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TO WESTERN RESEARCH; 1.1. Japanese language and society; 1.1.1. Japan-related speech-communities; 1.1.2. The Japanese language; 1.1.3. Japanese sociolinguistics as a field of study; 1.2. Encoding social organization; 1.2.1. Verbal honorifics; 1.2.2. Terms of reference and address; 1.3. Social Variation; 1.3.1. Standard and regional varieties 1.3.1.1. Oral and written varieties 1.3.2. Identity markers; 1.3.2.1. Gender; 1.3.2.2. Age markers; 1.3.2.3. Group identity markers; 1.4. Language attitudes; 1.4.1. Language planning; 1.5. Contact between Japanese and other languages in sociolinguistic perspective; 1.5.1. The expansion of Anglo-Japanese; 1.5.2. Japanese-based pidgins; 1.5.3. Japanese overseas communities; 1.5.4. Cross-cultural communication; 1.6. Other topics in Japanese sociolinguistics; 1.7. Conclusion; 2. THE ETHNOGRAPHY OF RITUAL AND ADDRESS AT A WEDDING RECEPTION 2.1. The reception: setting, participants, activities and functions 2.1.1. The organization of speaking; 2.2. The linguistic components of ritual; 2.2.1. Ritual resources at the reception; 2.3. Hierarchical and collective signals: the contextual dynamics of designatory forms; 2.4. A concluding note; 3. SPEAKING OF GIVING: THE PRAGMATICS OF JAPANESE DONATORY VERBS; 4. CROSS-CULTURAL CONTRASTS; 4.1. Pitch, politeness and sexual role; 4.1.1. Pitch; 4.1.1.1. Japanese use of pitch; 4.1.1.2. English use of pitch (British); 4.1.2. Interference; 4.1.3. The investigation; 4.1.3.1. Variables 4.1.3.2. Results 4.1.4. Interpretation of the results; 4.1.4.1. Semantic implications; 4.1.4.2. Sociocultural implications; 4.1.5. Concluding hypothesis; 4.2. Semiotic schism in Japanese-Western interaction; 4.2.1. The concept 'semiotic schism'; 4.2.2. The Japanese case; 4.2.3. Decoding Japanese- Western interaction; 4.2.3.1. Verbal signs; 4.2.3.2. Vocal signs; 4.2.3.3. Kinesic signs; 4.2.3.4. Rhetoric patterns; 4.2.4. The mutual responsibility for miscoding; APPENDIX: Background notes on Japanese concepts of family and marriage; FOOTNOTES; REFERENCES

## Sommario/riassunto

Explorations in Japanese Sociolinguistics provides a treasure of information on the Japanese language and the social and cultural system it has developed and is embedded in. To the non-specialist, it opens an unknown world. To the specialist it offers theoretical and methodological perspectives aimed at avoiding the interference of myth and musing with accurate characterizations. A general introduction on Japanese sociolinguistics is followed by two case studies, one on the ethnography of ritual and address at a Japanese wedding reception, and one on the pragmatics of Japanese donatory