

Gender and Writing Style in the Letters in Readers' Column in Japanese Newspapers

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I have discussed that there is a gender difference in writing style by analyzing the letters in readers' column in Japanese newspapers published since 1955. Further I have argued that the difference is getting smaller especially in 1980s.

In this paper, I conclude that the letters concerning the bankruptcy of *Yamaichi* stock company, which has influenced Japan not only at an economical level but also at a social level, show gender characteristics in their writing style and their content also reveal the gender ; men criticize while women encourage.

Futhermore, I claim that the gender characteristics found in the letters is rooted in the system of Japanese companies after World War II, which has been developed with gendered division of labor ; men as salaried persons, while women as full-time housewives.