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日本人英語学習者と英語母語話者によるEssay Writingにおける冒頭文の比較

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Opening Sentences in Essays in English:

A Comparison of Japanese Learners of English and Native English Speakers from the U.S.

ITO Satoshi*

The present study aims to classify and characterize the opening sentences in English-language essays written by Japanese English learners and native English speakers from the U.S. A total of 399 English essays by Japanese English learners and 113 English essays by Americans were analyzed, and the opening sentences of all essays were classified in an exploratory way. As a result, the opening sentences of the English essays were classified into three major categories: “thesis statement,” “event,” and “premise.” About 97.7% of the English essays written by Japanese English learners used a thesis statement as the opening sentence, indicating uniformity in their writing styles as to opening sentences. On the other hand, about 80.0% of the English essays by Americans began with a thesis statement, which was the majority; however, there

were also a certain number of “event” and “premise” opening sentences. In addition, “thesis statement” is the most observed category in both groups of writers in this study; the opening sentences written by Japanese learners were less varied, while those written by Americans were more varied, as they contained additional elements.

Key words

Essay Writing in English, Opening Sentences, Contrastive Rhetoric, Japanese EFL Learners, Corpus

*Division of Language and Culture Education, the United Graduate School of Education, Tokyo Gakugei University