

Re: Nanitozo

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang.japan/2007-05/msg00034.html>

- *From:* Phil Yff <phil.yff@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 2 May 2007 08:45:52 -0400
-

On Wed, 02 May 2007 19:38:26 +0900, John R. Yamamoto-Wilson wrote:

Cindy wrote:

Shitsurei shitemo yoroshiidesuka?

Absolutely, Cindy. Go ahead and be rude. I will rejoice.

I hope you realize that Cindy's expression is more polite than "Itte mo ii desu ka?" You were the one to bring up illocutionary force. Here, although the literal meaning suggests the speaker is going to be rude, the illocutionary force is the opposite. It achieves politeness in several ways. It uses the more polite *yoroshii* rather than *ii*. The question uses the formal forms. The use of 'shitsurei' implies the speaker is humbling herself by deferring to the listener. The implication is that the listener is elevated and decides whether to excuse the speaker or not while the speaker tacitly admits that departure might inconvenience the listener.

Phil Yff

.