

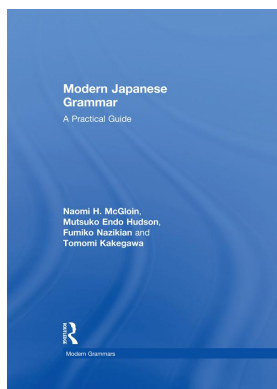
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Identifying

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35

Identifying

35.1 Identifying oneself and others

In identifying oneself and others the copula **desu** [polite], **iimasu** ‘say, call,’ and **mooshimasu** ‘say [humble]’ are used in Japanese. **Desu** is used in place of English ‘am, is, are.’

(私は) 山本です。

(Watashi wa) Yamamoto desu. (F)

I am Yamamoto.

(私は) 山本と言います。

(Watashi wa) Yamamoto to iimasu. (F)

I am Yamamoto.

(私は) 山本と申します。

(Watashi wa) Yamamoto to mooshimasu. (VF/humble)

I am Yamamoto.

When identifying oneself, **watashi** ‘I’ is often omitted in natural conversations.

In identifying others by referring to them with ‘this person’, ‘that person’ and ‘that person over there’, **kochira**, **sochira** and **achira** are used, respectively. These are polite forms of the demonstratives, **kore**, **sore** and **are**, which are not used to refer to people. **De irasshaimasu**, which is a very polite version of **desu**, can be used to identify someone socially respected.

こちらは山本さんです。

Kochira wa Yamamoto-san desu.

This is Mr Yamamoto.

そちらは山本さんです。

Sochira wa Yamamoto-san desu.

That person is Mr Yamamoto.

あちらは山本社長でいらっしゃいます。

Achira wa Yamamoto-shachoo de irasshaimasu.

That person over there is Mr Yamamoto, the president of the company.

These terms, such as **kochira**, are not appropriate for identifying one’s family members. In such cases, simply saying something like **musume desu** ‘This is my daughter’ is sufficient.

To ask who someone is, use **dare** ‘who.’

あの人はだれですか。

Ano hito wa dare desu ka.

Who is that person?

In a business situation, if you call a business office, the receptionist might ask who you are by saying,

どちら様ですか。

Dochira-sama desu ka.

May I ask who you are? (VF)

35.2 Identifying places

To identify a place, the demonstratives **kore**, **sore**, and **are** are used together with the copula **da/desu**.

領事館はどの建物ですか。

Ryoojikan wa dono tatemono desu ka.

Which one is the Consulate building?

(領事館は) あれです。

(Ryoojikan wa) are desu.

(The consulate) is that one over there.

Sometimes, locative demonstratives **koko**, **soko** and **asoko** can also be used. In showing one's art studio, for example, one can say either **kore** or **koko**.

これが私のアトリエです。

Kore ga watashi no atorie desu.

This is my studio.

ここが私のアトリエです。

Koko ga watashi no atorie desu.

This place is my studio.

35.3 Identifying things

When indentifying things, the demonstratives **kore** 'this thing,' **sore** 'that thing,' **are** 'that thing over there,' and **dore** 'which one' are commonly used.

これは田中さんの傘です。

Kore wa Tanaka-san no kasa desu.

This is Mr/Ms Tanaka's umbrella.

それは中国語の辞書です。

Sore wa Chuugokugo no jisho desu.

That is a Chinese dictionary.

あれは山田さんの車です。

Are wa Yamada-san no kuruma desu.

That thing over there is Mr/Ms Yamada's car.

佐藤さんの辞書はどれですか。

Satoo-san no jisho wa dore desu ka.

Which one is Mr/Ms Sato's dictionary?