

Differences in the Impressions of Introductory
Remarks by Native Japanese Speakers and
Japanese Learners

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**How native Japanese speakers and learners of Japanese differ in their reactions
to preliminary phrases in readers' letters to Japanese newspapers.**

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This study shows the results of an investigation of the differences in the reactions of native Japanese speakers, Chinese learners of Japanese and Korean learners of Japanese to preliminary phrases in letters from readers to Japanese newspapers. The following results were identified: (1) Native Japanese speakers and Chinese learners of Japanese assessed similarly the necessity of preliminary phrases; (2) However, Chinese learners of Japanese did not make distinctions among all the meanings of preliminary phrases; conversely, native Japanese speakers were careful to make distinctions in the meanings of the same preliminary phrases; (3) Korean learners of Japanese evaluated highly preliminary phrases which gave opinions clearly, while native Japanese speakers favored those preliminary phrases that established foundations of persuasion and showed considerations for readers. The results of this study of preliminary phrases are not only pertinent to teaching composition, but also relevant to the expression of oral opinions, as well as the prediction of opinions, in both listening and reading.

Key-words: preliminary phrases, expressing opinions, reactions, considerations, persuasion