

Re: Distal / polite

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.lang.japan/2005-09/msg00530.html>

- *From:* Sean <notsean@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 14 Sep 2005 07:35:28 GMT
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On 9/13/05 11:16 PM, "Ben Bullock" typed:

(snip)

> I'm not sure what the difference with distal and polite is.

One thing that has always bothered me about the desumasutai being designated the "polite" form is that it almost implies that the plain form is rude or at least impolite. It isn't. When you're chatting with your friend, it would be impolite, in a sense, to speak too formally.

"Distal" might be a good alternative, contrasting with "familiar."

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• *Follow-Ups:*

- ◆ ***Re: Distal / polite***
◇ *From:* Ben Finney
- ◆ ***Re: Distal / polite***
◇ *From:* Ben Bullock

• *References:*

- ◆ ***Distal / polite***
◇ *From:* Ben Bullock
- ◆ ***Re: Distal / polite***
◇ *From:* Bart Mathias
- ◆ ***Re: Distal / polite***
◇ *From:* Ben Bullock

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