

Time and Space Concepts in Modern Japanese through a Word Association Network Analysis

Maria Telegina (University of Oxford)

This presentation aims to describe and analyze semantic features of a set of temporal and spatial lexical items based on the results of an associative experiment involving Japanese native speaking residents of the Kanto area.

The experimental material is based on the first stage of an ongoing free word association experiment with 85 Japanese native speaking participants of two different age groups (one in their 20s and one from their 50s to 70s) conducted in Tokyo in 2015.

The association responses to 50 time and space related stimuli served as the basis for proposing and analyzing a model of time and space concepts relations represented by an associative network.

Associative responses are analyzed on micro- and mesoscopic levels, in order to reveal semantic features of individual lexical items, and to identify communities based on the connections between associative responses and stimuli words.