



TGIF: The NTU Linguist Chatroom

**Join us! Friday, 9 February 2018, 3.30pm
@ HSS Conference Room (HSS-05-57)**

Humour in Japanese business communication

Japanese business personnel has a reputation for a serious demeanor and professional behavior. As such, humour is not typically associated with Japanese culture, let alone Japanese business meetings. However, this study, which collected video-recorded data from Japanese business meetings, has found that humour plays a central role in Japanese business communication. This finding is not only counter-intuitive, but also contradicts previous research findings, which emphasize that humour is not only almost absent in Japanese business communication, but that - if it occurs, it is employed in a top-down manner only. This study, however, found that humour is not only pervasive, but is mostly employed by junior employees, not only for tension-diffusion purposes (as has been previously suggested), but also for entertainment and enjoyment purposes. Beyond assessing both form and function of the use of humour in Japanese business contexts, this paper also explores the social circumstances that influence the societal changes that lead to this alteration in communicative behaviours in general and the use of humour in business contexts in particular.

Speaker



Stefanie Stadler is an Assistant Professor at the Division of Linguistics and Multilingual Studies at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. With ample experience of living, studying and working in multiple cultural contexts across Europe, Oceania and Asia, she has a long-standing personal and professional interest in the topic of intercultural communication. Her research interests span a range of topics related to intercultural communication, including intercultural effectiveness in international interactions, business communication, cross-cultural conflict, discourse analysis, intercultural and interlanguage pragmatics, multimodality, politeness and the application of such research insights into intercultural competence development initiatives.

