

ABSTRACT

People may use language to control others' actions or minds. In the novel '*Grass for His Pillow*', the character of Shirakawa Kaede had been given much *power* in the society. Therefore, the topic about how Kaede used her speech to implement her *power* is brought up in this thesis. The thesis is proposed to find how different characters and contexts affect Kaede in choosing the *request* structure and how Kaede may control her listeners' acts or minds through her choices of words or forms of *request*. In writing the thesis, library research is chosen as the method for getting data. It can be concluded that *relationship, status, and formality* have important roles in influencing Kaede in choosing the structure of *requests*. It also shows that different *request* structures have different *power* depending on the three *social dimensions*. These conclusion suggests that the *requests* employed by the character in the novel have the same bases as the *requests* employed in real daily conversations.

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