

### **Conclusion Extract**

**Title:** Onnara-She Gendered Language in Japan: A critical evaluation of gendered language in Japanese and the implications that it holds for feminine stereotypes in Japan.

As a result of this investigation I have gained an appreciation of how Japanese gendered language contributes to the patriarchal values present in Japanese society. Women's language perpetuates a rigid stereotype of femininity in micro-level interactions which result in the patriarchal structure of the macro world. The PIP journey has allowed me to conceptualise the larger role that gender stereotypes play in organising the conformance to Japan's collectivistic society. This was achieved through the synthesis of primary and secondary research, and the evaluation of how gendered language contributes to the Japanese perception of femininity.

My hypothesis was ultimately proven, as I discovered harmful cognitive impacts that Japanese women's language has on the formal construct of gender. Research I attained continued to inform my hypothesis by demonstrating the generational shifts that are gradually taking place in the value and expectation for the use of Japanese gendered language. Japanese women's language projects an indirect and subdued identity upon females that perpetuates a ideological perception of femininity. This perception is detrimental to gender equality and at odds with the values of feminism.

The majority of primary and secondary research was reasonably supportive of my hypothesis. Secondary research was advantageous in consolidating my Interview and Questionnaire as most of the data attained was complementary. These various perspectives were valued. In retrospect, my Questionnaire proved most advantageous in identifying stereotypes and gaining public knowledge and my Interviews provided me with understanding from expert linguists. This was useful in the socio-cultural insight that they gave. With the benefit of hindsight, I think it would have been beneficial to analyse gendered language also from the perspective of masculine stereotypes to compare its effects on both males and females.

This investigation contributed to a greater appreciation of the society and culture course and a broader understanding of its relevance in contemporary society. This learning experience has allowed for me to increase my awareness of the socially constructed world that surrounds us and the ways in which language and institutions have shaped the formation of my own personal identity. It has heightened my understanding of the interrelationship between the micro, meso and macro worlds and how each influences one another to create stereotypes and social

constructs.

This PIP shows that now is the time that we should consciously part with our irrational expectation of how women should be, not just in Japan, but all around the world. As the air we breathe discreetly affects our health, the language we use influences our psyche. Our language should help us advance, not tie us down to stereotypes. It is time to face up to the discriminatory ways in which our words shape our worlds - and change them.