

Appendix B: The instructions presented to the participants of the questionnaire-based surveys

(1) Japanese version (translated from the original in Japanese)

The survey asks you about combinations of an adjective and one of the four degree expressions: (i) *totemo* ['very'], (ii) *kanzen ni* ['completely'], (iii) *wazuka ni* ['slightly'], and (iv) *motto* ['more, to a greater extent'].

While some combinations sound natural, as in:

“(A san wa) **totemo kirei da** [(A is) very beautiful]”

“(A san wa B san yori) **motto kirei da** [(A is) more beautiful (than B)]”,

some others should sound odd, as in:

“(A san wa) **totemo dokushin da** [(A is) very unmarried]”

“(A san wa B san yori) **motto dokushin da** [(A is) more unmarried (than B)]”.

Your task is to assess how natural or odd each of the provided **60 combinations** sounds on the provided 5-point scale.

Here are some additional notes:

(1) Some words for states and properties have more than one sense. (For example, “*amai* [sweet]” may mean either a kind of taste, or ‘not strict enough’.) Your judgment should be based on the first sense that comes to your mind.

(2) Some words for states and properties that appear in the questionnaire may sound awkward because they are very technical or archaic. In such cases too, your judgment should be specifically based on the compatibility of the word and the degree expression.

(3) In case the phrase contains a word you do not understand, choose the option: “Not Interpretable”.

(2) English version

The survey asks you about combinations of an adjective and one of the four degree expressions: (i) “very”, (ii) “completely”, (iii) “slightly”, and (iv) “more” (as in “more harmful”) or suffix “-er” (as in “higher”).

While some combinations sound natural, as in:

“(A is) **very beautiful.**”

“(A is) **more beautiful** (than B).”,
some others should sound odd, as in:
“(A is) **very unmarried.**”
“(A is) **more unmarried** (than B).”.

Your task is to assess how natural or odd each of the provided **80 combinations** sounds on the provided 5-point scale. The survey is expected to take about 10–15 minutes to complete.

It is okay to come back to this page to check the instructions, or to other pages to revise your answers.

Here are some additional notes:

- (1) Some adjectives have more than one sense. For example, “sweet” could mean either “having a sugar-like taste” or “pleasant, agreeable”. Your evaluation should be based on the first sense that comes to your mind.
- (2) When two comparative forms of a single adjective are shown side by side, as in “likelier/more likely”, your evaluation should be based on whichever form you stylistically prefer.
- (3) Some words can be used either as adjectives or nouns. For example, “right” can mean either “correct” (adjective) or “entitlement” (noun). When evaluating phrases like “more right”, please try to focus on the interpretation where the second word is used as an adjective.
- (4) If you think the word/phrase cannot be interpreted as involving an adjective, choose the option: “Not an Adjective”.