

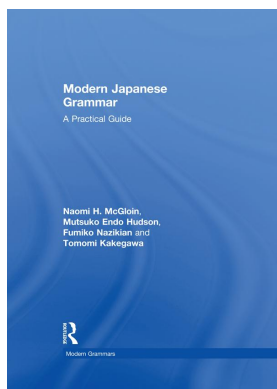
This article was downloaded by: 10.2.97.136

On: 21 Sep 2023

Access details: *subscription number*

Publisher: *Routledge*

Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered Number: 1072954 Registered office: 5 Howick Place, London SW1P 1WG, UK



Modern Japanese Grammar A Practical Guide

Naomi H. McGloin, Mutsuko Endo Hudson, Fumiko Nazikian, Tomomi Kakegawa, Sarah Butler

Opinions

Publication details

<https://test.routledgehandbooks.com/doi/10.4324/9780203856628.ch84>

Naomi H. McGloin, Mutsuko Endo Hudson, Fumiko Nazikian, Tomomi Kakegawa

Published online on: 04 Oct 2013

How to cite :- Naomi H. McGloin, Mutsuko Endo Hudson, Fumiko Nazikian, Tomomi Kakegawa.

04 Oct 2013, *Opinions from: Modern Japanese Grammar, A Practical Guide* Routledge

Accessed on: 21 Sep 2023

<https://test.routledgehandbooks.com/doi/10.4324/9780203856628.ch84>

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR DOCUMENT

Full terms and conditions of use: <https://test.routledgehandbooks.com/legal-notices/terms>

This Document PDF may be used for research, teaching and private study purposes. Any substantial or systematic reproductions, re-distribution, re-selling, loan or sub-licensing, systematic supply or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden.

The publisher does not give any warranty express or implied or make any representation that the contents will be complete or accurate or up to date. The publisher shall not be liable for an loss, actions, claims, proceedings, demand or costs or damages whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with or arising out of the use of this material.

84

Opinions

84.1 Expressing one's opinion

84.1.1 *omou* and *kangaeru*

The verbs **omou** 'to think/feel' and **kangaeru** 'to think' are commonly used to express one's opinion. **Kangaeru** expresses opinions resulting from active thinking; e.g. analysis and logical reasoning, and therefore sentences with **kangaeru** sound more objective. On the other hand, **omou** expresses opinions that are more intuitive, emotional or subjective.

他の人の迷惑になることはしてはいけないと思う。

Hoka no hito no meewaku ni naru koto wa shite wa ikenai to omou.

I think that we should not do things that cause trouble to others.

社会福祉は重要だと考えます。

Shakai fukushi wa juuyoo da to kangaemasu.

I think that social welfare is important.

その考えは単純すぎるように思います。

Sono kangae wa tanjun sugiru yoo ni omoimasu.

I feel that that idea seems too simplistic.

84.1.2 *beki da*

To express stronger opinions, **beki da** 'should, ought to' may be used. It is often used with **omou** 'to feel' or **kangaeru** 'to think.'

▶ 80.1.3

すべての子供が教育を受けるべきです。

Subete no kodomo ga kyooiku o ukeru beki desu.

All children should receive education.

やれることは全てやるべきだと思う。

Yareru koto wa subete yaru beki da to omou.

I think that we should do everything we can.

84.1.3 Indirect ways to express one's opinion

The following structures are used to express one's opinion less directly.

- Pre-nominal form + **yoo na ki ga suru**: 'I feel that ...'

この計画はうまくいかないような気がします。

Kono keekaku wa umaku ikanai yoo na ki ga shimasu.

I feel that this plan will not work out.

- Pre-nominal form + **yoo ni kanjiru**: ‘I feel that . . .’
この規則は不公平なように感じます。
Kono kisoku wa fukoohee na yoo ni kanjimasu.
I feel that this rule is unfair.
- Pre-nominal form + **no de wa nai deshoo ka**
or
Pre-nominal form + **n ja nai deshoo ka**: ‘I wonder . . . ; Wouldn’t it be . . .’

▶ 32.3.2

もう少し話し合ったほうがいいのではないのでしょうか。
Moo sukoshi hanashiatta hoo ga ii no de wa nai deshoo ka.
I wonder if it would be better to discuss this a little longer.

まだ間に合うんじゃないのでしょうか。
Mada maniau n ja nai deshoo ka.
Wouldn’t it be that we’d still be on time?

In casual speech, **n ja nai deshoo ka** is shortened to **n ja nai?**

あきらめたほうがいいんじゃない?
Akirameta hoo ga ii n ja nai?
Wouldn’t it be better to give up?

When expressing one’s opinion in Japanese, it is common to preface the opinion with phrases like ‘I may be wrong,’ ‘it may be too extreme to say it this way’ or ‘I feel bad to say it this way,’ as in the following examples.

間違っているかもしれないけど、田中さんは本当は佐藤さんのことが好きなんじゃないのでしょうか。
Machigatte iru kamoshirenai kedo, Tanaka-san wa hontoo wa Satoo-san no koto ga suki na n ja nai deshoo ka.

I may be wrong but I wonder if the truth is that Mr Tanaka likes Ms Sato.

言い過ぎかもしれないけど、この計画はすでに破綻していると思います。
Iisugi kamoshirenai kedo, kono keekaku wa sudeni hatan shite iru to omoimasu.
I may be saying too much, but I think this plan has already failed.

言っちゃ悪いけど、あの人変だと思う。
Itcha warui kedo, ano hito hen da to omou.
I feel bad saying this, but I think that person is strange.

84.2 Asking for other people’s opinions

To ask for other people’s opinions, use one of the following questions.

どう思う? (I)

Doo omou?

What do you think?

どう考えますか。(F)

Doo kangaemasu ka.

What do you think?

どうお考えですか。(VF)

Doo o-kangae desu ka.

What do you think?

何か意見がありますか。(F)

Nani ka iken ga arimasu ka.

Do you have any opinion?

To ask for others' opinions about a specific topic, **ni tsuite** 'about' or **ni kanshite** 'regarding' is used to state the topic.

環境問題についてどうお考えですか。(VF)

Kankyoo mondai ni tsuite doo o-kangae desu ka.

What do you think about environmental problems?

小学校で英語を教えることに関して、何か意見がありますか。(F)

Shoogakkoo de Ego o oshieru koto ni kanshite, nani ka iken ga arimasu ka.

Do you have any opinion about teaching English in elementary schools?

84.3 Reporting on other people's opinions

The opinion of another person is commonly reported as a quotation or in the form of hearsay.

田中さんは外国語を勉強する必要はないと考えているそうです。

Tanaka-san wa gaikokugo o benkyoo suru hitsuyoo wa nai to kangaete iru soo desu.

I hear that Mr/Ms Tanaka thinks that one does not need to study a foreign language.

父は高校も義務教育にするべきだと言っています。

Chichi wa kookoo mo gimu kyooiku ni suru beki da to itte imasu.

My father says that we should make high school education mandatory.

母は「人を傷つけることをしてはいけない」と言っていました。

Haha wa 'Hito o kizutsukeru koto o shite wa ikenai' to itte imashita.

My mother said 'We must not do things that hurt people.'

The noun **iken** 'opinion' can also be used to express other people's opinions. The content of the opinion is stated in an appositive clause that modifies the noun **iken**.

▶ 7.2.5

田中さんは外国語を勉強する必要はないという意見です。

Tanaka-san wa gaikokugo o benkyoo suru hitsuyoo wa nai to yuu iken desu.

Mr/Ms Tanaka is of the opinion that one does not need to study a foreign language.

The verbs **omou** and **kangaeru** are used in **te-form** + **iru/imasu** to express other people's opinion.

鈴木さんはインターネットは人間の生活を豊かにすると考えています。

Suzuki-san wa intaanetto wa ningen no seekatsu o yutaka ni suru to kangaete imasu.

Mr/Ms Suzuki thinks that the Internet enriches human life.

母はテレビは子供の教育によくないと思っています。

Haha wa terebi wa kodomo no kyooiku ni yokunai to omotte imasu.

My mother thinks that TV is not good for children's education.