

論文審査の結果の要旨

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In the context of reflective practices for international development institutions, it is imperative that coherent evaluation processes are in place. Impartiality is arguably one of those universally agreed properties that such processes ought to embrace, yet its cognitive and pragmatic effects appear to range widely among different cultural settings.

The objective of this study is to reveal how the concept of impartiality is socially constructed through inter- and intra-organizational interactions by analyzing the linguistic practice of a particular organization. The case is drawn from a quasi-public bilateral aid agency in Japan, namely the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), whose evaluation processes have long been the subject of policy discourse. The study conducted a number of unstructured interviews and facilitated dialogues with professional members of staff in the organization, along with a content analysis of related policy documents and international guidelines.

The main results of the study include: that a consensus-based model of interdependence better depicts the evaluation processes of the organization; that this model surprisingly appears to coexist with or even compensate for the conventional model of impartiality by blurring the boundaries of partiality through recursive authorizations; and that a series of expressions that place “evaluators” above “evaluatees” within a spatial hierarchy have been identified by a cognitive linguistic analysis. These results collectively demonstrate that there can be unique organizational or cultural processes of exercising the concept of impartiality based on its deep-rooted cultural customs over evaluation.

The committee has agreed that these findings are of importance both to the linguistic literature on organizational discourse and to the practice of international development. Issues have been raised regarding the generalizability of the derived model of interdependence. The issue over empirical rigor in the cognitive linguistic analysis has also been raised. The discussion was concluded with a sensibly contained scope of derived explanations by acknowledging methodological limitations over the corpus and other materials used. Nevertheless, the committee members have agreed that the subject of the study was little explored previously, and that a number of novel points had been made that could base future research. The committee has therefore unanimously concluded that the submitted thesis is worthy of a Ph.D. award.

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