

# COMPARATION ANALYSIS OF THE MEANING OF *DAIJOUBU*, *II*, AND *KEKKOU* ADJECTIVES IN JAPANESE

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## ABSTRACT

As a language rich in vocabulary, Japanese has many words with the same meaning or synonyms, which often causes difficulties for Japanese learners. In addition, many Japanese words have different meanings but are used interchangeably, such as *daijoubu* (大丈夫), *ii* (良い), and *kekkou* (結構). When viewed from their basic meanings alone, the words *daijoubu*, *ii*, and *kekkou* have clearly different meanings. However, the three words undergo changes and shifts in meaning so that they have the potential for substitution in some sentence contexts. The purpose of this study is to find out the meaning of *daijoubu*, *ii*, and *kekkou* in Japanese speech. The method used in this research is data obtained from Corpus Spontaneous Japanese (CSJ). The results show that *daijoubu*, *ii*, and *kekkou* both have equivalent meanings meaning 'enough' and 'good', and have the potential for substitution. Then almost all meanings between *daijoubu* and *ii* can replace each other. *Daijoubu* adjective, which means 'strong,' *ii* adjective, which means 'condition that suits the situation and time', and 'good personality' have no substitution potential.

**Keywords:** *Daijoubu*, *ii*, *Kekkou*, Adjective, Synonym, and Meaning

## INTRODUCTION

Studying meaning essentially also means studying how every language user can understand each other. This is corroborated by the opinion of Ogden and Richard (in Pateda, 2001), stating that by understanding the meaning of words, it will be able to read and interpret symbols based on the language system. Therefore, semantics, as one of the sciences in language study has an important role because, basically language is used for communication none other than to convey a speaker's meaning to the interlocutor. Okada (2010, p.55) states that semantics is a science that studies the meaning of language that focuses on language expressions and objects by ignoring language users. Sutedi (2011, pp.127-129) explains that the objects of semantic study include word meaning (*go no imi*), meaning relations between one word and another (*go no imi kankei*), phrase meaning (*ku no imi*), and sentence meaning (*bun no imi*).

Talking about the meaning of words (*go no imi*), in Japanese, there are many words with similar meanings or synonyms, so it is difficult to be matched into Indonesian one by one Sutedi (2011, pg. 128). The difficulty felt by Japanese learners when encountering synonymous words is distinguishing the meaning and not knowing the use of the word. One of the synonymous words in Japanese is the adjective *daijoubu*, *ii*, and *kekkou*. In Koujien's dictionary (2008), *daijoubu* (大丈夫) has the basic meaning of 'safe' or 'fine', followed by the adjective *ii* (良い), which means 'good,' and *kekkou* (結構) which means 'enough.' Although they have different basic meanings, in some contexts and situations, they can be used interchangeably. For example, see the conversational sentences below.

1. A 「コーヒーのおかわりはいかがですか。」  
*Kohii no okawari wa ikagadesuka.*

Would you like another cup of coffee?

B 「大丈夫です/いいです/結構です。」

*Daijoubu desu/ii desu/Kekkou desu.*

All right/Okay/well enough.

Kitahara (2005, pg. 28)

Despite the ambiguity of the words *daijoubu*, *ii* or *kekko* + copula *desu*, which can function as a form of rejection and an affirmative form (Endo, 2019 and Dewi & Wedayanti, 2019), in conversation number (1) the expression used by B in response to the offer made by A is acceptable and can be substituted for each other. For foreign learners of Japanese, even for native speakers, these three words have their own difficulties, especially in distinguishing their meaning in a conversation.

In addition to the above reasons, the words *daijoubu*, *ii*, and *kekko* appear a lot in Japanese learning materials at the elementary level (*shokyuu*) and intermediate level (*chuukyuu*). As evidenced by Endo's (2020) study of *daijoubu* words in Japanese teaching materials, 112 *daijoubu* words were found in conversation examples in 35 volumes of elementary and intermediate Japanese textbooks. Then, separately, the researcher found 53 *ii* words in conversation examples in 3 volumes of Japanese textbooks and *kekko* words that have appeared in elementary-level teaching materials (*shokyuu*). Therefore, it is important to research synonyms, especially the three words above, not only to find out in detail about the similarities and differences of words but also to prevent errors in the interpretation of meaning, which in turn encourages Japanese learners not to hesitate to use these words, especially in terms of communication.

Research on the meaning of the adjectives *daijoubu*, *ii*, and *kekko* has been conducted separately, as Miki (2002), with the phonology study exploring the meaning of the expression *ii desuyo* spoken by native Japanese speakers. And found that when *ii desuyo* is uttered with a rising intonation at the end of the sentence, it means to allow or give permission. On the other hand, if the intonation at the end of the sentence goes down, the expression means refusal. Although the study of the meaning of *ii* has been done in terms of phonology, a specific study with a semantic approach still needs to be done. Then, focusing on the meaning and usage of *kekko* in classical literature and corpus, Zhang (2014) identified the shift of the Japanese word *kekko*, which is Kango, different from the original Chinese meaning. The study found that there was a change in the meaning of *kekko* in addition to its use as an adverb of degree; in Japanese, it became an adjective and a noun. The use as a noun continued until the early modern period, and there was an expansion of new meanings, *keikaku* (*plan*) and *ishi* (*intentions*), which were not found when in Chinese literature. Then, Safira (2018), through synonymy research, describes the relationship between *daijoubu* and *heiki* in the form of differences in meaning in the two words, the use of the two words in daily conversation, and the potential or not potential for substitution in Japanese sentence dialogue using meaning component analysis, substitution method, and semi-structured interviews with native Japanese speaker informants. Based on the research, the two words have a synonymy relationship in which both express not to worry about problems or something (bad) that happens to the interlocutor. So that in certain contexts, the words *heiki* and *daijoubu* have a meaning equivalent which means 'it's okay' and has the potential for substitution.

Based on the results of the above research review, the study of the meaning of the three words *daijoubu*, *ii*, and *kekko* has never been conducted. Furthermore, the majority of

studies (Miki, 2002; Yamashita, 2013; Endo, 2019, 2020; Nishiuchi, 2020) used questionnaires as their data collection method, while the author collected data from the corpus. Therefore, this study aims to explain the meanings of the three words *daijoubu* (大丈夫), *ii* (いい), and *kekko* (結構) and find out whether or not they are substituted in various contexts of Japanese sentences.

## THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

### Word Meanings in the Dictionary

When studying the meaning of a word, the dictionary is the first reference. In this study, three dictionaries were used, namely *Koujien Dai Roku Ban* (広辞苑第六版), *Meikyou Kokugo Jiten Dai Ni Han* (明鏡国語辞典第二版) and *Weblio Ruigigo Jiten* (Weblio 類義語辞典). The meaning of the adjectives *daijoubu*, *ii*, and *kekko* found in the three dictionaries is explained in the following Table 1.

**Table 1.** Meaning of *Daijoubu*, *ii*, and *Kekko* Adjectives in Dictionaries

REFERENCES	<i>DAIJOUBU</i>	<i>II</i>	<i>KEKKOU</i>
<i>Koujien</i> (2008)	1. Handsome man; 2. Firm, strong and harmless condition; 3. Definite and undoubted situation	1. Good; 2. Proximity of men and women; 3. Good changing conditions; 4. To a degree large enough that it is not feasible to be such.	1. Perfect, good; 2. A favoured person; and 3. Not wanting any more, enough.
<i>Meikyou</i> (2011)	1. The state of being strong and sturdy; 2. Save, no danger; 3. A word used to refuse someone's invitation (slang word).	1. Excellence in certain aspects; 2. Luck; 3. Favourable circumstances; 4. Good disposition; 5. Familiar; 6. Getting good results; 7. Appropriate; 8. Suitable; 9. Recovered; 10. Normally correct; 11. Do not need anymore; 12. Permission	1. Splendid, nice; 2. Satisfaction with something; 3. The state of not needing more, fine
<i>Weblio</i> (2022)	1. A condition where nothing happens; 2. A state of feeling solid; 3. condition without any problems; 4. No need to worry and be anxious; 5. A good thing without being influenced by something; 6. Something strong	1. The good nature of things; 2. Having a good heart.	1. An expression of affirmation that something is okay; 2. An expression of when you can't take it anymore.

Looking at the meaning in Table 1 explained above, it can be seen that there has been a shift or simplification of the meaning and usage of the three words. In particular, *Meikyou Kokugo Jiten* (2011) explains the meaning of the word *daijoubu*, which is used these days as the language of young people. Yamashita (2013) also explains that there are differences in the use of *daijoubu* when viewed from the meanings described in conventional dictionaries. Some of the meanings of *kekko* in *Koujien* dictionaries are rarely heard in the current era and have simplified meanings where they explain the condition of being enough with something, as

seen in *Meikyō Kokugo Jiten* (2011) and *Weblio Ruigo Jiten*. In addition, the expression *daijoubu* meaning 'it's okay' is used in sentences with a negative context, and the language user is more emotionally charged about something (Endo, 2020: 320). As in the example sentence '*kono tatemono wa daijoubu desu*' (this building is strong), it is a sentence that cannot stand alone. This means that contextually there is something behind the creation of the sentence.

## METHODS

This research uses the descriptive qualitative method to answer the research problems by classifying and describing the data analysis in detail. The instrument for this research is qualitative data, examples of *jitsurei* sentences and conversations containing the words *daijoubu*, *ii* and *kekko* obtained from the Corpus Spontaneous Japanese (CSJ) data source, which is a voice corpus made by the National Institute for Japanese Language, Information and Telecommunication Research of Tokyo Institute of Technology.

Based on the search results from the Corpus Spontaneous Japanese (CSJ) data source, it appears that the number of sentences containing the word *daijoubu* is 382 sentences, the word *ii* is 10387 sentences, and *kekko* which belongs to two-word classes adjectives as many as 78 sentences, and adverbs as many as 3383 sentences. However, in the research, adverbial *kekko* was not used as a research sample.

In the data analysis stage, after collecting sentences containing the words *daijoubu*, *ii*, and *kekko*, categorize each sentence according to the type of meaning. After knowing the meaning contained in the three adjectives, the substitution technique is used to find out whether the words can be substituted for each other or not based on the meaning they have so that conclusions can be drawn about the similarities and differences between *daijoubu*, *ii*, and *kekko* in Japanese sentences.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Referring to the theoretical framework above, the meaning of *daijoubu*, *ii*, and *kekko* adjectives in Japanese sentences sourced from Corpus Spontaneous Japanese (CSJ) are explained below. The meanings that will be explained below are classified into three *daijoubu* adjective meanings, six *ii* adjective meanings, and three *kekko* adjective meanings.

### Meaning of *Daijoubu* Adjective

The adjective *daijoubu* is classified into three meanings, and there are 1) Strong and good condition; 2) Being safe, nothing happens; and 3) No need to worry or be anxious. Below is an analysis of the meanings found in Japanese sentences.

2. たばこをやめてからは階段でも全然大丈夫になってエスカレーターを使うことがまずなくなりました。

*Tabako o yametekara wa kaidan demo **daijoubu** ni natte esukareetaa o tsukau koto ga mazu naku narimashita.*

'Since I quit smoking, I am really **strong** on the stairs and rarely use escalators anymore.'

(Female, 25-29 years)

3. これを別にブイヨンとか後鳥がらとかにも替えても全然大丈夫です  
*Kore wo betsuni buiyon toka ato torigara toka ni mo kaetemo zenzen daijoubu desu.*  
 ‘You can also replace it with bouillon or chicken bones, which is **fine**..’

(Male, 20-24 years)

4. 吐いたりしたりあのぐったりしてるんでこれで大丈夫でしょうかと聞いても息をしてるら大丈夫と言われたそうです。  
*Haitari shitari ano guttari shiterunde korede daijoubu deshouka to kiitemo iki o shiteru kara daijoubu to iwareta sou desu.*  
 ‘She was vomiting and choking and I asked her if she **was okay**, and she said because she was breathing, it **was okay**.’

(Female, 65-69 years)

In sentence (2), the adjective *daijoubu* in this sentence shows a strong and good condition, as the meaning in the sentence above is that the person previously always used escalators, but since quitting smoking, his condition has really become 'strong and better' when using stairs. In sentence (3), the adjective *daijoubu* shows the meaning of 'safe or nothing happens.' As the meaning is that we are going to make a dish, one of the ingredients can be replaced with another ingredient, such as broth or chicken bones, and it will not be a problem. In sentence (4), there are two *daijoubu* adjectives in one sentence. In the beginning, the word *daijoubu* with the copula *deshouka* means 'it's okay'. The interrogative form shows confirmation to the interlocutor about his condition 'it's okay' after seeing the interlocutor vomit and choke. The *daijoubu* at the end of the sentence means 'no need to worry', as a response to the questioner who asked about his condition.

### Meaning of *ii* Adjective

The six meanings of *ii* that will be explained in this study are classified into 1) Good condition in various aspects; 2) Recovered or healed; 3) The condition of no longer needed; 4) Good personality or character; 5) The condition in accordance with time and circumstances. Appropriate; and 6) Approval (May). Below is an analysis of the meanings found in Japanese sentences.

5. 新聞記事で作成した要約文が最も良い要約文であるという評価結果になります。

*Shinbun kiji de sakusei shita youyakubun ga ii youyakubun dearu toiu hyouka kekka ni narimasu.*

‘The evaluation result is that the summary made from the newspaper article is **the best** summary.’

(Female, 30-34 years)

6. 四か月を過ぎると自分の孫の手は少しずつ良くなり病院を退院することができるようになったんです。

*Yon kagetsu wo sugiruto jibun no mago no te wa sukoshi zutsu yoku nari byouin wo taiin suru koto ga dekiru you ni nattan desu.*

'After four months, my grandson's hand gradually **recovered**, and he was able to leave the hospital.'

(Male, 60-64 years)

7. そんなに疲れてなかったんで三日目はもう いい やっていう感じで寝た訳ですね。

*Sonna ni tsukarete nakattande mitsukame wa mou ii yatte iu kanji de neta wake desune.*

'I wasn't so tired, because I went to bed and on the third day already felt **enough**.'

(Male, 20-24 years)

8. その友人とは長く付き合ったんですけど、いい 人間は早く死ぬというなことで四十半です。 *Sono yuujin to wa nagaku tsukiattan desukedo, ii ningen wa hayaku shinu toiu na koto de yon juu han de desu.*

'I had a long relationship with this friend, but I was forty and a half years old because **the good** guy died early.'

(Male, 55-59 years)

9. 中学生っていうのは一番色々なことを経験していく いい 時期だと思うんですよ。

*Chuugakusei tteiu no wa ichiban ironna koto wo keiken shiteiku ii jiki da to omoun desuyo.*

'I think junior high is the **right** time to experience a lot of things.'

(Female, 20-24 years)

10. 凶悪犯罪どんどん増えていくと思うので警察もそういう対応しても いいん ではないかと個人的には思っています。

*Kyouaku hanzai dondon fuete iku to omou node keisatsu mo souiu taiou shite mo iin dewanaika to kojinteki wa omotte imasu.*

'Violent crime will increase, so I personally think the police **can** respond in that way.'

(Male, 30-34 years)

In sentence (5), the adjective *ii* describes the noun in front of it, *youyakubun* 'summary sentence'. The adjective *ii* in this sentence shows something good and excellent. So, the meaning of the sentence above is that the best summary is the one that comes from a newspaper article. The adjective *ii* in the sentence (6) explains the verb *naru* 'to be,' so it changes its form to *yoku*. The meaning of *ii* contained in the sentence is a 'recovered.' So the sentence means that the condition of the person's grandson's hand healed after being injured for four months so that the child could go home from the hospital. In sentence (7), the adjective *ii*, which is assisted by the adverb *mou* 'already' at the beginning of the word, means 'no longer needs or enough.' So, the sentence shows that because the person had rested well, on the third day, he felt sufficiently rested so that he was not so tired. In sentence (8) the adjective *ii* describes the noun *ningen* 'human,' so it shows a meaning of 'a good trait possessed by a person'. So the meaning of the sentence (8) is a person who tells a story about being friends with someone who had a good character but died when he was about forty years old. In sentence (9), the adjective *ii* describes the noun *jiki* 'time', which is a noun of time, so

*ii kiji* means 'the right time.' The meaning of the sentence above shows a person who thinks that the right time to try many things is during junior high school. Then, in the sentence (10), the adjective *ii* with the verb *te + mo* shows the meaning of 'approval (may),' so *taioushitemo ii* means 'may respond.' The overall meaning of the sentence (10) shows that someone thinks that the police can do something abnormal because violence is on the rise.

### Meaning of *Kekkou* Adjective

Further, the three classifications of the meaning of the adjective *kekko* are 1) The condition of being flawlessly good, 2) The state of being satisfied with something, and 3) The state of not needing more or enough. Below is an analysis of the meanings found in Japanese sentences.

11. 

これが非常に特徴的だったと思ったんですけどもこのシラブルに対応するリズムが結構です。

*Kore ga hijouni tokuchouteki datta to omottan desu keredomo kono shiraburu ni taisuru rizumu ga kekko desu.*

'I think it's very distinctive, but also the rhythm is **good** according to this syllable.'

(Male, 50-54 years)
12. 

勝手にもう何か盛り上がってですね、その後ちょっと暫く友達とはちょっとあれだったんですけども結構ですね。

*Aite ni mou nanka moriagatte desune. Sono ato chotto shibaraku tomodachi towa chotto are dattan desu keredo kekko desune.*

'I got excited on my own, and after that, it was a little bit difficult with my friends for a while, but it was **fine**.'

(Male, 20-24 years)
13. 

そんなに高めていただかなくて結構なんですけどって言いたくなりますよね。

*Sonna ni takamete itadakanakute kekko nan desu kedo tte ittaku narimasu yo ne.*

'I'm tempted to say, 'You don't have to raise it so high.'

(Male, 50-54 years)

In sentence (11), the adjective *kekko* functions as a predicate and is closed with the copula *desu*. *Kekko* in the sentence means 'good.' Thus, sentence (11) shows that the rhythm is distinctive and good because it is in accordance with the syllables that make it up. In sentence (12), the adjective *kekko* functions as a predicate and is closed with the copula *desu*. However, unlike the previous sentence (11), when viewed from the context of the sentence, *kekko* in sentence (12) means 'satisfied with something.' So the sentence means that people who are happy doing something on their own are very satisfied when spending time with friends, even if it is only for a short time. Finally, in sentence (13), the adjective *kekko* means 'not needing more or enough,' so the sentence shows that the person hopes and wants to tell the interlocutor not to raise the price so high.

Potentially Substitutable *Daijoubu*, *ii*, and *Kekkou* Adjectives

Table 2. Potential Substitution between the Meanings of *Daijoubu*, *ii*, and *Kekkou* Adjectives

NO.	MEANING	DAIJOUBU	II	KEKKOU
1	Safe, nothing happens, no problem	O	O	X
2	No need to worry or be anxious	O	O	X
3	Good at certain things	X	O	O
4	Not needing anything more or enough	O	O	O
5	Bad things turn into good things. Recover or heal	O	O	X
6	Approval	O	O	X
7	Satisfied with something	X	O	O

To see whether the words *daijoubu*, *ii*, and *kekko* in Japanese sentences can be substituted for each other without changing the overall meaning, the word substitution technique is carried out according to the type of meaning. Below is an analysis of eight sentences that have the potential for substitution.

Potential Substitution between *Daijoubu* and *ii*

14. 痛み止めはその初日飲んだだけで大丈夫になりました。

(14a) 痛み止めはその初日飲んだだけで良くなりました。(O)

*Itamidome wa sono shonichi nonda dake de daijoubu ni/ yoku narimashita.*

‘Painkillers were **better** after that first day of taking them..’

(Female, 30-34 years)

The adjective *daijoubu* in sentence (14) is meaningfully acceptable when substituted with *ii* in the sentence (14a). This is because the word *daijoubu*, which means ‘nothing,’ is accompanied by the verb *naru*, which means that the previously bad condition becomes good or recovers. This is in line with the meaning of *ii*, which means ‘recover.’ Therefore, sentence (14a) can be accepted, and its meaning becomes after taking painkillers on the first day, the condition became good or recovered.

15. 喫茶店でも全く同じものを使っているというのが多々あるので大丈夫でしょう。

(15a) 喫茶店でも全く同じものを使っているというのが多々あるのでいいでしょう。

(O)

*Kissaten demo mattaku onaji mono wo tsukatte iru to iu no ga tata aru node daijoubu /ii deshou*

‘Many times coffee shops use exactly the same products, so it might **be fine**.’

(Male, 25-29 years)

In meaning, the adjective *ii* means 'good' in a certain way. On the other hand, the adjective *daijoubu* means 'no problem' which is accompanied by the copula *deshou*, which is a possible form. The meaning of 'good' possessed by *ii* is broader than 'no problem' of the adjective *daijoubu*. Therefore, the adjective *daijoubu* in the sentence (15) is meaningfully acceptable when substituted with *ii* in the sentence (15a).

16. その救急車が来るまで父を一生懸命主人も見てあげたんですよ。大丈夫だから心配するなよ。

(16a) その救急車が来るまで父を一生懸命主人も見てあげたんですよ。いいから心配するなよ。 (O)

*Sono kyuuukyuuusha ga kuru made chichi wo isshoukenmei shujin mo mite agetan desu yo. **Daijoubu** da / ii kara shinpai suru na yo.*

'My husband has been doing his best to look after my dad until the ambulance arrives. He'll **be fine**, don't worry.'

(Female, 45-49 years)

In sentence (16), the adjective *daijoubu* means 'no need to worry.' The adjective *ii* means 'good' in a certain way. The meaning of 'good' owned by *ii* is broader than the 'no need to worry' of the adjective *daijoubu*. Therefore, sentence (16a) is acceptable, so it means that the condition is fine, so there is no need to worry because the person's husband always takes care of his father.

#### Potential Substitution between *ii* and *Kekkou*

17. そこに入って行ってちょこちょこっと生地を入れてもいいですか。

(17a) そこに入って行ってちょこちょこっと生地を入れても大丈夫ですか。 (O)

*Soko ni haitte itte choko choko tto kiji o irete mo ii desuka.*

Can I go in there and put a bit of dough in there?

(Female, 60-64 years)

In sentence (17), the adjective *ii* with the verb prefix *te + mo* shows the meaning of 'may', which shows a request for permission to enter a room to put things. Meanwhile, *daijoubu* which means 'no problem,' when seen in the sentence (17a), is acceptable as Endo's theory (2020) explains that one of the functions of *daijoubu* in interrogative sentences is as a request for permission.

18. できるものに関してはもういいのでちょっとあなた静かにしといてくださいと..

(18a) できるものに関してはもう結構なのでちょっとあなた静かにしといてくださいと.. (O)

*Dekiru mono ni kanshite wa mou ii / kekkou na node chotto anata shizuka ni shitoite kudasai to..*

‘As for what we can do, we've had **enough** of that, so I'm going to ask you to be quiet for a minute..’

(Female, 30-34 years)

In sentence (18), the adjective *ii* with the adverbial prefix *mou* 'already' means 'no longer needs', and this meaning is the same as one of the meanings of *kekko*, which means 'enough' in the sense of not needing it anymore. Therefore, sentence (18a) is acceptable as it shows a person asking the other person to calm down, as there has been enough discussion about what can be done.

19. こういう結構な環境でしたら私は持ってくるものと言ったらバンドの連中持  
ってって、そこで何日間を楽しんで練習をする。

(19a) こういういい環境でしたら私は持ってくるものと言ったらバンドの連中持っ  
てって、そこで 何日間を楽しんで練習をする。 (○)

*Kouiu kekko na / ii kankyou deshitara watashi wa motteku mono to ittara bando  
no renchuu motte tte, soko de nankakan o tanoshinde renshuu suru.*

‘In such a **nice** environment like this, I would take my band with me, and we would spend a few days practising and having fun..’

(Male, 65-69 years)

In sentence (19), the adjective *kekko* means 'good or good condition' which explains the noun *kankyou* 'neighbourhood', so sentence (19a) is clearly acceptable because the meaning of *ii* means 'good' and can explain the noun that comes after it. However, not all the 'good' meanings of the word *ii* can be substituted with the word *kekko*, which means 'good condition'. The sentence above shows someone who is in a good environment and plans to spend time with friends to have fun.

### Potential Substitution between *Daijoubu* and *Kekko*

20. そんなに尊敬していただくなくても結構です。

(20a) そんなに尊敬していただくなくても大丈夫です。 (○)

*Sonna ni sonkei shite itadakanakutemo kekko / daijoubu desu.*

‘It **doesn't matter** if you don't respect me that much.’

(Male, 50-54 years)

The adjective *daijoubu* meaning 'safe or no problems' found in the sentence (20a) is acceptable and can be a substitution word for *kekko*, meaning 'doesn't matter' in the sentence (20), which shows that it is okay not to do the respectful variety because it is enough.

By analyzing and describing the substitution potential between the adjectives *daijoubu*, *ii*, and *kekko*, the following equation is obtained :

1. The meaning that indicates ‘the state of not needing anything more, having enough’ is the only meaning that can be interchanged between the three words *daijoubu*, *ii*, and *kekko*.
2. The adjectives *daijoubu* and *ii* can be used interchangeably in terms indicating ‘safety’, ‘no worries’, ‘recovered’, and ‘permission’ meanings

3. For terms that express 'good' meaning and 'a sense of satisfaction with something' are the adjectives *ii* and *kekkou* can be replaced for each other.

### ***Daijoubu*, *ii*, and *Kekkou* Adjectives Are Not Potential Substitutes**

From the classification of meanings explained earlier, there are some words that cannot be substituted, as well as some words that can be substituted in sentence structure but are not acceptable in terms of meaning. The following is an analysis and description of the meaning of *daijoubu*, *ii*, and *kekkou* adjectives that have no potential for substitution. An asterisk (\*) indicates that the word cannot be used as a substitute.

21. 火を掛けて(大丈夫な/\*いい/\*結構な)耐熱食器などあればあらゆる料理に即座に対応うできるものです。

*Hi o kakete (daijoubu na /\*ii/\*kekkou na) tainetsu shokki nado areba arayuru ryouri ni sokuza ni taio u dekiru mono desu.*

'If you have **heat-resistant** tableware, for example, that can be put on the fire, you can instantly adapt it to all kinds of food.'

(Male, 50-54 years)

In sentence (21), the word *daijoubu*, when substituted with the words *ii* and *kekkou* is not acceptable. This is because the meaning contained in the sentence above is 'strong' heat-resistant tableware that can be used for all types of food. If the word *ii* is substituted as an adjective describing the noun *tainetsu shokki* 'heat-resistant cutlery', the nuance changes and does not show the meaning of 'strong.' Also, the word *kekkou* cannot explain its accompanying object in a sentence (21).

22. 夫自身が(いい/\*大丈夫な/\*結構な)子供息子だったものですからあの一目に入れても痛くない程ではないかもしれません。

*Otto jishin ga (ii/ \*daijoubu na/\*kekkou na) kodomo musuko datta mono desukara anoo me ni iretemo itakunai hodo dewanai kamoshiremasen.*

'My own husband is a **good** boy, so... um... maybe not as bad as you might think.'

(Female, 60-64 years)

23. 私の行った九月というのは非常に気候的に(いい/\*大丈夫な/\*結構な)時期であの温暖な時期暑くも寒くもなく非常にいい時期だったんです。

*Watashi no itta kugatsu toiu no wa hijouni kikouteki ni (ii/ \*daijoubu na/\*kekkouna) jiki de ondanna jiki atsuku mo samuku mo naku hijouni ii jiki dattan desu.*

'I went there in September, which was a **right** time climate-wise, warm conditions, not too hot, not too cold.'

(Male, 50-54 years)

In sentences (22) and (23), the adjective *ii* cannot be substituted by either *daijoubu* or *kekkou*. *ii* in sentence (22) means 'good personality' which shows her husband's good character and is not what people think he is; it is not acceptable when substituted with *daijoubu* and *kekkou* because it cannot show the condition of a person's character. Then *ii* in

the sentence (23) means 'conditions appropriate to the time or conditions, appropriate' which shows that September is a good time to go because of the warm climate. In some contexts, *kekko* and *daijoubu* can explain nouns that show time, such as '*kiji*', '*jikan*', etc., but in sentence (23), it is not natural.

According to the potential non-substitution between the adjectives *daijoubu*, *ii*, and *kekko* above, the following differences can be found:

1. The adjective *daijoubu*, which shows the meaning of 'strong or sturdy condition', cannot be replaced by the words *ii* and *kekko*.
2. The adjective *ii*, which shows the meaning of a 'good personality' and the meaning of 'conditions appropriate to the situation or time,' cannot be replaced by the words *daijoubu* and *kekko*.

## CONCLUSION

From the analysis described above, it is found that the three words have a synonymous relationship, both expressing no more need and adequate conditions; in certain contexts, *daijoubu*, *ii*, and *kekko* both have equivalent meanings like 'enough' also that these three words have the potential for substitution in some sentence contexts. Basically, these three words, in some conditions, can be accepted in sentence structure, but in terms of meaning, their use is unusual, has different nuances, and is even inappropriate. The adjective *daijoubu*, which means 'strong,' the adjective *ii*, which means 'conditions appropriate to the situation and time,' and 'good personality' do not have the potential for substitution.

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