

■ Prohibition

Expressions of prohibition are used when the speaker orders the listener not to perform an action. They are a type of expressions of action-requesting. However, they are somewhat different from the general expressions of action-requesting since the demand is not to act.

The most direct form of prohibition is *suru na*. This expression presupposes that the listener understands that the speaker wishes the listener not to perform the act. The only difference between this and other expressions of action-requesting is that the demand is for the act not to be performed.

However, there is a difference in the degree of naturalness between expressions of prohibition and those in action-requesting. The expression of prohibition, *Ki ni suru na* ‘Don’t worry,’ is natural, but *Ki ni shiro* ‘Be worried’ feels unnatural. This is because of the difference in the degree of desirability in the realization of an action and the non-realization of an action. The realization of the act of being worried is not desirable, while the non-realization of the same act is recognized as being desirable.

Generally, action-requesting is a function that seeks the execution of an un-realized action at the time of speech, while prohibition can occur not only at the time of speech when the action has not been performed, but it can also be directed to an action that has already been performed. *Kare ni attemo hanashikakeru na* ‘Don’t talk to him should you see him’ is uttered when the speaker preventatively prohibits the listener about an unrealized action, while *‘Urusai naa. Ima hanashikakeru na* ‘Don’t bug me. Don’t talk to me now’ is meant to stop the listener from the act s/he is performing.

In contrast to using the direct prohibition form, *suru na*, it is common to express prohibition indirectly in daily conversation by communicating that the action is not permissible (e.g., *Sore ni sawattewa ikenai yo* ‘We’re not permitted to touch it’) and the action is not desirable (e.g., *Sawattara dame* ‘It’s not OK to touch it’).

→モダリティ Modality (2-H), 行為要求 Action-Requesting (2-H), 勧め Suggestion (2-H)

● References

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