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An on-line discussion system to facilitate expression of opinions from diverse viewpoints

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In this thesis, I propose an online discussion system for encouraging participants of a discussion to express their opinions from diverse perspectives and evaluate its efficiency. It is very important to encourage the participants to express diverse opinions for accurately grasping situations of problems, finding overlooked problems and creating novel pieces of knowledge. However, in the ordinary meetings, it could not be achieved that the participants freely express opinions from diverse viewpoints in their minds because of the requirement to maintain logical consistency of their statements and constraints of the social relationships in the group. To solve this problem, I propose a new online discussion system named “Cosplay Chat.” This system provides two functions: a “talking-as-any-other-personality function” and a “forcing-another-personality-against-someone function.” I conducted experiments with subjects using four different chat systems including Cosplay Chat to evaluate whether they can more freely express opinions from diverse viewpoints with using Cosplay Chat. As a result, I confirmed that this system works as expected and opinions from diverse viewpoints could be obtained.