Meirui Bun in order to capture the imperative diversity. The study recognizes the role of language as a tool of communication as well as interaction between members of the community. It can be concluded that despite the vast differences it is common for both to have longer imperatives which leads to indirect imperative speech.

Keywords: imperative diversity, comparative linguistics, contrastive linguistics

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While Wittgenstein (1953) revealed that language is not only for expressing logical proportions, but is used also in other functions such as questions, orders, announcements, and so on.

Rahardi (2005) in his book *Pragmatics of Indonesian Language Imperative politeness* says that besides that, it turns out that language is not the only means of communication. Because in the context of direct speech that is in the community, a lot of voice communication tools such as kentongan tools and so on are used as markers of gathering or certain signals to express intentions to others.

Every ethnic group has its own language to interact and communicate in its community. Even when the community will interact with other communities or in this case other ethnic groups, then he also needs a communication tool that is more general and can be understood by both parties.

Thus one needs to study in depth or conduct research on a language both the language that is owned (Indonesian) and foreign language (Japanese) in linguistic aspects of language. So researching or learning more deeply about Japanese and all its aspects can help us to better understand the language. In addition to multiplying references about Japanese language can also add insight into Japanese linguistics.

One aspect of language, we know the spoken and written language, the variety of language questions, exposures and commands. Especially regarding the variety of command languages (imperative) that exist in Indonesian and Japanese, the author tries to examine further the diversity of aspects of the imperative sentences of these two languages.

In the Indonesian imperative sentence the author sees the diversity and variations of the imperative forms and meanings contained in the sentence. And in Indonesian grammar, especially in its narrative, imperative aspects are not only conveyed through the context of actual imperative sentences, but can be through the context of other sentences that still contain imperative meaning in them.

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<sup>1</sup>jaohari.latif@widyatama.ac.id  
Widyatama University

As stated above, even the imperative aspects of the delivery to others from the speaker can be used in the context of non-imperative sentences with signs or symbols. Like the siren of a vehicle, it signifies an imperative meaning so that the vehicle in front of it gives way or an ambulance siren that signals an emergency. Or the clatter sounds that signal calls or orders for gathering and so forth.

For example imperative sentences in Indonesian as follows:

- (1). “Tebang pohon ini, Pak!” (Tarigan, 1984:24)
- (2). “Dapatkah Anda menunggu sebentar di luar?” (Chaer, 1997:358)
- (3). “Aduh.... Lampunya kok terang sekali. Tidak bisa tidur nanti aku!” (Rahardi, 2005:4)

But in Japanese, the author sees the diversity that appears in the imperative sentence or 「命令文」 (meirei bun) as seen from its imperative form and marker. Besides that, where is the general characteristic of Japanese language that knows the language of the genre, then in the imperative sentence there are certain markers used by men only and by women who are known as 「男性語」 (dansei go) and 「女性語」 (josei go).

Following are examples of imperative sentences in Japanese;

- (4). 急げ。

“*Isoge!*”

“Cepat!”

- (5). 早くしてください。

“*Hayaku shitekudasai!*”

“Tolong cepatlah!”

- (6). 御心配くださいますな。

“*Go shinpai kudasaimasu na!*”

“Mohon untuk tidak khawatir!”

- (7). どうぞお入りくださいませ。

“*Douzo ohairi kudasaimase!*”

“Silakan masuk!”

From the example above, the diversity of forms and subtleties contained in imperative sentences in Japanese and its imperative markers if translated into Indonesian, it will not be far from the word *silakan*, *mohon*, *tolong* and *jangan*. However, the sense value of the level of politeness in the imperative Japanese language is not easily transferred only by using the word imperative marker in Indonesian.

The level of politeness and the diversity of imperative Japanese sentence forms are seen in sentences (4), (5), (6), and (7) above. As an example in the sentence 「御心配くださいますな」 which states the form of subtlety of meaning in Japanese and has a different sense of courtesy compared to the equivalent if translated in Indonesian which becomes “*Mohon untuk tidak khawatir!*”

Conversely, in the translation of Indonesian imperative sentences into imperative sentences in Japanese, they will experience difficulties because of the difference in the sense values they contain.

Thus the author will conduct research that intends to analyze and contrast imperative sentences in Indonesian and Japanese which emphasizes on various forms and meanings that arise from the study of this imperative sentence.

This needs to be done because Japanese and Indonesian are two different languages, so it is very possible for many differences to emerge both in terms of their imperative form or construction and the meaning contained in them.

Thus the author will use contrastive analysis method in describing the problems in this study. So that the results of this study can be used as reference material to better understand imperative sentences in Indonesian and Japanese in more depth.

## **I. Formulation and Limitation of Problems**

Based on the background that the author has previously stated, the formulation of this research is as follows:

1. How are the various forms of imperative sentences in Indonesian and Japanese?
2. How do the various imperative sentences mean in Indonesian and Japanese?
3. What is the difference between Indonesian imperative sentences and Japanese imperative sentences in terms of the context of the imperative sentence?

The author limits the problem in imperative sentence research in Indonesian and Japanese as follows:

1. This study only discusses various forms of imperative sentences in Indonesian and Japanese.
2. This research will only discuss the various meanings of imperative sentences in Indonesian and Japanese.
3. This research will only discuss differences in imperative sentences in Indonesian and Japanese based on the review of the context of the imperative sentences.

## **II. Research Objectives and Benefits**

Based on the formulation of the problems that have been written, the objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To find out more about the various forms of imperative sentences in Indonesian and Japanese.
2. To find out more about the various meanings of imperative sentences in Indonesian and Japanese.
3. To find out more about the differences in imperative sentences in Indonesian and Japanese in terms of the context of the imperative sentence.

From the above objectives, the hope of the results of this study, the first is to be used as a reference for learning Indonesian and Japanese, especially regarding imperative sentences or 「命令文」 (meirei bun) which focuses on the diversity of forms and meanings that appear in sentences imperative of both languages. So that in the translation of both languages, language learners can better understand it.

Furthermore, the second benefit is that from the results of this imperative sentence research can be used as a reference for conducting further research on imperative sentences.

## **III. Research Methods**

In contrastive research on imperative sentences in Indonesian and Japanese, comparative-contrastive methods will be used. This is in accordance with the purpose of this study to discuss and compare the differences between imperative sentences in Indonesian with imperative sentences in Japanese both in terms of the diversity of imperative forms of the two languages, and in terms of the meaning contained in imperative sentences in Indonesian and Japanese .

In the study of language, the author tries to study the two languages used today. And in this study, the author uses jitsurei data in both languages, namely examples of usage in the form of sentences in concrete texts such as in scientific writing, newspapers, the internet, and so on. As well as additional data to complete it, the author includes also homemade examples (sakurei) according to the rules that apply in the grammar of both languages.

Then from the amount of data collected, it will be classified according to the predetermined category and analyzed for the data. Then an inductive generalization will be obtained from the results of data analysis on imperative sentences that are obtained in Indonesian and imperative sentence data in Japanese.

#### **IV. Instrument and Data Source**

The instrument used in this study was obtained from a literature study which contained the discussion of imperative sentences in Indonesian and the discussion of imperative sentences in Japanese. In the study of Indonesian imperative sentences that are used as references, namely; Rahardi (2005), Chaer (1998), Tarigan (1984), Moeliono (1998), Ramlan (1994), Pateda (1995), Lubis (1998) and others. Whereas for backing in Japanese imperative sentence studies, namely: Ogawa (1995), Nitta (1997), Sutedi (2003), Makino and Tsutsui (1995), Higashinakagawa (2003), Tooru (2002), Toshiko (1990) and others .

The data source used is qualitative data in the form of example sentences used in Japanese and Indonesian language textbooks, newspapers, internet, magazines and so on, where the data has been published or known as *jitsurei*. In addition to completing it the author adds an example of a homemade sentence or known as *sakurei*.

#### **V. Data Analysis Techniques**

In this study data analysis techniques will be used by means of comparative-contrastive techniques or known by comparison. By using comparative-contrastive techniques can be known the comparison between imperative sentences in Indonesian with the imperative sentence 「命令文」 (*meirei bun*) in Japanese.

Through comparative-contrastive techniques, the results can be obtained in the form of an explanation of differences and similarities in the various forms and meanings contained in the imperative sentence of Indonesian and the imperative sentence 「命令文」 (*meirei bun*) in Japanese.

Furthermore, concrete steps in carrying out this research, the author will take the following steps:

##### Stage 1: Data Collection

The first stage is the data collection stage that can be used as an analytical material as well as a representative to be studied in this study. The data was obtained from Japanese and Indonesian textbooks, dictionaries, magazines, newspapers and from the results of previous studies that could still be used and supported in this study.

##### Stage 2: Data Analysis

After the research data is collected, the author continues the next steps, namely; sorting data collected from various sources both data for Indonesian imperative sentences and data for imperative sentences 「命令文」 (*meirei bun*) in Japanese.

Then, as a result of sorting, data that is considered to be used as material for research will be analyzed based on various forms of Indonesian imperative sentences and imperative sentence 「命令文」 (*meirei bun*) in Japanese. As well as analyzing the various meanings that appear in the imperative sentences of both languages.

##### Stage 3: Inductive Generalization

The third stage is the final step in this study, so that the results of the analysis will be inductively drawn on the imperative sentences in Indonesian with the imperative sentence 「命令文」 (meirei bun) in Japanese in terms of the variety of forms and meanings of the sentences.

## VI. Conclusion

The imperative sentence research in Indonesian and 「命令文」 (meirei bun) in Japanese that the author has done through the analysis and discussion in the previous chapter yields conclusions regarding the contrasting of imperative sentences from both languages, namely as follows:

1. Various forms of imperative sentences in Indonesian language are located at the level of subtlety to satisfy the intent of the imperative (command) conveyed by the speaker to his interlocutors with a word of help, please and please. And imperative forms can be conveyed through imperative sentence construction, declarative sentences and interrogative sentences.

Whereas in Japanese the form of imperative subtlety is very diverse and full of levels marked by the number of special words of imperative politeness markers such as 「なさいますな」 (nasaimasuna) or 「お {ご} くださいますな」 (o {go} kudasaimasuna) and so on with respect values that are difficult to translate into Indonesian. Whereas if translated into Indonesian it means to be please or please. And imperative forms in Japanese are not conveyed in declarative sentence construction.

2. The imperative sentence in Indonesian raises a very complex meaning as in the discussion in the previous chapter. Whereas in Japanese the imperative meaning that appears is limited. This difference makes it difficult to translate sentences into Japanese and vice versa. So that learners must understand imperative sentences more deeply.

3. The imperative sentences in Japanese as well as the general characteristics of Japanese grammar recognize the language of the genre, marked by the language used by men only and the language used by women only. Unlike the grammar and imperative sentences in Indonesian which can be used generally by anyone.

4. The form of writing of imperative markers in Japanese is always attached to the imperative verb and is located at the end of the sentence. Whereas in Indonesian can be at the beginning or end of the sentence.

5. From this study it is known that the longer the element of imperative sentences with the addition of various lingual elements, the more indirect imperative speech will be made. So that the more subtle the imperative utterances that reach the interlocutor.

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