

Mr O Corpus Workshop
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Japan Women's University

Differences of cultural practices in Japanese and American English interactional styles

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Introduction

“Differences of situating Self in the place/*ba* of interaction between the Japanese and American English speakers”

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The Purpose

To account for culturally determined principles for interaction in which mutual consent is established, focusing on the linguistic behavior of proposing ideas and co-constructing a story

Results

The results reveal that the differences of their interactional principles originate in the way of situating and relating self with the other in the place or *ba* of interaction.



Starting point

2004 Data elicitation

< Data >

✧ The task

✧ Subjects

- 12 student-student Japanese pairs
- 11 student-student American pairs



Fig. 1. Mister O Corpus picture cards





< First step (1) 2004 >

“How Japanese and American pairs co-construct stories: An overview of two different types of collaboration” 2005.3

➤ Linguistic characteristics

a) turn-taking

b) adjacency pairs

question-answer, request-acceptance/refusal

c) repetition



➤ Japanese interaction

- frequent use of final particles and tag questions

- repetitions and overlaps

➡ to induce partner's reaction, to confirm togetherness

➤ American interaction

- frequent use of 'make sense' 'logical' 'you're right'

➡ focus on the propositional contents

< First step (2) 2004 >

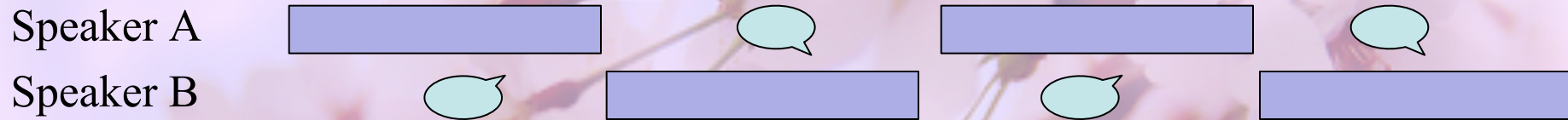
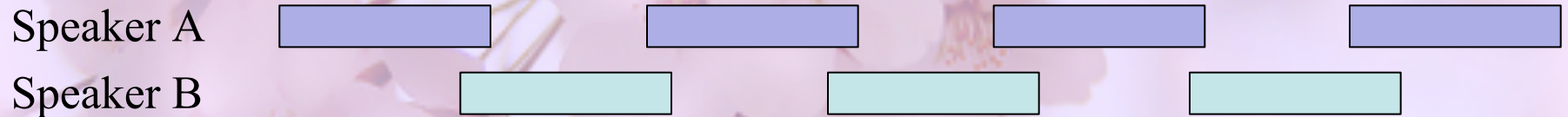


Fig. 2 The interactional pattern of the American pairs



*Overlapping of the lines indicates a repetition of words or phrases
or co-construction of propositions
but not “so-called” an overlapping of turns.

Fig. 3 The interactional pattern of the Japanese pairs

< First step (3) 2004 >

Conclusion

- American interaction → independent collaboration
 - less frequency of turn-taking,
 - construct ideas independently,
 - the pattern of confirmation is self-assertion
 - utterances are connected with propositional content / order of the story
 - Japanese interaction → cooperative collaboration
 - frequent turn-taking exchange
 - utterances show a concern with interactional aspects
- ➡ The languages are used to accomplish these patterns.

Second step (1)

Thai 2007, CIL18 2008, JCLA 2008~

General characteristics

Table 1: General characteristics of the data

	Americans	Japanese
No. of Pairs	11	12
Average Time (min.)	7:29 (max. 14:28, min. 3:51)	7:03 (max. 11:34, min. 4:35)
Average No. of Turns	73	90
Turn Duration (sec.)	6.3	4.9

Methodology

Linguistic behavior to establish mutual consent to make a story

1. Proposing ideas and opinions

- (1) Declarative statements
- (2) Declarative statements with mitigating expressions
- (3) Declarative questions
- (4) Question forms

2. Co-constructing the story

- (1) Mono-clausal co-construction
- (2) Multi-clausal co-construction
- (3) Repetition
- (4) Overlapping repetition

1. Proposing ideas and opinions

(1) Declarative statements

(E) R: See, but they do the same thing, he goes on his head. [E18: 37]

(J) R: *a, jaa, kore, kore-ga sagashite-ta-N-da*

“a, then, this, this was looking for it.” [J16: 50]

(2) Declarative statements with mitigating expressions

(E) ‘I think ...’ ‘maybe’ ‘something like that’ ‘look like...’ ‘It seems ...’

e.g.) L: @@@ Wait, **I think** uh... oh yeah, this one's before this one then. [E18: 35]

(J) ‘*mitai* (look like ..., appear, seem, something like that)’

‘*moshikashite* (perhaps)’ *kamoshirenai* (maybe, might),

‘*ka-naa* (I wonder ...)’ ‘... *kedo* (... , though)’ etc.

e.g.) R: *tobe-ta mitai* “**it seems** that he could jump over (the cliff).”

1. Proposing ideas and opinions

(3) Declarative questions

(E) R: And which one of these had a little ... this one? ... **he falls and it killed him?** [E06: 20]

(J) L: *de* –, ***sasou?*** “then, (he) invites (him)?” [J16: 21]

(4) Question forms

(E) negative questions, tag questions, ‘statement + right?’

e.g.) R: oh, **how about if we take this one out?** ...cuz here he squishes that one, but this time he was the guy on the bottom, so this time... [E06: 202]

(J) negative questions, ‘statement + *desho?*’ ‘statement + *ne?*’

e.g.) L: *damedat-ta-kara, kore, a, modot-te deau-N-desu-ka?*

“it was not successful so, ah, this went back and met (him)?”

[J16: 77]
13

2. Co-constructing the story

(1) Mono-clausal co-construction

(E) R: Um... where does -- okay, where does this -- oh, okay, the little guy goes, so **he goes back to get ...**

L: **Big guy.**

[E20: 065-066]

(J) L: *ookii-no-de yat-tara jibun-ga*

“(he) tried with a big one and **he ...**”

R: *tobe-ta, mitaina, e*

“**could jump**”

[J16 03-05]

2. Co-constructing the story

(2) Multi-clausal co-construction – English

(E) [E22 ll. 44-52]

L: Oh, and then he accidenta[lly goes –oh, and then he jumps, and then [he's ...

R: [ly [he
squishes the little white [guy.

L: [**Guy, and then he goes overboard...**

L: [**And he's ...**

R: [**He .. her .. he bounces,** [cuz look, doesn't it look like **he's bouncing over?=**

L: [yeah
=(o)ver him.

L: **And then he's the only one that's able to go=**

R: **=And he still can't get over**

2. Co-constructing the story

(2) Multi-clausal co-construction - Japanese

(J) [J16: 67-71]

L: *arui-*[*te-ta*
'(it) was walking'

R: [*te-tara*, *watare -nai*, [*modot-te*, *mitsukeru*
'was (walk)ing, can't go across, returns, finds'

L: [*modot-te*, *mitsuke-te*, *sasot-*[*te*
'returns, finds, invites and'

R: [*un*,
nok-[*ke-tara*
'yeah, put him/her on, then...'

L: [*nok-ke-te*, *tsubureru*
'put him/her on, is smashed'

2. Co-constructing the story

(3) Repetition

(E) R: **Brings him over** [here?]

L: [Yeah, **brings him over** ... and then ...

[E16: 60-61]

(J) L: *at-te* ...

“(he) met (him)...”

R: (0.2) *atto, kore at-te* ...

“a, this met (him)...”

L: *de, sasou?*

“then, (he) asks (him to jump)?”

R: *sasot-te* ...

“(he) asks (him to jump)...”

2. Co-constructing the story

(4) Overlapping repetition – Japanese

(J) L: *arui-* [*te-ta*
'(it) was walking']

R: [*te-tara*, *watare -nai*, [*modot-te*, *mitsukeru*
'was (walk)ing, can't go across, returns, finds']

L: [*modot-te*, *mitsuke-te*,
sasot-[te
'returns, finds, asks and'

R: [*un*, *nok-[ke-tara*
'yeah, put him/her on, then...']

L: [*nok-ke-te*, *tsubureru*
'put him/her on, is smashed']

[J16: 67-71]

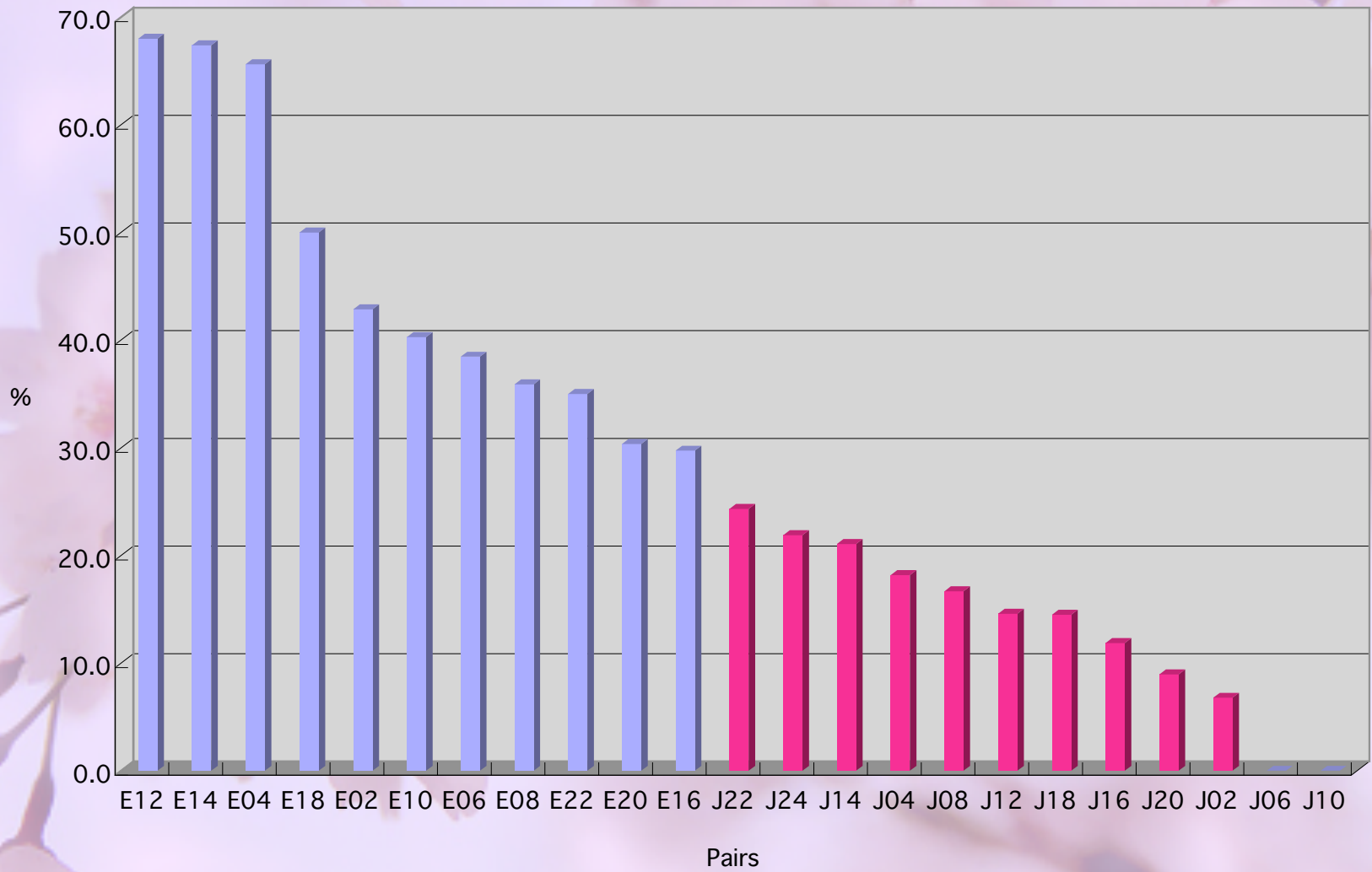


Fig. 4. Declarative statement

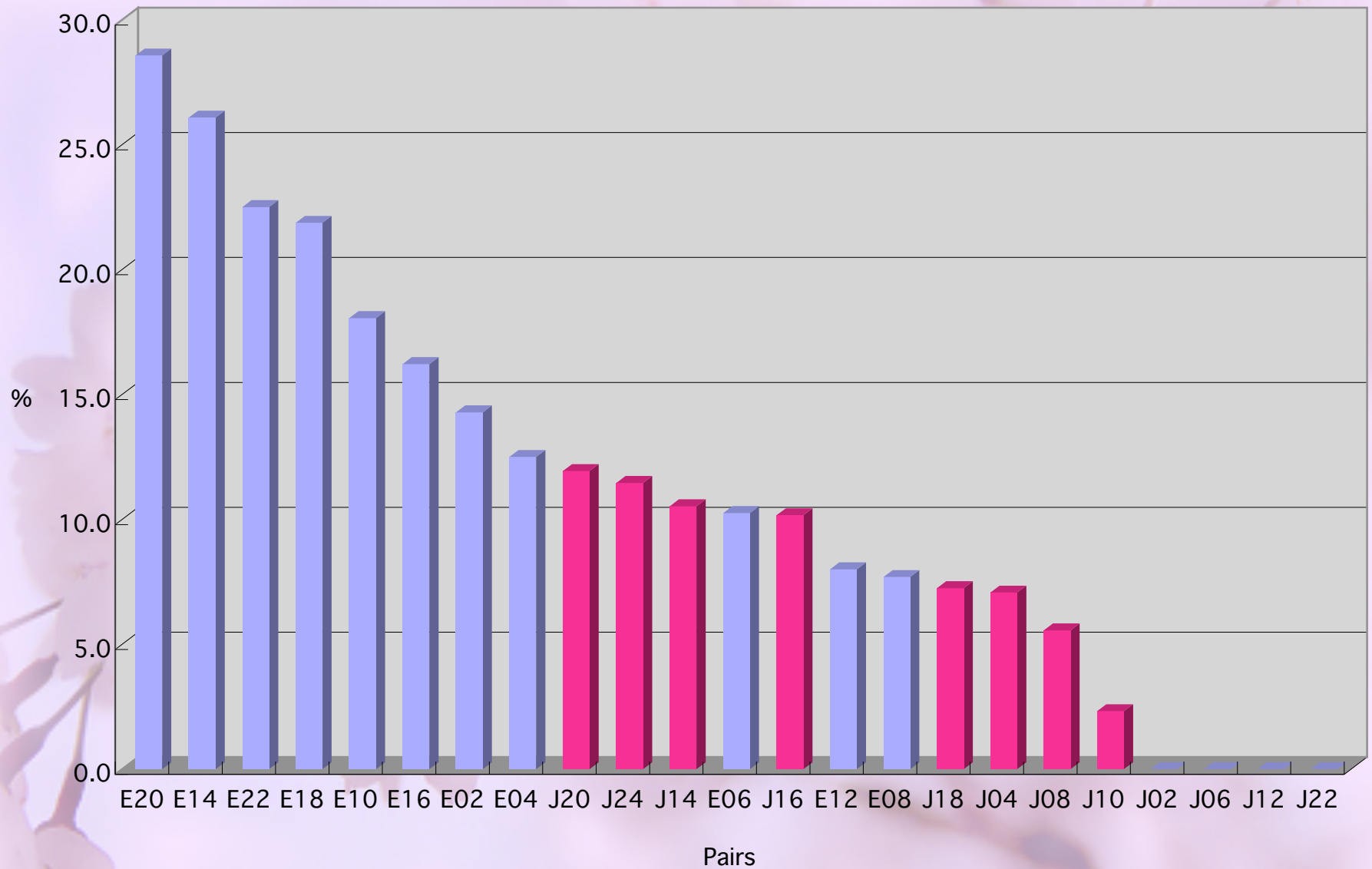


Fig. 5 Declarative statement with mitigating expressions₂₀

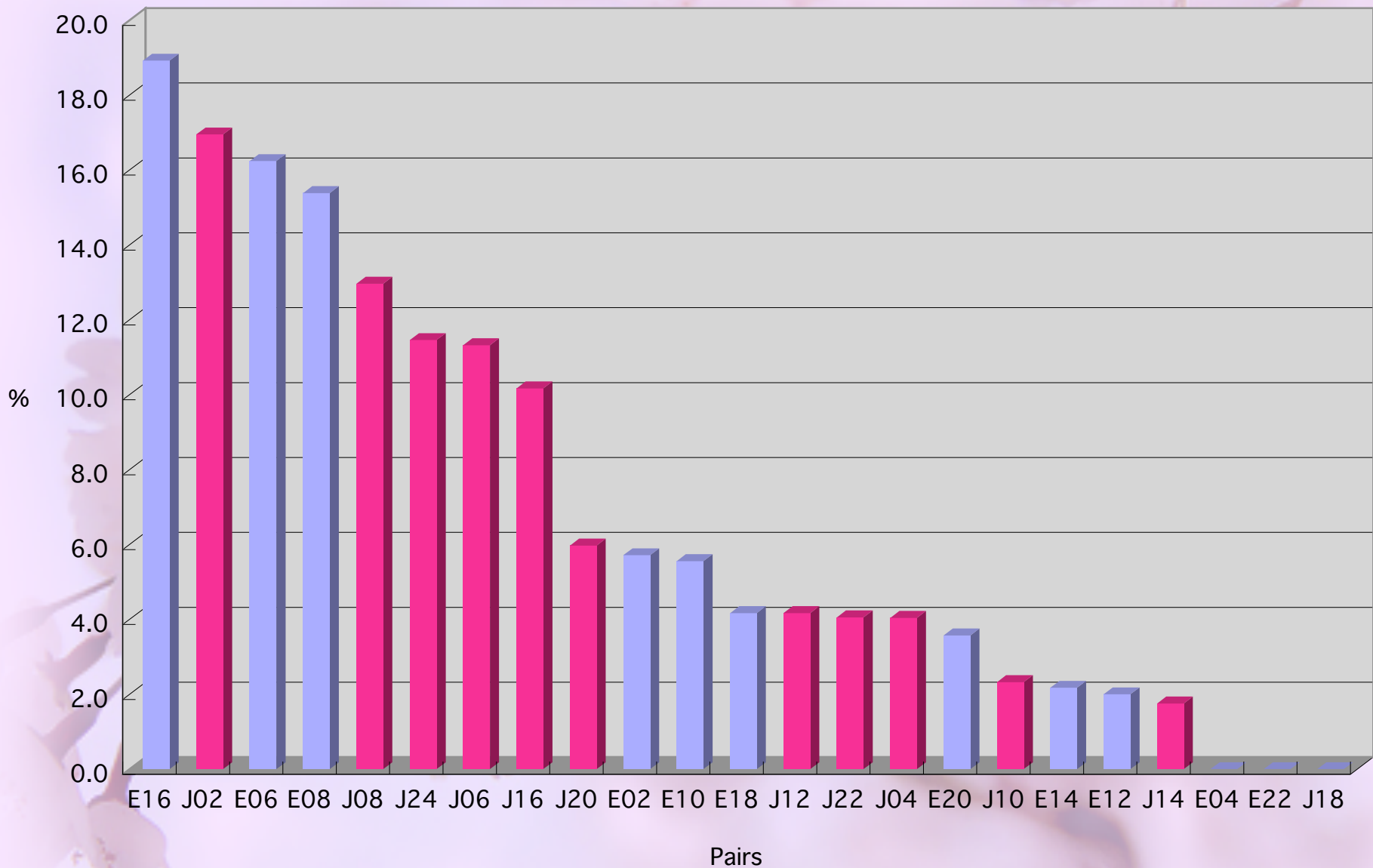


Fig. 6 Declarative questions

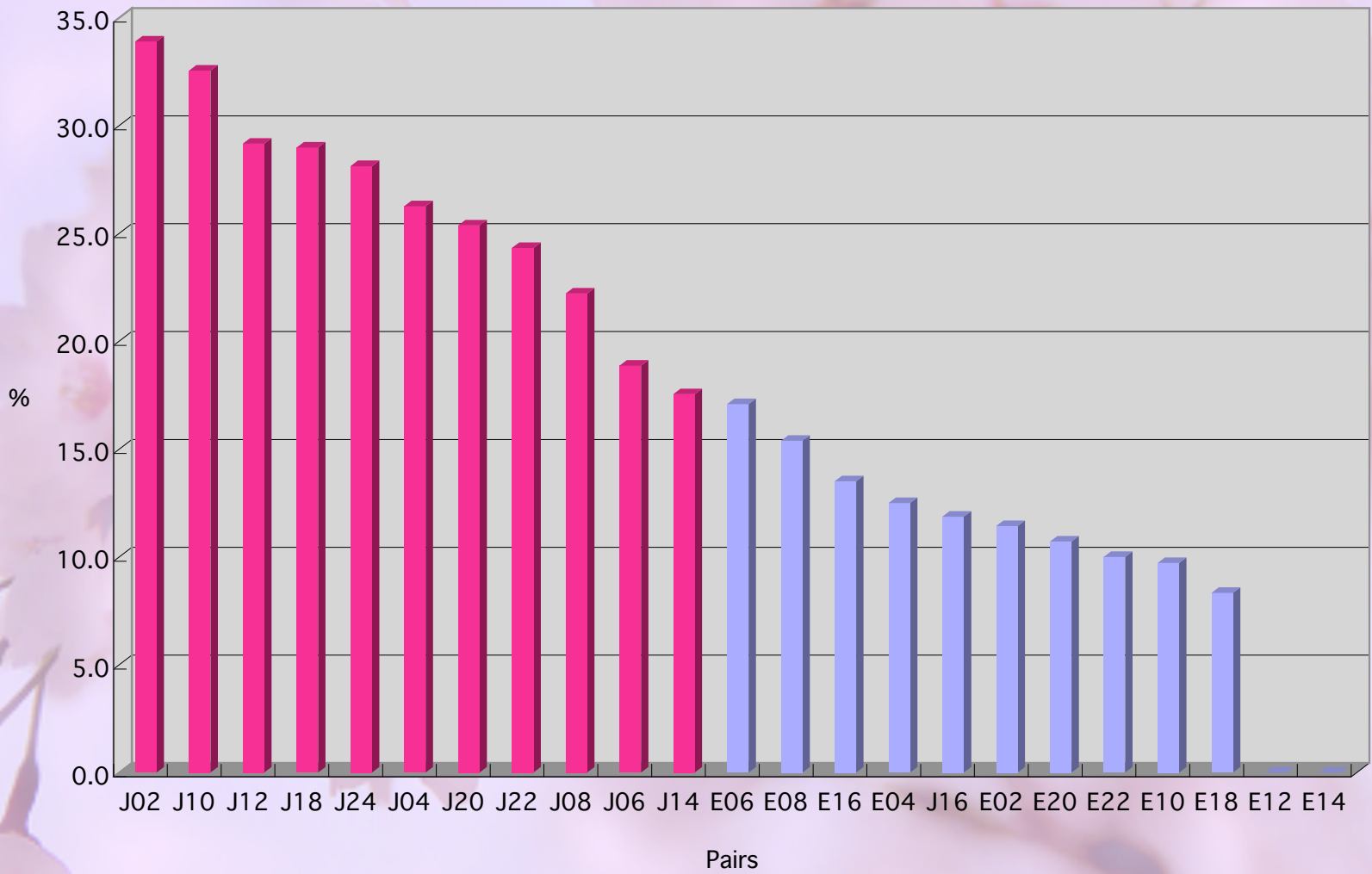


Fig 7. Question forms

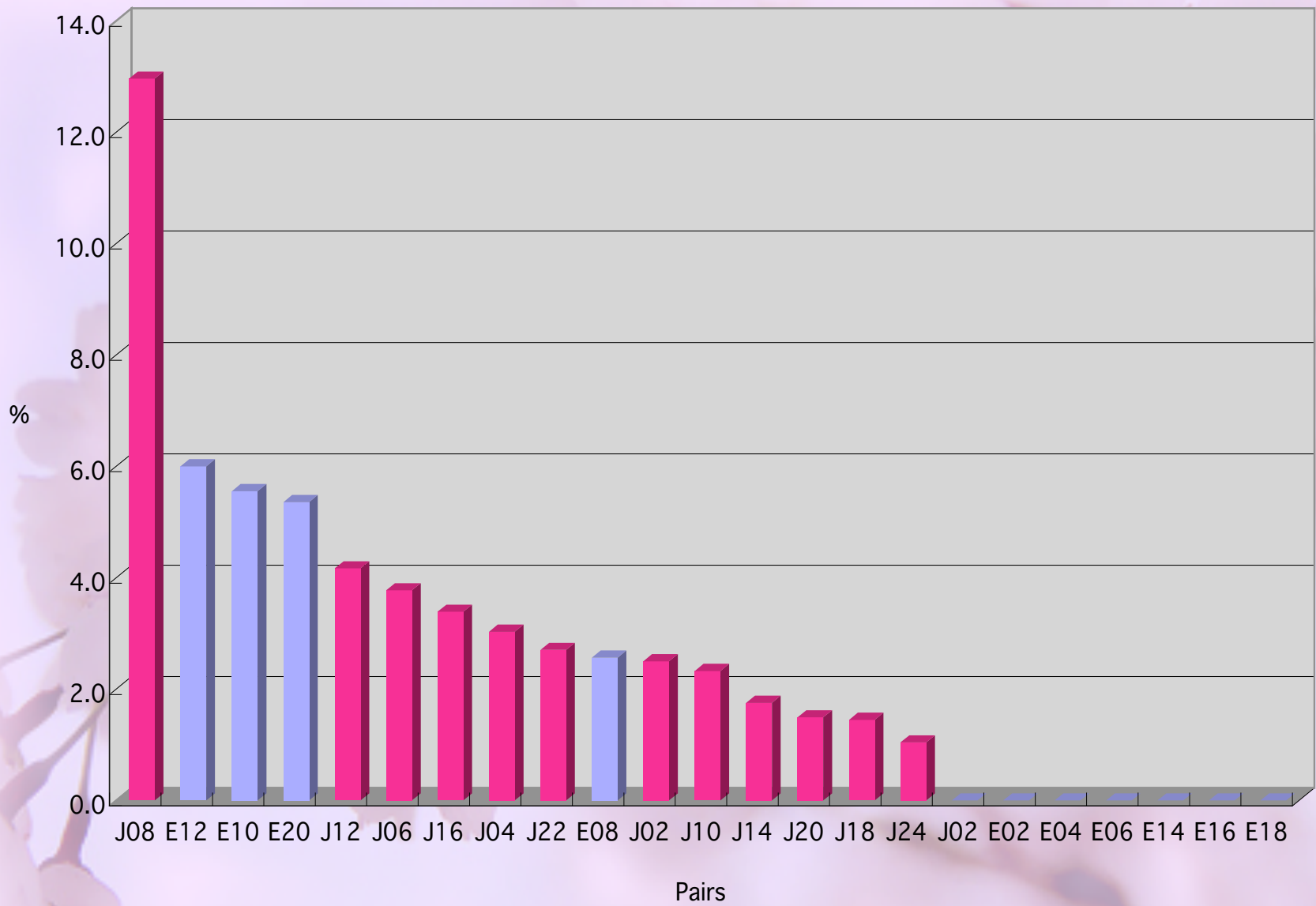


Fig. 8 Mono-clausal co-construction

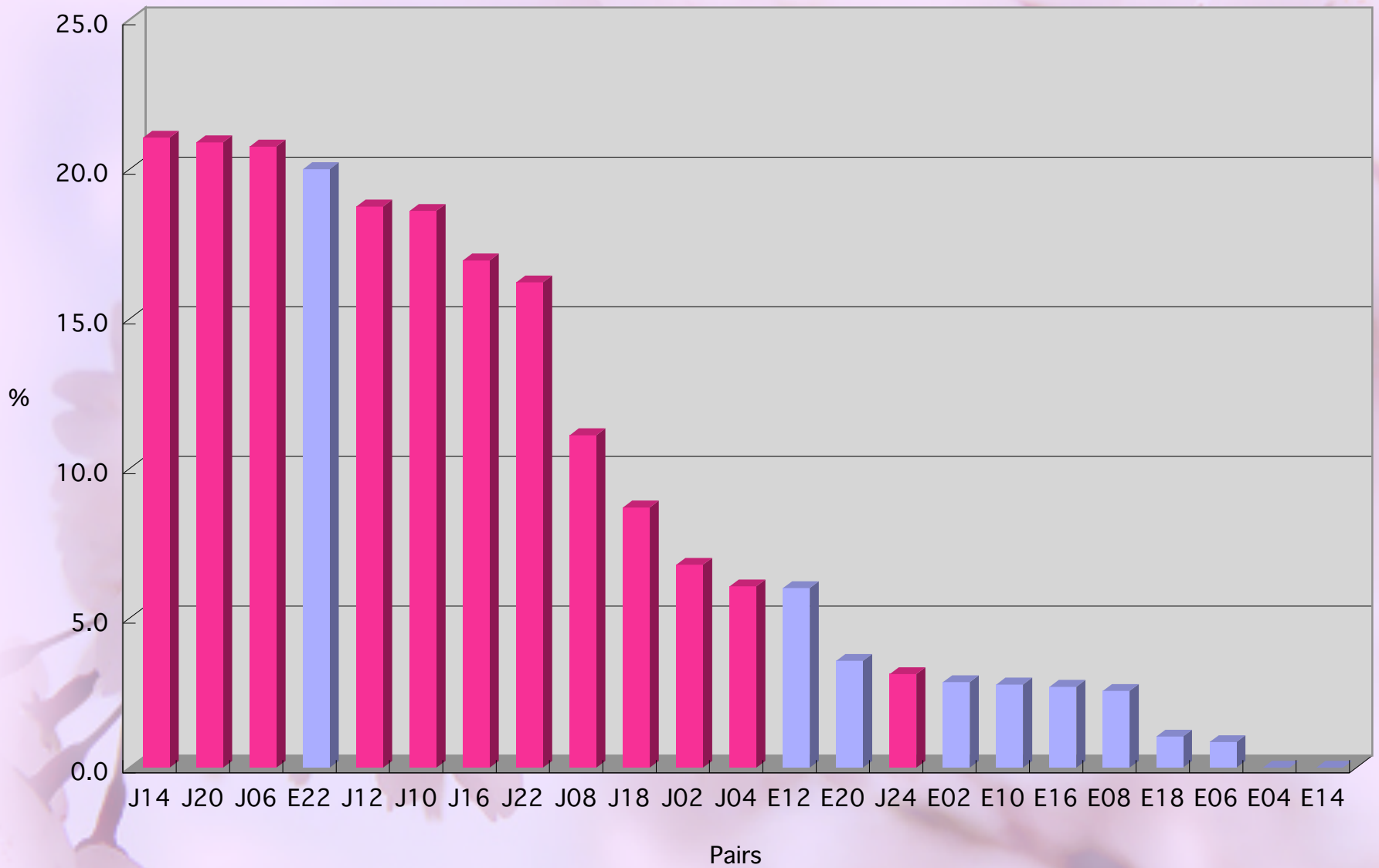


Fig. 9 Multi-clausal co-construction

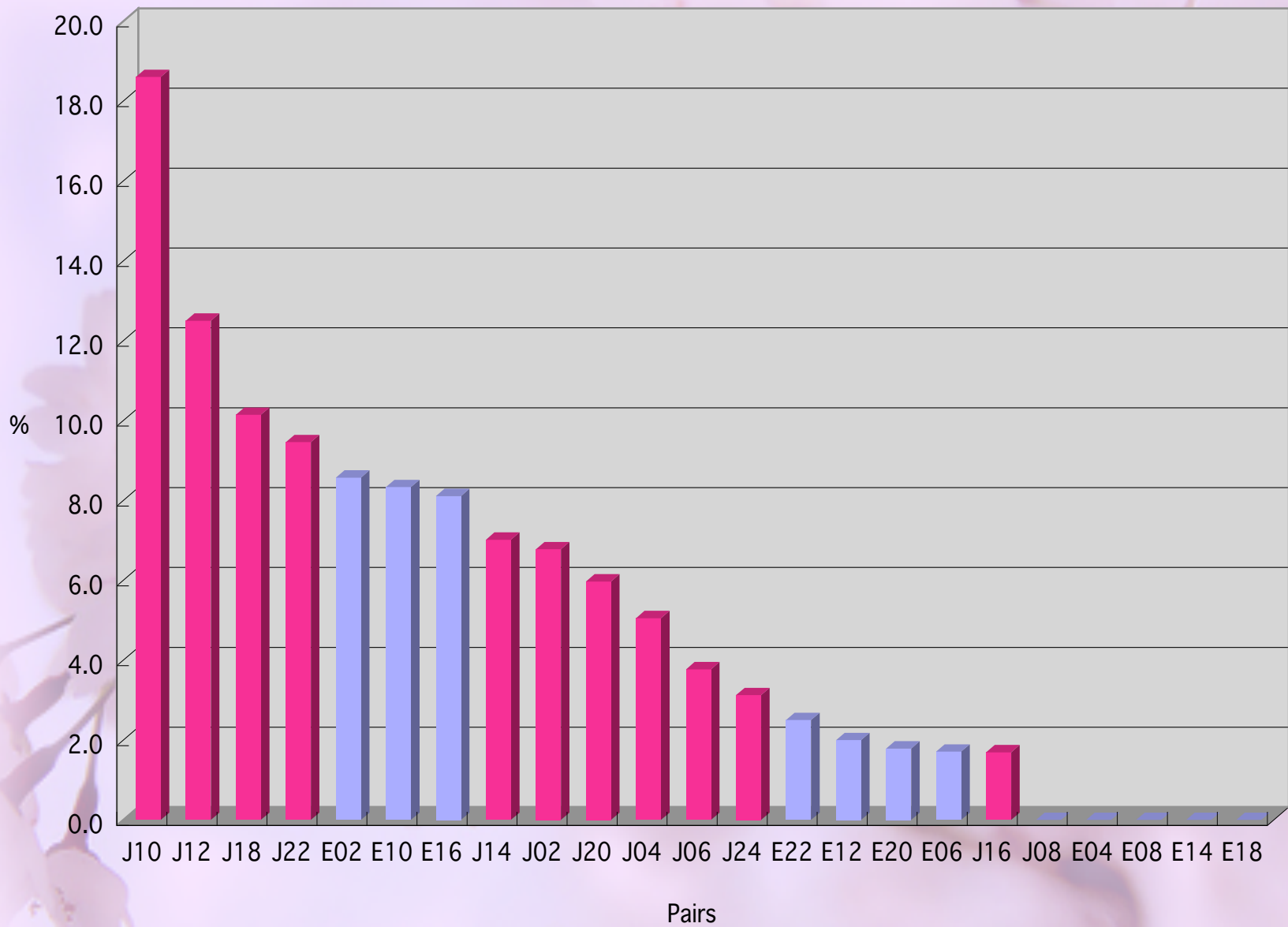


Fig. 10 Repetition

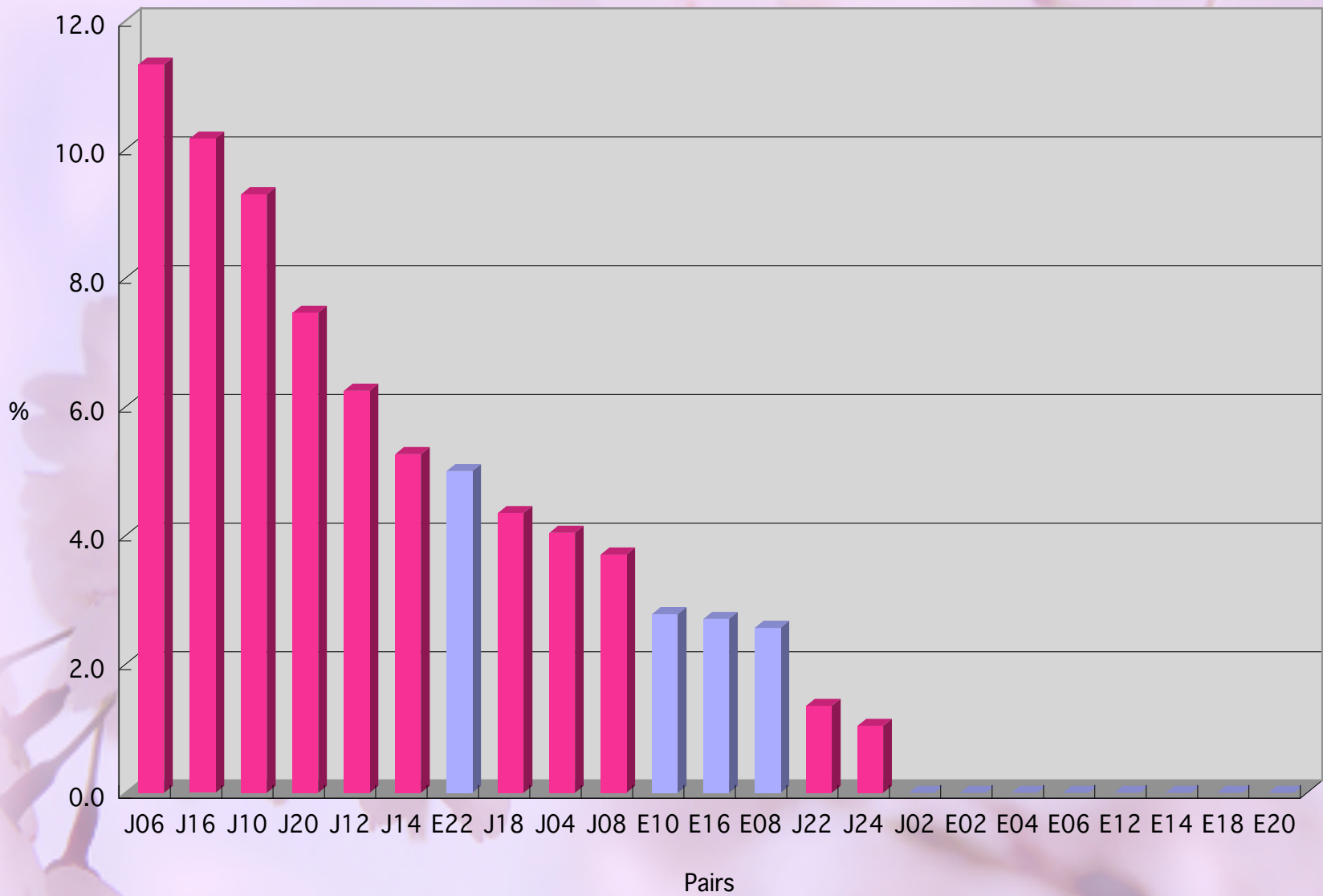


Fig. 11 Overlapping repetition

Table 3. Number of occurrences of each linguistic devices (E)

		E02	E04	E06	E08	E10	E12	E14	E16	E18	E20	E22
PROPOSING IDEAS	Declarative statements	14	17	44	13	35	36	31	10	39	17	20
	Declarative statements with mitigating expressions	7	9	13	7	13	6	12	8	33	19	12
	Declarative questions	2	0	19	6	4	1	1	7	4	2	1
	Question forms	4	4	20	6	7	0	0	5	8	6	4
CO-CONSTRUCTION	Mono clausal co-construction	0	0	0	1	4	3	0	0	0	3	2
	Multi clausal co-construction	1	0	1	1	2	3	0	1	1	2	6
	Repetition	3	0	2	0	6	1	0	3	0	1	1
	Overlapping repetition	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	2
	Total	31	30	99	35	73	50	44	35	85	50	48

Table 4. Number of occurrences of linguistic devices (J)

		J02	J04	J06	J08	J10	J12	J14	J16	J18	J20	J22	J24
PROPOSING IDEAS	Declarative statements	9	18	15	18	10	15	28	13	19	19	26	23
	Declarative statements with mitigating expressions	0	7	0	3	1	0	6	6	5	8	0	11
	Declarative questions	10	4	6	7	1	2	1	6	0	4	3	11
	Question forms	20	26	10	13	14	15	10	7	20	17	18	27
CO-CONSTRUCTION	Mono clausal co-construction	0	3	2	7	1	1	1	2	0	1	2	1
	Multi clausal co-construction	2	2	5	5	0	5	6	7	4	9	5	1
	Repetition	4	5	2	1	8	6	5	1	7	4	7	3
	Overlapping repetition	0	4	6	2	4	3	3	6	4	5	1	1
	Total	45	69	46	56	39	47	60	48	59	67	62	78

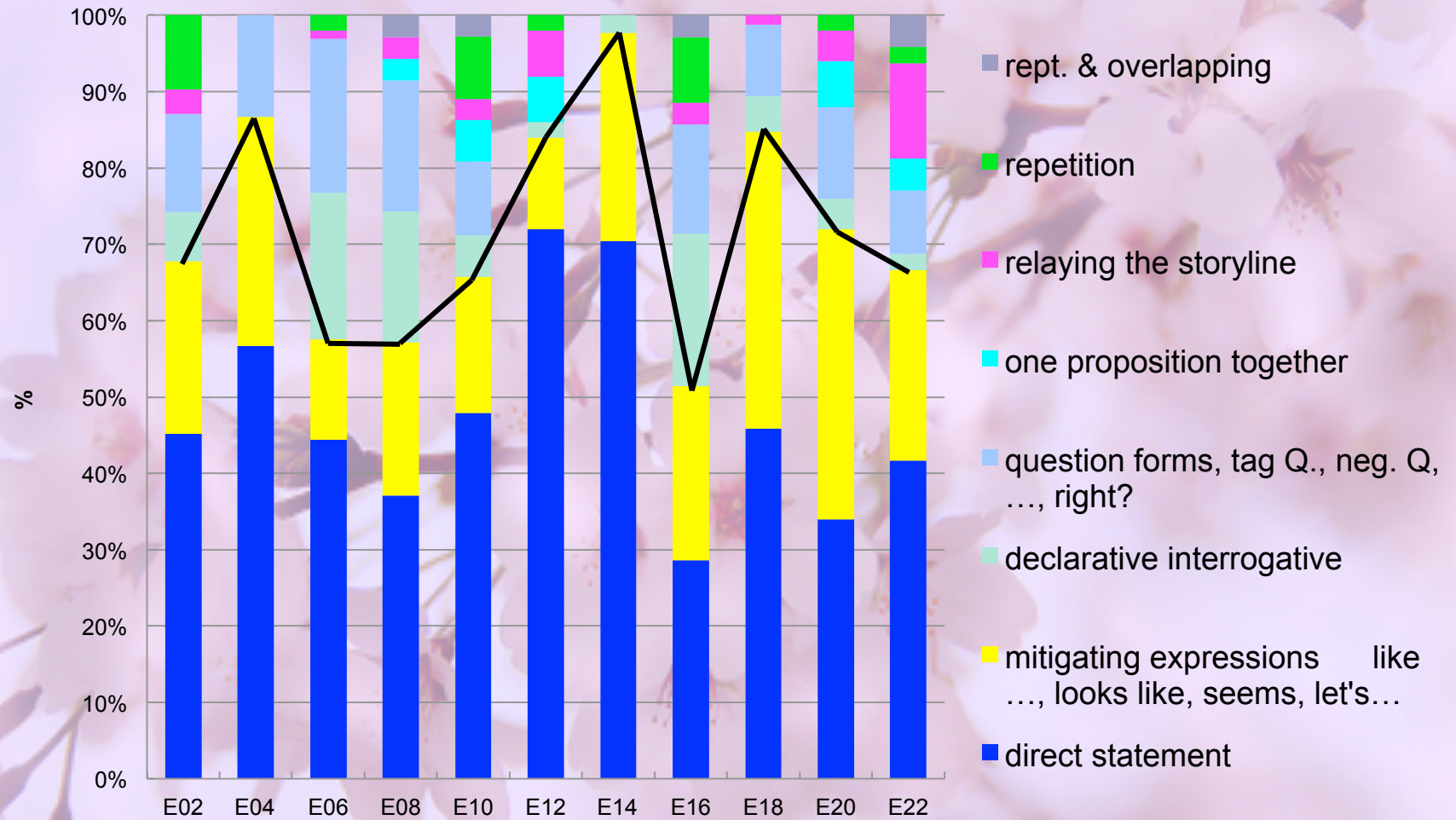


Fig. 12. Linguistic devices by American pairs

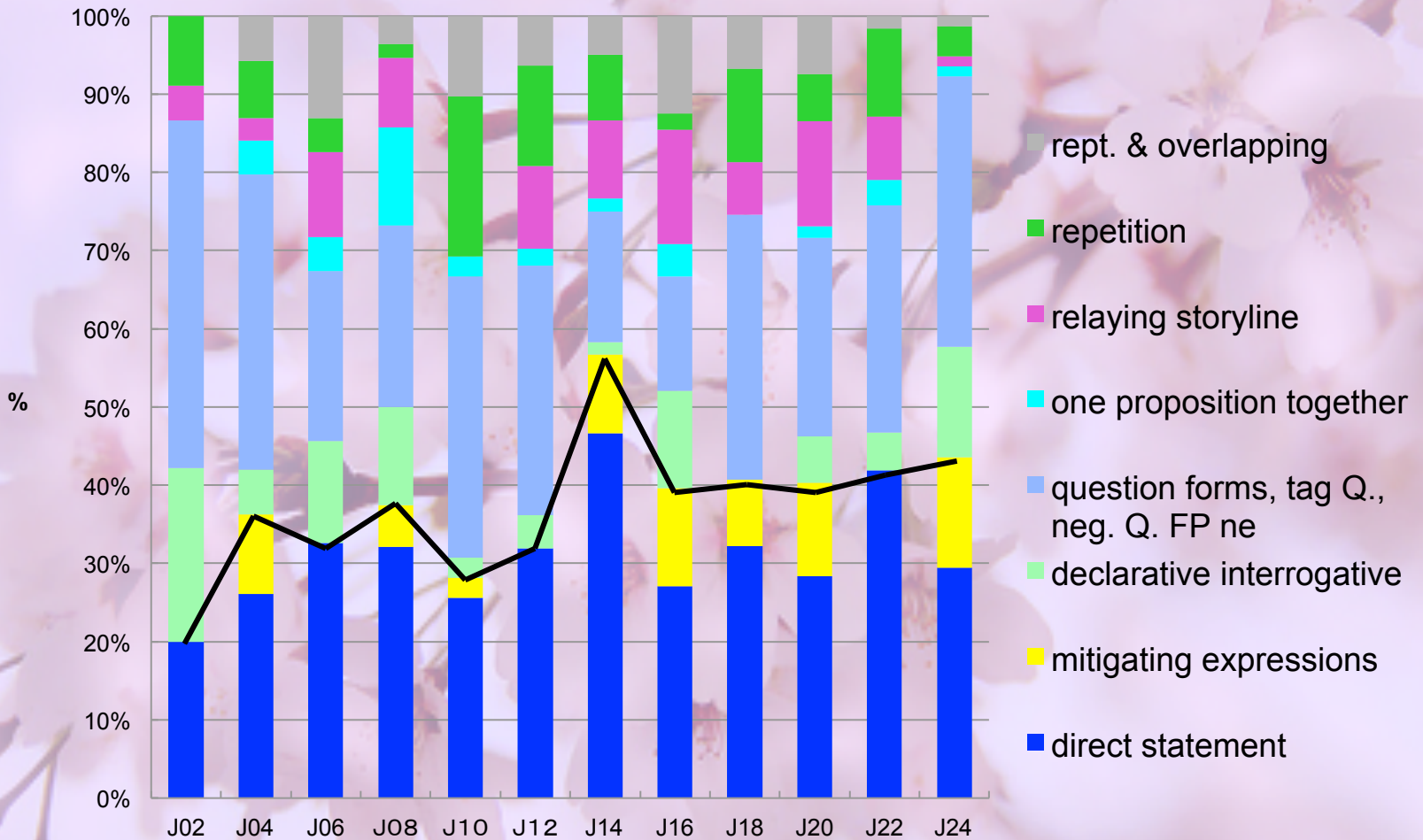


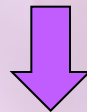
Fig. 13. Linguistic devices by Japanese pairs

Final step

Situating the self and the other in the field/ba of interaction

American interaction

- the participants keep their independent selves in separate fields.
- their selves are independent, self-contained and autonomous entities.
- their interaction consists of the exchange and negotiation of ideas, thoughts, and opinions.

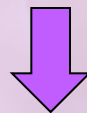


a one-to-one, independent-minded interaction

Situating the self and the other in the field/*ba* of interaction

Japanese interaction

- They reorient themselves at every moment by seeking the partner's response.
- They resonate each other by entraining themselves
- the domain of '*ba*' merges into one and creates a stage on which each self interacts.



show the importance of '*ba*'-dependency

a '*ba*'-sharing/merging interaction

Conclusion (1)

Culturally determined principles for interaction to establish mutual consent by language practices

American style

The American type of interaction exemplifies the independent view of self-construal of the American culture which involves a conception of self as an autonomous and independent person.

Japanese style

The Japanese participants situate themselves as if they are entraining themselves, and they resonate each other. The boundary of oneself disappears and merges as if they had one mind.

Conclusion (2)

This study clarifies that the principles of interaction in Japanese and American English are different and that the difference originates from culturally rooted ways of situating and relating oneself with the other in the place of interaction.

The concept of non-separation of self and the other can explicate these culturally rooted ways of situating and relating oneself with the other in the place/*ba* of interaction.

Preferred structures of interaction

➤ Japanese interaction

- Asking questions
- Proposing ideas with question forms
- Co-construction of one proposition
- Relaying the storyline
- Repetition
- Overlapping repetition

➤ American interaction

- Proposing ideas with declarative statements
- Proposing ideas with modality expressions