Studies in Language Sciences 7

Papers from the Seventh Annual Conference of the Japanese Society for Language Sciences

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A Note from the Editors

This is the seventh volume of *Studies in Language Sciences* (SLS 7), a publication of the Japanese Society for Language Sciences (JSLS, http://jchat.cyber.sist.chukyo-u.ac.jp/JSLS/). The volume consists of selected papers that were originally presented at the Seventh Annual JSLS Conference held at Sophia University on June 25-26, 2005, organized by the program chairs, Hirohide Mori (Nippon University) and Kaoru Koyanagi (Sophia University). It also includes the plenary lecture by Dan I. Slobin (University of California, Berkeley) and another plenary lecture by Kensaku Yoshida (Sophia University) and two symposium papers. JSLS was born from a first language acquisition community in Japan, and now it covers a wide range of linguistics, psychology, education, second-language teaching, speech communication, and computational model of language. Incorporating a variety of aspects of language science, we hope that we can increase our knowledge of language and human nature, and apply them to the applications such as language teaching and development of software to support our intellectual life.

In response to an increase in the number of outstanding submissions, the oral presentation sessions were held in parallel and a poster session was established. However, only those from oral presentations were invited to submit their papers to SLS 7. Our primary goal in editing SLS 7, as with the previous volumes, was to select and publish only work of the highest quality. In accordance with standard procedures for most scholarly journals, our editorial policy employed blind reviews from the authors' field of inquiry in order to ensure that all work published in SLS meets the standards of the authors' own disciplines. All the papers submitted from the general sessions as well as the symposium papers were reviewed by outside experts. Thus all papers published in this volume have been through two rigorous independent review processes by different committees, first to be selected as oral presentation papers for the JSLS Conference and second to be accepted as SLS papers for publication. The selection of the reviewers is in accordance with one of the important objectives of JSLS: to establish a truly international English and Japanese bilingual forum. The list of distinguished scholars from Japan and overseas who reviewed the papers for SLS 7 testifies to the successful accomplishment of our goal. We certainly could not have made this final product without their contribution. By listing their names below, we would like to thank these individuals for their extensive and thoughtful reviews.

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Our ultimate aim as SLS editors is to produce a publication of high quality from diverse disciplines all over the world to reach the common goal of understanding the nature of human language. In future volumes, we hope to improve and expedite the editorial process of the papers presented

at JSLS and to publish the journal more quickly following each conference. We welcome suggestions and comments about our journal from JSLS members, authors, reviewers, and general readers. Your comments will help us create a publication that is truly valuable for language researchers and also for the international scientific community. We are determined to continue to provide a forum for work from a diversity of perspectives and disciplines in language sciences using a variety of different approaches and methods.

Finally, we are most grateful to Hidetoshi Shirai, the former chair of JSLS editors committee for the help in editorial work process, and Kurosio Publishers for undertaking the publication of this volume.

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