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LOVE CONFESSIONS IN JAPANESE FROM STREET INTERVIEW

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines expressions of love confession in Japanese. Love confession is expressed not only verbally but also nonverbally. Sometimes it needs to be communicated both verbally and nonverbally. It seems the variations of love confession not limited to the common phrases (such as *suki desu* 'I love you', *tsukiatte kudasai* 'can we have a relationship?'). In preliminary observation, we found love confession declared not only in common phrases but also in indirect expressions of love confession. This is become a point of departure to overview expression of love confession in Japanese. The data are collected from 12 street interview videos. Street interview videos are used as corpus because those videos are impromptu and no language editing. Based on observations of 79 data of love confessions in Japanese, there are 16 expressions of love confessions. There are expressions of love confession closely related to cultural context, such as *oishii gohan o tsukutte kudasai* 'please make delicious rice for me', *ore no kakigori o issho ni tsukutte kudasai* 'please make shaving ice for me together', *kono hanabi no yoo ni, atsui natsu o sugosoo ze* 'let's have a hot summer like this firework'. These love confessions have cultural context related to sustainability and togetherness. Sustainability and togetherness are the values of love relationship.

KEYWORDS: confession, love, expression, cultural, context, Japanese, pragmatics

INTRODUCTION

Love confession commonly done before someone start a relationship. Someone may go out with the person he/she likes but the relationship usually has not started before love confession. Foucault defines confessions as 'declaration the truth of oneself' (Taylor, 2009 :7). But I think love confession can be expressed not only verbally but also nonverbally. Sometimes it is needs to be communicated both verbally and nonverbally.

Kokuhaku (告白) is a word in Japanese that means 'love confession'. *Koku* (告) literally means 'announcement', *haku* (白) literally means 'white'. So, *kokuhaku* literally means 'white announcement'. *Kokuhaku*, we can say as announce something that white, sacred, pure, chaste, and clear. Before start a relationship, Japanese girls or boy are waiting for that *kokuhaku*.

Investigation on love confession is an interesting study because it seems there are many ways you can do to confess love. What is the stereotype of love confession? Common phrase such as (i) *suki desu* 'I love you, I like you', (ii) *suki da yo* 'I love you, 'I like you', (iii) *tsukiatte kudasai* 'can we start seeing each other?', can we have a relationship?' used for love confession.

Research on love confession has been carried out by Kojima, Ota, Takamoto, and Fukada (2006). They examined factors influencing success and failure of confessing one's love. The purpose of their study is to find the factors influencing success and failure of confessing one's love. They described the main factors of success and failure of confessing love. The main factor was the time, the time needed until confession. Other factors were the place, method, content, the kind of relationship the partner was involved in, and the kind of acts. Their research analyzed love confession from psychological perspective while this study does analysis from linguistic perspective.

Research on expressions of love has been done by Yong Lang, Lian Wang, Caihong Xie, and Wencui Chen (2015). The title of their article is *An Exploratory Study on the Use of I Love You in the American Context*. The purpose of their study is to help EFL (English as Foreign Language) teachers and learners understand more thoroughly, translate them more accurately, precisely in different social context. Research methods through focus discussions and surveys with questionnaires. The respondents consisted of 120 undergraduate students in United States. The result of their study indicates the expression of *I love you* is daily phenomenon and can be used in variety of different relationships, different modes, different opportunities and different meanings.

This study examines expressions of love confession in Japanese. It seems the variations of love confession not limited to the common phrases (such as *suki desu*, *tsukiatte kudasai*). In preliminary observation, we found love confession declared not only in common phrases but also in indirect expressions of love confession. The expressions are closely related to cultural context. This is become a point of departure to overview expression of love confession in Japanese.

THEORY AND METHODOLOGY

The data are collected from 12 street interview videos. 3 Videos of *Street Interview: Ask Japanese Girls about Love Confession* (2015), 1 video of *Street Interview: Ask Japanese Boys about Love Confession* (2015), 1 video of *Street Interview: How Japanese Boys Confess Their Feelings in This Summer* (2015),, 1 video of *Street Interview: How Japanese Girls Want You (Boys) to Tell Your Feeling to Them This Summer* (2016), 1 video of *Street Interview: How Does Japanese Guys Confess His Love Summer* (2016), 5 videos of *Street Interview: Tokyo Tokimeki Channel* (2015-2018). Street interview videos are used as corpus because those videos are

impromptu and no language editing. Therefore, the expressions of love confession in the videos provide cultural context in confessing love.

In this study, there are 3 stages of analysis, (i) identification, (ii) classification and (iii) finding variations. At the identification stage, we observed expression of love confession. In the classification stage, utterances that contain expressions of love will be categorized. Then, conclusions are drawn based on types of variation.

The theoretical framework in this study is speech act theory and conversation analysis (CA). Saying something is doing something (Austin, 1962: 12). Saying *I love you* or *can we start seeing each other* is doing love confession to someone. Austin's speech act theory was developed by his student, John Searle. Searle (1976: 10-13) classifies speech acts into five categories, (i) representative or assertive, (ii) directive, (iii) commissive, (iv) expressive, and (v) declaration. Representative or assertive speech act is to affirm, claim, criticize, conclude, inform, report, and state. Directive speech act is speech acts that cause listener to take certain actions, or when the speaker expects the listener to do something in response. Examples of directive speech act are ordering, pleading, advising, inviting, and recommending. Commissive speech act is speech acts that bind the speaker to take action based on his speech in the future. Examples of commissive speech act are promises, vows, rejects, and guarantees. Expressive speech act is speech acts that express the attitudes and emotions of the speaker towards the proposition. Giving a confession of love is included in expressive speech act. But it can also be a directive speech act because when confessing love, someone asks someone else to do: have a relationship. For that reason, there are overlapping two speech acts in confessing love, expressive and directive speech act.

Conversation analysis theory (CA) is also used in this study. Conversation Analysis was proposed by sociologists Harvey Sacks and Emanuel A. Schegloff in early 1960s as a naturalistic observational discipline that could deal with the details of social action rigorously, empirically and formally (Schegloff & Sacks, 1973: 289). As a systemic analysis of speech act, Conversation Analysis is a tool to observe talk in interaction. Presentation of linguistic data in this study uses Conversation Analysis tools, such as word for word translation and communicative translation.

ANALYSIS

Based on observations made on 79 data of love confessions in Japanese, there are 16 expressions of love confession. The distribution can be seen in the following diagram.

Diagram 1
 Distribution of love confessions

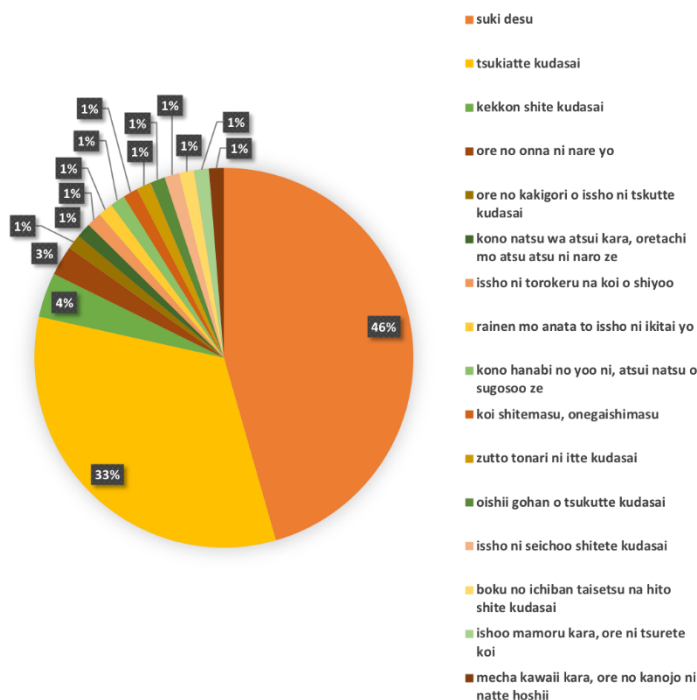


Table 1
 Expressions of Love Confession in Japanese

No	Expressions of Love Confession in Japanese	Distribution
1	<i>suki desu</i> 'I love you'	46%, n = 36
2	<i>tsukiatte kudasai</i> 'can we have a relationship'	33%, n = 26
3	<i>kekkon shite kudasai</i> 'please marry me'	4%, n = 3
4	<i>ore no onna ni nare yo</i> 'be my women'	3%, n = 2
5	<i>ore no kakigori o issho ni tsukutte kudasai</i> 'please make kakigori ice for me together'	1%, n = 1
6	<i>oishii gohan o tsukutte kudasai</i> 'please make delicious rice'	1%, n = 1
7	<i>issho ni torokeru na koi o shiyoo</i> 'let's melt together'	1%, n = 1
8	<i>rainen mo anata to issho ni ikitai yo</i> 'I want to go with you again next year'	1%, n = 1

9	<i>kono hanabi no yoo ni, atsui natsu o sugosoo ze</i> 'let's have a hot summer like this firework'	1%, n = 1
10	<i>koi shitemasu, onegaishimasu</i> 'I love you, please replay my love'	1%, n = 1
11	<i>zutto tonari ni itte kudasai</i> 'please stay by my side forever'	1%, n = 1
12	<i>kono natsu wa atsui kara, oretachi mo atsu atsu ni naro ze</i> 'this natsu is warm, so make our relation warm too'	1%, n = 1
13	<i>issho ni seichoo shitete kudasai</i> 'please grow together'	1%, n = 1
14	<i>boku no ichiban taisetsu na hito shite kudasai</i> 'please be most my important person'	1%, n = 1
15	<i>ishoo mamoru kara, ore ni tsurete koi</i> 'I will protect you for a lifetime, so take me'	1%, n = 1
16	<i>mecha kawaii kara, ore no kanojo ni natte hoshii</i> 'you are so cute, I want you to be my girlfriend'	1%, n = 1

Expression *suki desu* 'I love you'

Expression of love confession *suki desu* is the most used (46%, n = 36). The word *suki* literally means 'like', 'love'. *Suki* is adjective in Japanese while the words *like*, *love* are verbs in English. The word *desu* is copula (in English, the example of copula: am, is are). So, *suki desu* → love + copula. We have observed, Japanese rarely use first person pronoun and second person pronoun when confessing love. They are not use to saying *watashi wa anata ga suki desu* (*I* + topic particle + *you* + nominative particle + *love* + copula) in spoken language. But it does not mean expression *suki desu* has no variation. At least, 10 variation are found in this study.

Diagram 2
 Variation of Suki 'I love you'

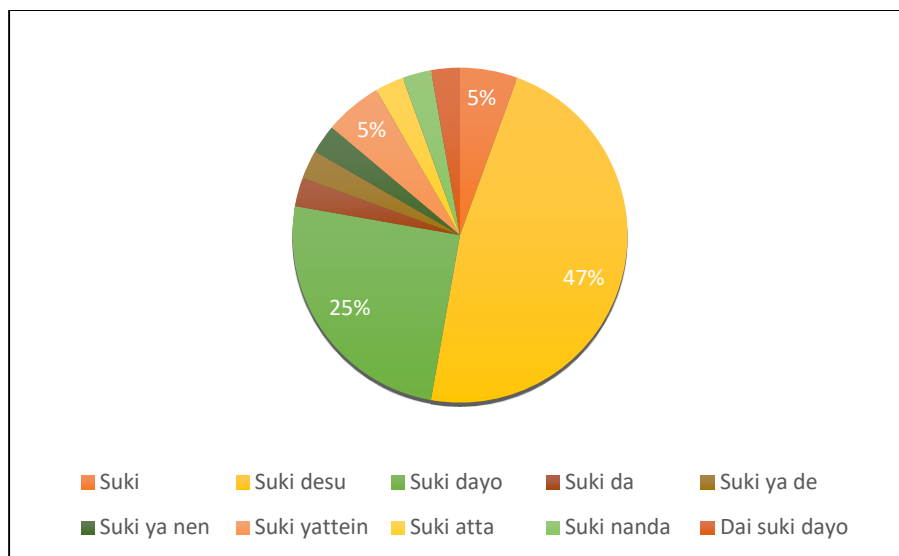


Table 2
 Variation and Distribution of Expression *Suki* 'I love you'

No	Variation of <i>suki desu</i> 'I love you'	Distribution (total n = 36)
1	<i>suki</i> ('love')	5% (n = 2)
2	<i>suki da</i> ('love' + plain form copula)	3% (n=1)
3	<i>suki desu</i> ('love' + polite form copula)	47% (n=17)
4	<i>suki da yo</i> ('love' + plain form copula + final particle)	25% (n=9)
5	<i>daisuki da yo</i> ('big' + 'love' + plain form copula + final particle)	3% (n=1)
6	<i>suki nan da</i> ('love' + nominalizer + plain form copula)	3% (n=1)
7	<i>suki atta</i> ('love' + 'there')	3% (n=1)
8	<i>suki ya de</i> ('love' + filler + conjunctive particle)	3% (n=1)
9	<i>suki ya nen</i> ('love' + filler + filler)	3% (n=1)
10	<i>suki yatein</i> ('love' + 'do')	5% (n=2)

(1)

A reporter from the Ask Japanese youtube account conducted street interviews with people on the street. The interviewee is a man. The reporter asked the question whether he is in love and whether he had ever declared love confession, then the reporter asked what kind of expression of love he had done. }

R: どんな感じ告白してたんですか?

Donna kanji kokuhaku shiteta n desu ka(?)
how such love confession did VN COP FP

‘How did you confess love?’

→ I20: かいぐかんにうらに呼び出して、「好きです」言いました

Kaigukan ni ura ni yobidashite,
cafeteria LOC behind LOC call

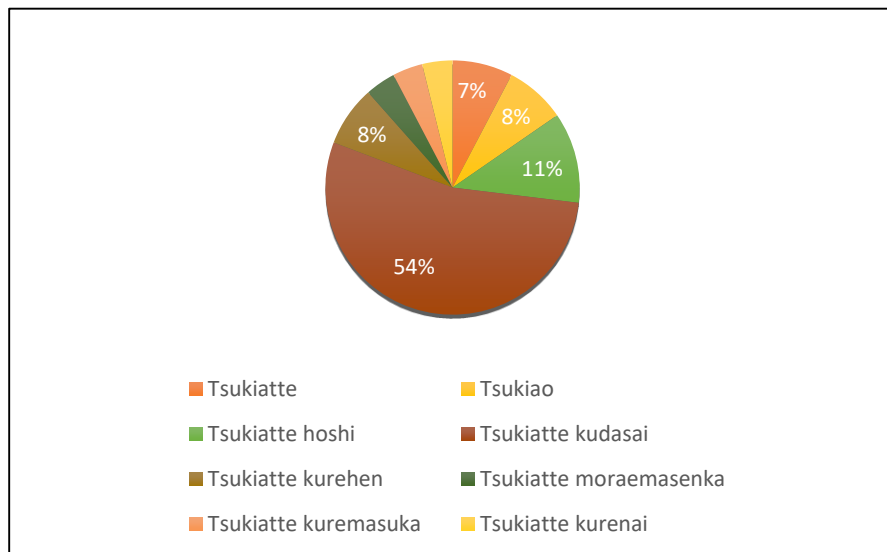
“suki desu” iimashita
love COP said

‘I called her to go to the back of cafeteria, and I said "I love you".'

Interviewee 20 (I20) said *suki desu* as his expression in confessing love. The word *suki* 'love' is a common expression. Speakers added *desu*, polite form copula. Usually, when Japanese not so close to other person, they use polite form. Polite form is also usually used when someone is doing his role or task. Because he is doing his role or task, he uses polite form. When someone uses polite form, he is doing his role or task seriously.

Expression *tsukiatte kudasai* 'can we have a relationship?'

Expression *tsukiatte kudasai* is also often used in confessing love (33%, n = 26). The word *tsukiatte* means 'dating', *kudasai* means 'give me', 'please'. Based on our observation, there are 8 variations of expression *tsukiatte kudasai*.



No	Variation of <i>tsukiatte kudasai</i> 'can we have a relationship'	Distribution (total n = 26)
1	<i>tsukiatte</i> ('dating', 'can we start seeing each other?', 'can we have a relationship?')	8% (n=2)
2	<i>tsukiatte kudasai</i> ('please dating', 'can we start seeing each other?', 'can we have a relationship?')	54% (n=14)
3	<i>tsukiaoo</i> ('let's have dating', 'let's start seeing each other', 'let's have a relationship')	8% (n=2)
4	<i>tsukiatte hoshii</i> (I want you to date)	11% (n=3)
5	<i>tsukiatte kuremasu ka</i> (Can you date me? (formal form))	4% (n=1)
6	<i>tsukiatte kurehen</i> (Can you date me? (informal form))	8% (n=2)
7	<i>tsukiatte kurenai</i> (Can you date me? (informal form))	4% (n=1)
8	<i>tsukiatte moraemasenka</i> ('Could you date me?')	4% (n=1)

(2)

{A reporter from the Ask Japanese Youtube account conducted street interviews with people on the street. The interviewees is a woman. The reporter asked the question whether she is in love and

whether she had ever stated love confession. The reporter also asked what kind of expression of love she had done.}

R: どんな感じ告白してたんですか?

Donna kanji kokuhaku shiteta n desu ka
 how such love confession did VN COP FP

‘How did you confess love?’

→ I11: 「付き合っ」言っただけで

"Tsukiatte" iita dake de
 do relationship said only P

‘I only said "can we have a relationship?"’

Interviewee 11 (I11) said *tsukiatte*. The word *tsukiatte* is a verb derived from verb *tsukiau* 'keep company'. The word *tsukiatte* is *-te* form verb (V-*te*) that has a directive or imperative function. In this case, the speaker asks him to have a relationship.

Expression *kekkon shite kudasai* 'please marry me'

Expression *kekkon shite kudasai* 'please marry me' was revealed by 2 interviewees on the street interview. The expression *kekkon shite hoshii* was spoken by 1 interviewee.

No	Variation of <i>kekkon shite kudasai</i> 'can you marry me'	Distribution (total n = 3)
1	<i>kekkon shite kudasai</i> 'can you marry me?'	n = 2
2	<i>kekkon shite hoshii</i> 'I want you to marry me'	n = 1

(3)

{A reporter from the Ask Japanese Youtube account conducted street interviews with people on the street. The interviewee is a woman. The reporter asked the question whether she had ever confessed love, then the reporter asked what kind of expression of love she had done or she is going to do.}

R1: 告白言葉ちょっと教えてもらいたいな

Kokuhaku kotoba chotto oshiete-moraitai na
love confession words little bit tell me FP

'Confession words, can you tell me a little bit?'

→ I23: 結婚してください

Kekkon shite kudasai
marry do for me

'Please marry me'

To confess love seriously, she is going to say *kekkon shite kudasai* 'please marry me'. This statement has risks. But the context is, she already knows that person, they know each other. Thinking about optimal goal and certainty of relationship, she prefers to say *kekkon shite kudasai* 'please marry me' rather than *suki desu* 'I love you'.

Expression *ore no onna ni nare yo* 'be my women'

There is 1 data of love confession *ore no onna ni nare yo* 'be my women'.

(4)

{A reporter from the YouTube account (Tokyo Tokimeki Channel) conducted street interviews with people on the street. The interviewee is a man. The reporter asked interviewee a question about expression of love confession to the girl he likes.}

R: 好きな女子への告白をしてください！

Suki na onna-no-ko e no kokuhaku o shite kudasai
love P girl to GEN love confession ACC do please

'Please confess love to the girl you like.'

→ R66: おれの女になれよ

Ore no onna ni nare yo
I GEN women P become FP

‘Be my women’

The Reporter asked 'please confess love to the girl you like' and *interviewee* (I21) said 'be my women'. The Reporter said *onna no ko* 'girl' but interviewee said *onna* 'women'. *Onna no ko* 'girl' and *onna* 'women' have different meaning components. The interviewee prefers the word *onna* 'women' because he wants a relation that lasts longer than just in adolescence.

Expression *ore no kakigori o issho ni tsukutte kudasai* 'please make shaving ice for me together'

There is 1 data of love confession *ore no kakigori wo isshoni tsukuroo* 'please make *kakigori* ice for me together'.

(5)

{A reporter from the Ask Japanese Youtube account conducts street interviews with people on the street. The interviewee is male. The reporter asked the question whether he is in love and whether he had ever confessed love, then the reporter asked what kind of expression of love he is going to say. The interviews are conducted in summer.}

R: カッコイイ告白言葉を教えてもらいたいので、それカメラ目SENDでおねがいします

Kakkoi kokuhaku kotoba o morae-tai node,
cool love confession words ACC can receive-want because

sore kamera me SEND de onegaishimasu
itu kamera mata SEND with please

‘Please tell me your cool confession.’

→ I17: おれのカキゴリを一緒に作ろ！

Ore no kakigori o issho ni tsukuro!
I GEN ice shavings ACC together P let's make

‘Let's make my *kakigori* ice (ice shavings) together!’

Interviewee (I17) said *ore no kakigori o isshoni tsukuroo* ‘Let's make my *kakigori* ice (ice shavings) together. This implies the speaker wants to do activities together with the person he likes. When

making *kakigori* (ice shavings) they have to be close together. He said indirect love confession with assumption that the listener understood the meaning of his speech by involving the context.

Expression *oishii gohan o tsukutte kudasai* 'please make delicious rice'

Expression of *oishii gohan o tsukutte kudasai* 'please make delicious rice' is said by 1 interviewee.

(6)

{A reporter from the Ask Japanese Youtube account conducted street interviews with people on the street. The interviewee is a man. The reporter asked the question whether he is in love and whether he had ever stated love confession. The reporter also asked what kind of expression of love he is going to say.}

R: 好きな女子への告白をしてください！

Suki na onna-no-ko e no kokuhaku o shite
love P girl ke GEN love confession ACC do

kudasai

please

'please confess to your favorite girl'

→ I64: おいしいごはんを作ってください。

oishii gohan o tsukutte kudasai
delicious rice ACC make please

'please make delicious rice for me'

Interviewee (I64) said *oishii gohan o tsukutte kudasai* 'please make delicious rice for me'. The expression is related to speaker's culture, rice as staple food. Making delicious rice becomes the sustainability value of their relationship, especially for the next level, marriage.

Expression *issho ni torokeru na koi o shiyoo* 'let's melt together'

There is 1 data of love confession *issho ni torokeru na koi o shiyoo* 'let's melt together'. The interview is conducted during the summer.

(7)

{A reporter from the Ask Japanese Youtube account conducted street interviews with people on the street. The interviewee is male. The reporter asked the question whether he is in love and whether he had ever confess love. The reporter asked what kind of expression of love he is going to say. The interview was conducted in summer.}

R: あなたのこれから告白したいセリフは何ですか?

Anata no kore kara kokuhaku shitai serifu
you GEN this from love confession do-want words

wa nan desu ka(?)
TOP apa COP FP
What are the words you want to confess from now on?

→ I3: 一緒にとろけるな恋をしよう!

Issho ni torokeru na koi o shiyoo(!)
together P melt P love ACC let us do

'let's melt together'

The interviewee (I3) declared love confession *issho ni torokeru na koi o shiyoo* 'let's melt together'. The word *torokeru* 'melt' is used as a metaphor for the union of two hearts. The speaker prefers to use metaphor as indirect love confession.

Expression *rainen mo anata to issho ni ikitai yo* 'I want to go with you again next year'

A statement of *issho ni torokeru na koi wo shiyoo* 'I want to go with you again next year' is said by 1 interviewee. The interview is conducted during the summer.

(8)

{A reporter from the Ask Japanese Youtube account conducted street interviews with people on the street. The interviewee is a woman. The reporter asked the question whether she is in love and whether she had ever confess love, then the reporter asked what kind of expression of love she is going to say. The interview was conducted in summer.}

R: あなたのこれから告白したいセリフは何ですか?

Anata no kore kara kokuhaku shitai serifu
you GEN this from love confession do-want words

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wa nan desu ka(?)

TOP apa COP FP

What are the words you want to confess from now on?

→ I5: 海で浜平に座ってて、相手が泳いでて、出てきて、「来年もあなたと一緒にいきたいよ」

みたいな

Umi de hamadaira ni suwatete, aite ga oyoide,
sea on beach on sit partner NOM swim

detekite, rainen mo anata to issho ni
come out next year too you and together P

ikitai yo mitai na
go-want FP look like FP

'I sit on the beach, after swimming, he comes out from the sea,
I will say, "I want to go with you again next year"'

The interviewee explain context of her confession, 'I sit on the beach, after swimming he comes out from the sea...'. The utterance of her love confession is *rainen mo anata to issho ni ikitai yo* 'I want to go with you again next year'. She wants to go to the same place with the same person. If she goes with him next year, she should have a good relationship with him.

Expression *kono hanabi no yoo ni, atsui natsu o sugosoo ze* 'let's have a hot summer like this firework'

Expression of *kono hanabi no yoo ni, atsui natsu o sugosoo ze* 'let's have a hot summer like this firework' is said by 1 interviewee.

(9)

{A reporter from the Ask Japanese Youtube account conducted street interviews with people on the street. The interviewee is a man. The reporter asked the question whether he is in love and whether he had ever stated love confession. The reporter also asked what kind of expression of love he is going to say. Interview was conducted in summer.}

R : あなたの「これだ」って言うな告白セリフを教えてください

Anata no "kore da" tte iu na kokuhaku serifu o
you GEN "this COP" QUOT say P love confession words ACC

oshiete kudasai
tell please

'Please tell me, love confession that you think "this is the right one" '

→I21: この花火のように、暑い夏をすごそうぜ

Kono hanabi no yoo-ni, atsui natsu o sugosoo ze
this firework GEN like hot summer ACC through FP

'let's have a hot summer like this firework'

The Interviewee (I21) said *kono hanabi no yoo ni atsui natsu o sugosoo ze* 'let's have a hot summer like this firework'. This expression shows the cultural context of *hanabi* 'firework'. *Hanabi* 'firework' is a typical summer in Japan. During the summer, many fireworks festivals are held. Japanese usually enjoy it with their spouse, family or friends. So when someone says that he wants to enjoy summer together like fireworks, he wants to spend time and being close with some he likes.

Expression *koi shitemasu, onegaishimasu* 'I am falling in love, please replay my love'

Expression of *koi shitemasu, onegaishimasu* 'I am falling in love, please replay my love' is said by 1 interviewee.

(10)

{A reporter from the Ask Japanese Youtube account conducted street interviews with people on the street. The interviewee is male. The reporter asked the question what kind of expression of love he is going to say. Interview was conducted on Valentine day. }

R : バレンタイン告白してください

Barentain kokuhaku shite kudasai
Valentine love confession do please

'Please confess your valentine love'

→ I56: 愛しています、お願いします

Koi shitemasu, onegaishimasu
love do-PROG please (replay my love)

'I am falling in love, please replay my love'

The interviewee (I56) said *koi shitemasu, onegaishimasu* 'I am falling in love, please replay my love'. This utterance is direct love confession. It seems that the speaker does not want to take risk by saying indirect utterance. The interviewee prefers to say it straightforwardly.

Expression *zutto tonari ni itte kudasai* 'please stay by my side forever'

Expression of '*zutto tonari ni itte kudasai* 'please stay by my side forever' is said by 1 interviewee.

(11)

{A reporter from Tokyo Tokimeki Channel interviewed people on the street. The reporter asked the question what kind of love confession he is going to say to the girl he likes. }

R: 好きな女子への告白をしてください！

Suki na onna-no-ko e no kokuhaku o shite kudasai
love P girl ke GEN love confession ACC do please
'please confess to the girl you love'

→ I64: ずっと隣にいてください

Zutto tonari ni ite kudasai
forever next to LOC stay here please

'please stay by my side forever'

The interviewee (I64) said *zutto tonari ni itte kudasai* 'please stay by my side forever'. He used 'stay by my side' as metaphor that he wants her always be together.

Expression *kono natsu wa atsui kara, oretachi mo atsu atsu ni naru ze* 'this summer is hot, let's get hot too'

A statement of love words *kono natsu wa atsui kara, oretachi mo atsu-atsu ni naru ze* 'this summer is hot, let's get hot too' is said by 1 interviewee. The interview is conducted during the summer.

(12)

{A reporter from the Ask Japanese Youtube account conducted street interviews with people on the street. The interviewee is a man. The reporter asked the question whether he is in love and whether he had ever stated love confession, then the reporter asked what kind of expression of love he is going to say. Interview was conducted in summer. }

R: カッコイイ告白言葉を教えてもらいたいので、それカメラ目SENDでおねがいします

Kakkoi kokuhaku kotoba o morae-tai node,
cool love confession words ACC can receive-want because

sore kamera me SEND de onegaishimasu
itu kamera mata SEND with please

'Please tell me your cool confession.'

→ I18: この夏は熱々から、おれたちも熱々にやろぜ

Kono natsu wa atsui kara, oretachi mo
this summer TOP hot because we also

atsu atsu ni yaroo ze
hot hotP P melakukan FP

'This summer is hot, let's get hot too.'

Summer in Japan has been associated with a holiday, vacation and romance. The right time to start love, relationship is in summer. They can go to the beach, use bikinis and swim. Interviewee prefers to use metaphor than common phrase. He believes that his expression can be understood because the context surrounds his expression.

3.13 Expression *issho ni seichoo shitete kudasai* 'please grow together'

Expression of *issho ni seichoo shitete kudasai* 'please grow together' is said by 1 interviewee.

(13)

{A reporter from the Ask Japanese youtube account conducts street interviews with people on the street. The interviewee is a man. The reporter asked the question whether he is in love and whether

he had ever declared love confession. The reporter also asked what kind of expression of love he is going to say.}

R: 好きな女子への告白をしてください！

Suki na onna-no-ko e no kokuhaku o shite
love P girl to GEN love confession ACC do-PROG

kudasai
please

'please confess love to girl you love.'

→ I69: 一緒に成長しててください

Issho ni seichou shitete kudasai
together P grow do please

'please grow together'

The interviewee (I69) said *issho ni seichou shitete kudasai* 'please grow together'. The word *seichou* means 'grow', does not have 'love' as semantic component. The word *issho* 'together' which is spoken with *seichou* 'grow' and the context surrounds it implicates indirect love confession.

Expression *boku no ichiban taisetsu na hito shite kudasai* 'please be the most my important person'

Expression of *boku no ichiban taisetsu na hito shite kudasai* 'please be the most my important person' is said by 1 interviewee.

(14)

{A reporter from Tokyo Tokimeki Channel interviewed people on the street. The reporter asked the question what kind of love confession he is going to say to the girl he likes. }

R: 好きな女子への告白をしてください！

Suki na joshi e no kokuhaku o shite kudasai
love P girl to GEN love confession ACC do please

'Please confess your love to the girl you love.'

680

→ I73: 僕の一番大切な人してください

Boku no ichiban taisetsu na hito shite kudasai
I GEN number one important P person do mohon

'please be the most my important person'

The interviewee (I73) said *boku no ichiban taisetsu na hito shite kudasai* 'please be the most my important person'. He used 'the most my important person' as clue for love confession.

Expression *ishoo mamoru kara, ore ni tsurete koi* 'I will protect you for a lifetime, so take me'

Expression of *ishoo mamoru kara, ore ni tsurete koi* 'I will protect you for a lifetime, so take me' is said by 1 interviewee.

(15)

{A reporter from the Ask Japanese youtube account conducted street interviews with people on the street. The interviewee is a man. The reporter asked the question whether he is in love and whether he had ever declared love statement. The reporter also asked what kind of expression of love he is going to say.}

P1: 好きな女子への告白をしてください

Suki na onnanoko e no kokuhaku o shite kudasai
suka COP perempuan ke GEN pengakuan ACC do

'Please confess your love to the girl you love.'

→ I74: 一緒守るから、おれにつれてこい

Ishoo mamoru kara, ore ni tsuretekoi
for a lifetime protect because me P take

'I will protect you for a lifetime, so take me'

The interviewee (I74) said *ishoo mamoru kara, ore ni tsurete koi* 'I will protect you for a lifetime, so take me'. Speaker confess love by saying promise that he is going to protect her for a lifetime.

Expression *mecha kawaii kara, ore no kanojo ni natte hoshii* 'you are so cute, I want you to be my girlfriend'

Expression of *mecha kawaii kara, ore no kanojo ni natte hoshii* 'you are so cute, I want you to be my girlfriend' is said by 1 interviewee.

(16)

{A reporter from the Ask Japanese youtube account conducted street interviews with people on the street. The interviewee is a man. The reporter asked the question whether he is in love and whether he had ever stated love confession, then the reporter asked what kind of expression of love he is going to say.}

R: 好きな女子への告白をしてください！

Suki na onna-no-ko e no kokuhaku o shite kudasai
love P perempuan to GEN love confession ACC do please

'tolong (beritahu) pengakuan kepada perempuan yang (kamu)

→ I80: めっちゃかわいいから、おれの彼女になってほしいな

Meccha kawaii kara, ore no kanojo ni natte hoshii na
so cute because I GEN girlfriend P be want FP

'you are so cute, I want you to be my girlfriend'

The interviewee (I80) said *meccha kawaii kara, ore no kanojo ni natte hoshii na* 'you are so cute, I want you to be my girlfriend'. He confessed love by saying praise to girl he likes and at the same time he said direct love confession by saying 'I want you to be my girl friend'.

CONCLUSION

The expressions of love in Japanese have considerable variations. There are 16 types expressions of 79 interviewee data. 16 types expressions consist of 8 direct love confessions and 8 indirect love confessions. Direct love confessions consist of (1) *suki desu* 'I love you', (2) *tsukiatte kudasai* 'can we have a relationship', (3) *kekkon shite kudasai* 'please marry me', (4) *ore no onna ni nare yo* 'be my women', (5) *issho ni torokeru na koi o shiyoo* 'let's melt together', (6) *koi shitemasu, onegaishimasu* 'I love you, please replay my love', (7) *zutto tonari ni ite kudasai* 'please stay by my side forever', (8) *mecha kawaii kara, ore no kanojo ni natte hoshii* 'you are so cute, I want you to be my girlfriend'. Those expressions are direct love confessions because the

utterances contains elements of language context, semantic elements related to love confession, such as (1) *suki* 'love', like ', (2) *tsukiatte (tsukiau)*' relationship ', (3) *kekkon* 'marry', (4) *ore no onna* 'my women ', (5) *koi* 'love, romance', (6) *koi shite imasu* 'loving you', (7) *zutto tonari ni ite* 'stay by my side forever ', (8) *ore no kanojo* 'my girlfriend'. Indirect love confessions are (9) *oishii gohan o tsukutte kudasai* 'please make delicious rice', (10) *ore no kakigori o issho ni tsukutte kudasai* 'please make shaving ice for me together', (11) *kono hanabi no yoo ni, atsui natsu o sugosoo ze* 'let's have a hot summer like this firework', (12) *kono natsu wa atsui kara, oretachi mo atsu atsu ni naro ze* 'this natsu is hot, so make our relations hot too', (13) *rainen mo anata to issho ni ikitai yo* 'I want to go with you again next year ', (14) *issho ni seichoo shitete kudasai* 'please grow together ', (15) *boku no ichiban taisetsu na hito shite kudasai* 'please be the most important person', (16) *ishoo mamoru kara, ore ni tsurete koi* 'I will protect you for a lifetime, so take me'. Those expressions are indirect love confessions because the utterances doesn't have semantic component of love confession, such as (9) *oishii gohan* 'delicious rice', (10) *shaving ice* 'kakigori', (11) *hanabi* 'firework', (12) *natsu* 'summer ', (13) *issho ni ikitai* 'want to go together ', (14) *seichoo* 'grow', (15) *ichiban taisetsu na hito* 'most important person', (16) *mamoru* 'protect '.

Expression of love confession reflects the culture of language community itself, including the way of thinking of people who hold the values they believe. From 16 utterances of expressions of love, there are 3 utterances that reflect cultural context, such as (i) 'please make delicious rice for me', (ii) 'please make shaving ice for me together', and (iii) 'let's have a hot summer like this firework'. The expression 'please make delicious rice for me' cannot be separated from the culture of the people whose main food is rice. Delicious rice becomes the value of the sustainability of their relationship. Making delicious rice contains love and passion that make happiness. The relationship has certainty, seriousness, clear direction to the next level, marriage for example. Other expression that has a cultural context is *ore no kakigori o issho ni tsukutte kudasai* 'please make shaving ice for me together'. The expression reflects the Japanese habit of eating or making shaving ice in summer. Making shaving ice together means they have to be close together when making it. Making ice shaving is usually with persons who are close. So when someone asks to make shaving ice together it means he wants to be close to you. Another expression shows the cultural context is *kono hanabi no yoo ni, atsui natsu o sugosoo ze* 'let's have a hot summer like this firework'. *Hanabi* 'firework' is a characteristic summer in Japan. During summer holiday, many fireworks festivals are held. Japanese usually enjoy fireworks with their spouse, family or friends. So, when someone says they want to spend summer together like fireworks, they want to be close and doing activities together.

The cultural context related to the confession of love in this research are (i) *oishii gohan* 'delicious rice', (ii) *kakigori* 'shaving ice', (iii) *hanabi* 'firework'. Expression 'delicious rice' refers to food that implies sustainability. Expression 'shaving ice' and 'firework' implies the activities carried out together. Cultural context of love confession is related to sustainability and togetherness. Sustainability and togetherness are values that believed in a love relationship.

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