Connective Expressions used in the Ending of Opinion Essays
– An analysis of the "JLC 1-Year-Course Composition Database" –

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This paper analyzes connective expressions used by both Intermediate Japanese learners (LN) and native speaker of Japanese (JP) in the ending of opinion essays written in Japanese. The data was obtained from the "JLC 1-Year-Course Composition Database" and the "Database of Japanese Opinion Essays by Japanese/ Taiwanese/ Korean University Students".

In the quantitative analysis, there was little difference in the use of connective expressions between JP and LN. In the JP data, connective expressions are used in 60% of the final sentences of opinion essays and in the LN data, 65%. Expressions related to "ijyo" come in first at 21% for both JP and LN, followed by "shitagatte" at 5% for JP and 7% for LN.

Errors in the use of "konoyooni," "sorede," "sonokekka," "shikamo" and colloquial expressions that JP never use (e.g., "sooshitara," "demo," "toiukotode," "denaito," "desukara," "dakara") can be found in the qualitative analysis. It has also been pointed out that it is necessary to instruct LN not to add padding after the conclusion of an opinion essay.

The results of these analyses may be useful to Japanese language learners working to improve their Japanese academic writing skills.