

Re: addressing someone without –san or similar

Source: <http://sci.tech–archive.net/Archive/sci.lang.japan/2004–06/1192.html>

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Date: 06/22/04

Date: Tue, 22 Jun 2004 02:05:34 GMT

Michael Cash wrote:

- > *That is one of the options. If you haven't figured it out by now, you*
- > *no doubt will in the near future; all this interpersonal stuff can*
- > *give the Japanese learner conniption fits.*
- >
- > *"What pronoun (if any) should I use for Person A in Situation X?"*
- > *"What pronoun (if any) should I use for myself in Situation Y?"*
- > *"What honorific (in any) should I use?"*
- > *"Which giving/receiving verb is appropriate for Situation Z?"*
- > *"Even if it's Person B doing it for Person C who isn't there?"*
- >
- > *Et cetera e pluribus unum ipso facto hibiscus carborundum.*
- >
- > *Some days it don't pay to get out of bed, ya know?*
- >
- > *One monkey don't stop no show, as the song says. The monkey also has*
- > *to be careful that don't no one show stop him. You're looking at a*
- > *very limited sample from a genre which isn't known for reflecting real*
- > *world actualities in the first place. What is they say? "Absence of*
- > *evidence is not evidence of absence". Just because you don't see it in*
- > *this one show doesn't mean you can or should tend toward a supposition*
- > *that it likely doesn't occur at all.*

I'm finding that a lot of the stuff I'm reading these days is pretty good for learning that. I have a good feeling about when/what to use, but not perfect. Just a lot better than relying on my textbooks alone.

One thing I would add is it might be inappropriate for a gaijin to use \$B\$*\$8 (B \$B\$5\$s (B or \$B\$*\$P\$5\$s (B to a stranger, which is pretty common in anime and manga. :-) Oh, and I still think \$B26 (B is too strong to use for myself, no matter what some textbooks might claim.

But nothing replaces talking to a real live native speaker, which is easier to do now thanks to instant messaging and "voice chat".