

(*t*-test, $p < 0.05/9$: *t*-test, $p < 0.05/9$: Anger, $t = 6.696$, Disgust, $t = 3.608$; Fear, $t = 3.232$; **Table 1; Figure 1B**), whereas the Valence rating from Japanese listeners was significantly lower than ratings from Caucasian listeners for Pleasure (*t*-test, $p < 0.05/9$; Pleasure, $t = -8.121$; **Table 1, Figure 1B**).

AROUSAL

A mixed two-way ANOVA with listeners' Group (Japanese, Canadian) and Emotion ($n = 9$) as factors was calculated on Arousal scores. There was no significant main effect of Group: $F(1, 57) = 2.099$, $p > 0.05$, whereas there was a significant main effect of Emotion $F(4.4, 250.5) = 158.524$, $p < 0.001$ (Greenhouse–Geisser's test). Crucially, a significant interaction between Group and Emotion was observed: $F(4.4, 250.5) = 8.955$, $p < 0.001$ (**Figure 1C**), indicating that rating differences between the two groups varied with the specific Emotion considered. *Post hoc* tests showed that the Arousal ratings from Japanese listeners were significantly higher than ratings from Caucasian listeners for sad vocalizations (*t*-test, $p < 0.05/9$: sad, $t = 4.334$; **Table 1; Figure 1C**), whereas the other Emotions were not significantly different between Japanese and Canadian participants (*t*-test, $p > 0.05/9$; **Table 1; Figure 1C**).

SENSITIVITY AND SPECIFICITY

We evaluated the Intensity ratings for their sensitivity (hit rate, by Emotion) and specificity (correct rejection rate, by rating scale). A maximum Intensity rating in the scale corresponding to the portrayed emotion was considered as a hit; otherwise, as a miss. **Table 2** shows the Intensity ratings of portrayed emotions for Japanese and Canadian participants: means of hit rates by participants and means of correct rejection rates by participants.

A Mixed two-way ANOVA with listener's Group and Emotion ($n = 8$) as factors were calculated on the score of sensitivity and specificity, respectively. In both sensitivity and specificity, a significant main effect of Group was observed [sensitivity: $F(1, 57) = 51.6$, $p < 0.001$; specificity: $F(1, 57) = 44.8$, $p < 0.001$] as well as main effects of Emotion [sensitivity: $F(5.4, 310) = 38.0$, $p < 0.001$; specificity: $F(5.6, 320) = 41.5$, $p < 0.001$, Greenhouse–Geisser's test]. Interaction

of emotional vocalizations. A mixed two-way ANOVA represents significant main effects of Subject group (Japanese and Canadian) and Emotion, respectively: $p < 0.001$; * $p < 0.05/8$ (Intensity), * $p < 0.05/9$ (Valence), * $p < 0.05/9$ (Arousal); *post hoc t*-test.

effects (Group \times Emotion) for sensitivity and specificity were also observed sensitivity: $F(5.4, 310) = 9.0$, $p < 0.001$; specificity: $F(5.6, 320) = 11.0$, $p < 0.001$, indicating that rating differences between the two Groups varied with the specific Emotion considered.

There were significant differences in hit rates between Japanese and Canadian participants for angry, disgusted, fearful, painful, and pleased actors' vocalizations ($p < 0.05/8$, *t*-test): hit rates for these emotions were all lower in Japanese participants. In correct rejection rate, there were significant differences between Japanese and Canadian participants for Disgust and Fear ratings scales, with lower correct rejection rates in Japanese listeners ($p < 0.05/8$).

In Japanese participants, hit rates for each Emotion varied greatly, from 25% for fearful to 79% for sad. Hit rates and correct rejection rate to happy, sad, and surprised vocalizations were relatively high (more than 50%), whereas hit rates and correct rejection rate to angry, disgusted, fearful, painful, and pleased vocalizations were lower (less than 50%).

In **Table 2**, the maximum Intensity rating for each portrayed emotion is shown in bold. For fearful vocalizations only, the Emotion with a maximum score by Japanese participants was different from the portrayed emotion. Japanese listeners on average gave higher Intensity rating in the Surprise scale (66%) than the Fear scale (54%) in response to fearful vocalizations. For all other Emotions, Japanese participants gave the maximum ratings in the scale corresponding to the portrayed emotion, as did the Canadian listeners.

GENDER DIFFERENCES OF ACTOR AND PARTICIPANT

We examined the effects of participant's and actor's gender on hit rates in Japanese participants (**Figure 2**). A three-way mixed ANOVA was calculated with the factors of actor's gender and participant's gender as well as Emotion in Japanese participants. In addition to a significant effect of the emotion [$F(1, 56) = 70.285$, $p < 0.001$], a significant effect of actor's gender [$F(1, 56) = 4.003$, $p \leq 0.05$] was observed, whereas no significant effect was revealed in participant's gender [$F(1, 56) = 3.727$, $p > 0.05$] or interaction effect: emotion \times actor's

Table 2 | Intensity ratings (0–100) averaged across all actors for each portrayed emotion and Intensity ratings scale in Japanese and Canadian participants.

Intensity rating scale		Portrayed emotion																		Correct rejection rate (%)	
		Neutral		Angry		Disgusted		Fearful		Painful		Sad		Surprised		Happy		Pleased		Specificity	(Validity)
		M	SEM	M	SEM	M	SEM	M	SEM	M	SEM	M	SEM	M	SEM	M	SEM	M	SEM	M	SEM
Anger	Japan	9	1.1	55^{bd}	5.6	18	4.5	25	5.1	33	5.4	14	4.3	21	5.0	7	2.5	12	3.4	36	6.6
	Canada	9	0.5	75^{ac}	2.4	14	1.1	19	2.1	33	3.8	9	0.7	17	0.8	3	0.3	7	0.8	77	4.4
Disgust	Japan	12	1.3	49	5.7	45^{ac}	5.9	48	6.3	48	6.2	33	6.2	33	6.0	8	2.9	30	5.8	44*	4.6
	Canada	10	0.5	23	0.7	70^{ac}	2.7	21	1.6	26	2.7	9	0.6	24	1.4	4	0.3	8	0.7	73*	4.5
Fear	Japan	7	0.8	30	3.7	15	4.0	54	5.9	25	5.5	21	5.1	34	5.9	5	1.7	14	3.2	18*	4.7
	Canada	9	0.5	16	2.0	11	0.6	68^{bc}	2.5	21	2.0	10	0.7	45	2.6	3	0.2	6	1.0	69*	3.0
Pain	Japan	6	0.8	30	5.7	22	4.7	31	6.1	52^d	5.7	30	6.0	23	5.1	5	1.6	13	3.9	32	8.0
	Canada	9	0.9	24	1.6	11	1.1	31	3.1	58^{ac}	3.6	26	1.8	21	1.0	3	0.2	7	0.4	62	4.0
Sadness	Japan	10	1.1	15	4.1	23	4.8	21	4.8	27	5.0	75^{ac}	4.7	13	3.8	7	2.3	26	5.4	75	5.2
	Canada	11	0.8	13	1.2	9	0.8	13	1.2	15	1.5	77^{ac}	3.6	11	0.4	3	0.2	5	0.3	89	2.5
Surprise	Japan	7	0.8	46	6.2	20	4.5	66^a	5.2	36	6.0	17	4.4	65^{ac}	5.3	17	4.4	17	4.1	66	7.5
	Canada	9	0.6	26	1.8	26	1.8	57	3.0	35	3.0	11	2.7	77^{ac}	2.0	18	1.1	25	2.2	64	2.7
Happiness	Japan	7	0.8	12	3.2	13	3.2	9	2.8	9	2.7	13	3.5	15	4.0	76^{ac}	4.6	25	5.0	59	3.4
	Canada	14	0.5	6	0.4	9	0.8	7	0.4	10	1.1	11	2.4	15	1.3	81^c	1.2	54	3.3	76	3.0
Pleasure	Japan	6	0.8	10	2.9	13	3.3	8	2.4	8	2.4	10	2.7	12	3.2	64	5.6	32	6.0	29	5.2
	Canada	13	0.3	6	0.4	9	0.9	6	0.4	11	1.9	10	2.4	12	1.0	76	1.1	62	3.8	39	4.0
Hit rate (%)	Japan			44*	7.3	51*	5.1	25*	3.4	35*	7.9	79	4.6	72	6.8	69	3.2	34*	5.7		
	Canada			78*	5.0	81*	3.7	56*	3.0	51*	3.0	86	2.0	75	2.9	60	4.5	59*	3.8		

Boldface indicates maximum average rating. Note the high hit rates for most affective categories.

^a $p < 0.001$. ^b $p < 0.05$, strongest rating on the scale corresponding to the portrayed emotion (columns). ^c $p < 0.001$. ^d $p < 0.05$, strongest rating for the portrayed emotion corresponding to the rating scale (rows; Fisher's protected least significance test).

* $p < 0.05/8$, t -test.

gender [$F(1, 56) < 1, p > 0.05$], emotion \times participant's gender [$F(1, 56) = 2.496, p > 0.05$], and emotion \times actor's gender \times participant's gender [$F(1, 56) < 1, p > 0.05$]. Hit rates were higher for vocalizations portrayed by the female actors irrespective of participant's gender (Figure 2).

Further, we investigated cultural effect on hit rates including Japanese and Canadian participants. A three-way ANOVA was calculated with the factors of listener's group, actor's gender, and participant's gender. A significant main effect was observed in listener's Group: $F(1, 110) = 83.211, p < 0.001$, and actor's gender $F(1, 110) = 11.675, p < 0.001$, and participant's gender $F(1, 110) = 8.396, p = 0.005 < 0.05$. Interaction effect showed no significant effect of listener's group \times participant's gender, $F(1, 110) = 0.054, p > 0.05$, listener's group \times actor's gender, $F(1, 110) = 0.428, p > 0.05$, actor's gender \times participant's gender $F(1, 110) = 0.804, p > 0.05$, and listener's group \times actor's gender \times participant's gender, $F(1, 110) = 0.071, p > 0.05$. These results indicate that in hit rates, the effect of actor's gender exists regardless of cultures.

Gender differences were analyzed on ratings of Intensity, Valence, Arousal, and correct rejection rates as well as hit rates. A significant effect of actor's gender was observed in Intensity: $F(1, 55) = 136.712, p < 0.001$; Valence: $F(1, 55) = 14.551, p < 0.001$; Arousal: $F(1, 55) = 182.899, p < 0.001$; correct rejection rates: $F(1, 55) = 23.131, p < 0.001$. There was no significant effect of participant's gender in Intensity: $F(1, 55) = 0.002, p > 0.05$; Valence: $F(1, 55) = 1.289, p > 0.05$; Arousal: $F(1, 55) = 0.655, p > 0.05$. In correct rejection rate, a significant effect of participant's gender was observed: $F(1, 55) = 6.343, p = 0.015, < 0.05$. No interaction between actor's gender and participant's gender was observed [Intensity: $F(1, 55) = 1.459, p > 0.05$, Valence: $F(1, 55) = 0.316, p > 0.05$, Arousal: $F(1,$

$55) = 2.191, p > 0.05$, Correct rejection rate: $F(1, 55) = 0.797, p > 0.05$].

DISCUSSION

We investigated cross-cultural differences between Japanese and Canadian participants in their perception of non-verbal affective vocalization using MAVs. The most intriguing finding is that significant Group \times Emotion interactions were observed for all emotional ratings (Intensity, Valence, and Arousal). Ratings of Intensity and Valence for happy and sad vocalizations were not significantly different between Japanese and Canadian participants, whereas ratings for angry and pleased vocalizations were significantly different. Especially, for the Valence ratings in angry vocalizations, Japanese subjects rated less negative than Canadian subjects. Further, in the Valence ratings for pleasure vocalizations, Japanese subjects rated less positive than Canadian subjects.

CROSS-CULTURAL EFFECT FOR POSITIVE EMOTION

Correct rejection rates (validity) of Happiness and Pleasure were not significantly different between Caucasian and Japanese subjects (Table 2: Happiness: Canadian 76% vs. Japanese 56%, Pleasure: Canadian 39% vs. Japanese 29%). These findings suggest that these two items are valid beyond the culture. In our study, there was a significant difference in the ratings (Intensity and Valence) for pleased vocalizations between Japanese and Canadian participants, whereas no significant difference was observed in the ratings for happy vocalizations. Although Happiness (laughter) was well recognized across cultures, there were apparent cultural differences in the perception of Pleasure.

A recent study between Western participants and Namibian participants demonstrated that the positive vocalizations of achievement, amusement, sensual pleasure, and relief were recognized as culture-specific signals although happy vocalizations

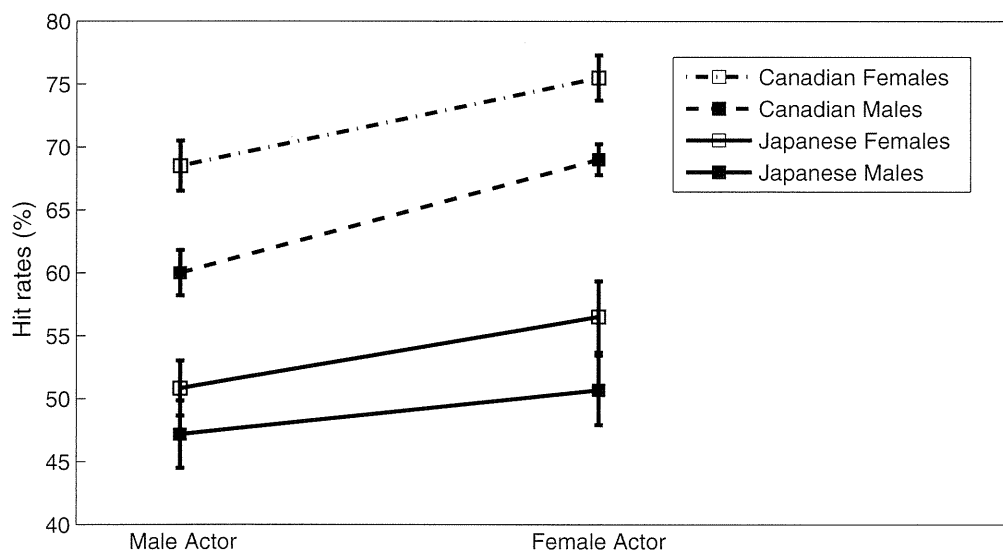


FIGURE 2 | Hit rates (percentage of test items with maximal rating on the scale corresponding to the portrayed emotion) split by actor's and participant's gender.

were recognized cross-culturally (Sauter et al., 2010). Our present result is similar to the findings of this previous study. Further, in accordance with our results, recent studies of facial expression have shown that happy facial expression is not cross-culturally different between Caucasian and Asian participants (Shioiri et al., 1999; Jack et al., 2009, 2012). Our results suggest that the happy emotion is universal in vocal recognition as well as facial recognition. On the other hand, in the vocal recognition, other positive emotions such as Pleasure can show culture-specific biases.

CROSS-CULTURAL EFFECT FOR NEGATIVE EMOTION

Correct rejection rates (validity) of Anger, Pain, Sadness and Surprise were not significantly different between Caucasian and Japanese subjects (Table 2). These findings suggest that these two items are valid beyond the culture. On the other hand, correct rejection rates of Disgust and Fear were significantly different between Caucasian and Japanese subjects (Table 2). These findings indicate that it is very difficult for Japanese to identify these two emotions when they listened to MAV.

A recent cross-cultural study between Western participants and Namibian participants suggested that primary basic negative emotions such as Anger, Disgust, Fear, Sadness, and Surprise can be recognized in both cultures (Sauter et al., 2010). We predicted that ratings of negative emotion are culturally universal. However, our results did not accord with that previous study, and we also observed cross-cultural differences in the recognition of Anger, Disgust, and Fear. Figure 1 and Table 1 show that Intensity ratings for angry, disgusted, fearful, and surprised vocalizations were significantly higher in the Canadian Group than in the Japanese Group. Valence ratings were higher in Japanese than in Canadians regarding some negative emotions (i.e., anger, disgust, and fear). These differences are consistent as higher perceived Intensity of a negative emotion is typically associated with lower (more negative) perceived Valence. These findings could reflect cross-cultural features of Intensity and Valence in negative emotion. Previous studies of facial expression have demonstrated that cross-cultural differences exist in the recognition of angry, disgusted, and fearful face (Shioiri et al., 1999; Jack et al., 2012). In agreement with these results, the recognition of Anger, Disgust, and Fear may reflect cross-cultural differences between Caucasian and Asian participants. On the other hand, the recognition of sad vocalizations (cries) was not significantly different, in agreement with Sauter et al. (2010). Previous studies of facial expression have shown cross-cultural differences in the recognition of sad expressions (Shioiri et al., 1999; Jack et al., 2012). This finding could reflect the fact that the recognition of sad vocalization could be more similar across cultures in comparison with the facial recognition. A previous study indicated that Japanese are severely affected by the meaning of words in recognition of Japanese emotions (Kitayama and Ishii, 2002). The other reason why Japanese find it difficult to differentiate negative emotional vocalizations may be that Japanese need more contextual information to recognize emotions than Canadians.

Concerning of ratings of negative vocalizations, Table 2 shows that hit rates (accuracy) and specificity were lower in Japanese participants than in Canadian participants for ratings of angry, disgusted, fearful, and painful vocalizations. Especially, the strongest

pattern of confusion was observed between fearful and surprised vocalizations in Japanese participants. This pattern is a typical pattern of confusion in Caucasian listeners as well (Belin et al., 2008). For both Japanese and Canadian participants, when listening to fearful vocalizations, the Intensity ratings for Surprise were high (Canadian: fearful 68 ± 2.5 vs. surprised 57 ± 3.0 ; Japanese: fearful 54 ± 5.9 vs. surprised 66 ± 5.2). These results suggest that it was difficult for Japanese participants to discriminate between fearful and surprised vocalizations. The hit rate of fearful vocalizations in Japanese participants was significantly lower than that in Canadian participants. In contrast, the hit rate of surprised vocalizations was not significantly different between Japanese and Canadian. This finding suggests that Japanese tend to be difficult to identify emotional intensity of fearful vocalizations from MAV.

A recent cross-cultural study between Japanese and Dutch participants demonstrated congruency effects displayed by happy face/voice and angry face/voice (Tanaka et al., 2010). This study indicated that, while listening to Anger voices by Dutch speakers, accuracy ratings of Japanese participants are significantly lower than Dutch participants. In agreement with this result, our study showed that ratings for angry vocalizations showed significantly less Intensity and less negative Valence in Japanese than in Canadian listeners.

THE EFFECTS OF PARTICIPANT'S AND ACTOR'S GENDER IN JAPANESE

Our present study has demonstrated a significant gender effect by actor in accordance with a previous Canadian study (Belin et al., 2008), and hit rates for female vocalizations are higher than for male vocalizations (Figure 2). In general, women are believed to be more emotionally expressive than are men (Fischer, 1993). A previous study of facial recognition also revealed that females had a higher rate of correct classification in comparison with males (Thayer and Johnsen, 2000). Our results suggest that Japanese as well as Canadians are also more accurate at recognizing female vocalizations.

A previous study demonstrated an effect of listener's gender in Canadian participants (Belin et al., 2008). In line with the previous study, in the analysis including Japanese and Canadian participants, the effect of participant's gender was replicated.

Our present study has at least two important limitations. First, stimuli consisted of acted vocalizations, not genuine expressions of emotion. Ideally, research on emotional perception would only use naturalistic stimuli. However, collecting genuine emotional expressions across different actors in comparable settings and for different emotions is very difficult and presents ethical problems. Second, in the present study, cross-cultural differences between Canadian and Japanese listeners were confirmed in the recognition of some emotional vocalizations. In the future, it will be necessary to develop a set of stimuli to increase cross-cultural validity.

In summary, we tested for cross-cultural differences between Japanese and Canadian listeners in perception of non-verbal affective vocalization using MAVs. Significant Group \times Emotion interactions were observed for all ratings of Intensity, Valence, and Arousal in comparison with Japanese and Canadian participants of our present study. Although ratings did not differ across cultural groups for Pain, Surprise, and Happiness, they markedly differed for the angry, disgusted, and fearful vocalizations which were rated

by Japanese listeners as significantly less intense and less negative than by Canadian listeners; similarly, pleased vocalizations were rated as less intense and less positive by Japanese listeners. These results suggest, in line with Sauter et al. (2010), that there were cross-cultural differences in the perception of emotions through non-verbal vocalizations, and our findings further suggest that these differences are not necessarily only observed for positive emotions.

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