

Re: I need some help from native speakers of Japanese

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Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang.japan/2006-05/msg00285.html>

- *From:* "Ray" <raymondaliasapollyon@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 5 May 2006 21:12:39 -0700
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Sean wrote:

I read "Aspects of the Theory of Syntax" about 25 years ago. I got an A+ in a course called "Morphology and Syntax," etc. etc. I have a degree in linguistics, believe it or not. Admittedly, I haven't thought much about the abstract theoretical syntax stuff in quite a few years, since my involvement with language is on the ground, teaching a language to teenagers. But I would say I probably don't qualify as a complete idiot or ignoramus in these matters. And I found your question opaque. You came to a group that is all

But the aspects book was written before J. R. Ross published his groundbreaking thesis on island constraints, one of which is related to my question.

The reason why you felt the question was opaque is because you didn't read more recent stuff. And my question involves LF-movement, which came to notice only in the GB era. That is why you didn't get it well.

about the Japanese language, plus whatever tangents it pleases the participants to engage in. You didn't "ask" for help in your little problem, you demanded it. When the phrasing of your question turned out to be opaque to most of the participants, including the native speakers from whom you were demanding answers, you were dismissive and insulting rather than taking

Again, please show me why my replies are "demanding". I didn't demand my answer. I stated it, perhaps in a stilted way. And I am equally eager to know why which remark by me is "dismissive". What have I done that insulted anybody other than the one who insulted me first?

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the responsibility to make your question clear. Some people tried very hard to satisfy your demands, yet you remained ungracious.

I did show my gratitude each time I had a bona fide exchange with Cindy, B. Ito, and Bart, although I didn't repeat polite formula every time I had an exchange with someone on the same topic. Please refer to my earlier posts.

Lucky for you there is a real, practicing linguist in the group. Bart is also an example of an egghead who operates with some social grace. Anyway, if most of the people who have followed the thread have ended up thinking that you're a graceless prick, upon whom should we place the blame?

We could place the blame on our inattention to read the exchanges between group members and our failure to understand the one whose messages you consider insulting may not be able to use English very well and to notice the tone and connotation carried by his words. Please refer to my earlier posts for details.

The gentle residents of this cyber-village who did their best to help the stranger with the strange demands, or the stranger himself? Muchan gave you a few pieces of very wise and valuable advice. Consider his words well after you have stormed off and eventually gotten over your annoyance.

But he gave his advice AFTER he insulted me.
I think he is really patronizing.

Ray

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