

better than “Sorry”—Tatsuya Oshii

Hello, my name is Tatsuya Oshii. I am a third-year university student, studying mainly English! Today, I would like to make a speech about "thank you" and "sorry".

“I am sorry for taking time for me!”

In Japan, apologies are also used to express gratitude. This is to show respect for the other person by lowering your position. I do not think this is a good idea. I believe that when expressing gratitude, it is better to use words that express gratitude directly.

In everyday life in Japan, you apologize in many situations. For example, there are times when you are a few minutes late, or when you make a small mistake. It is also considered polite in Japan to apologize when you receive a small gift such as a birthday present from your family or souvenirs from your friends or when someone helps you out your trouble.

Apologizing is not a bad thing, but apologizing repeatedly can weaken the language.

I went to Australia last summer for a month for a training program. I had very few chances to hear the word "sorry" that program. But there were times when I was able to translate the message of apology into a message of gratitude to the person I was communicating it to. When a meal was served or a bus was late, the waiter or staff did not use sorry, saying something like "Thank you for waiting. For a while after I came to Australia, I used sorry every time when I made a mistake. Local students and host families told me, "There is no need to apologize. Why are you apologizing?"

This experience made me think that there is no need to lower my position.

This style should be adopted in Japan as well. Instead of apologizing, I thought it would make both the speaker and the listener happy if I turned it into words of gratitude. I encourage everyone to shift from apologize to gratitude.

At the end of this speech, I would like to end by changing the word "sorry" to "thank you. Thank you for taking time for me, and thank you for listening.