

## 吉田智行先生に敬意を表して

### A Farewell Essay to Professor Tomoyuki Yoshida

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Dr. Yoshida has been at ICU for more than 30 years. For the past 10 years, I have worked closely with Dr. Yoshida on various issues concerning the linguistics major. I have seen how he is there for the students whenever they need his advice. He has always been available to support the linguistics program and the Department of Psychology and Linguistics. This short essay cannot show all the gratitude for his service to IERS and the ICU community he deserves, but I hope it will show some of the appreciation.

When I think of Yoshida sensei, I always associate him with his enthusiasm for teaching syntax to linguistics students. For students, syntax can be a challenging topic, especially when we aim to provide explanations that are adequate in describing syntactic patterns as well as cross-linguistic generalizations. Students show a fascination with the field of syntax, which I am sure comes from Dr. Yoshida's enthusiasm that is clearly displayed in his teaching.

Dr. Yoshida has always believed in ICU students. He knew by heart that ICU students are intelligent, smart, and hard-working; a crucial combination for successfully understanding linguistic theories that aim to uncover the language faculty. Dr. Yoshida was known to be patient with students trying to understand difficult material, providing any extra help a student might need. He allowed them to take as much time as they needed to develop critical thinking, while allowing them to become independent

in the process.

From his foundation course (LNG101) "Introduction to Linguistics", many students fondly remember the word ワンタン麺館 wa [n] ta [m] me [ŋ] ka [n] 'Wonton Noodle House', from which many students realize for the first time that the four instances of ゼ are not pronounced identically because the pronunciation of ゼ is conditioned by the place of articulation of the following consonant. Numerous examples like these have attracted a cohort of students to the linguistics program in the past and also now.

Dr. Tomoyuki Yoshida joined ICU in 1992 after receiving his Ph.D. in Linguistics from Cornell University. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1998 and to Senior Associate Professor in 2007. Since 2019, he has been Professor of Linguistics in the Department of Psychology and Linguistics. Prior to Cornell, Dr. Yoshida completed his first master's degree at ICU in 1984 and his second master's degree at Ohio State University in 1986.

At ICU, Dr. Yoshida served in various administrative roles. He was the Chair of the Department of Linguistics and also the Chair of the Department of Psychology and Linguistics. He also served as Director of the English Language Program, Coordinator of the SEA Program, and Director of Faculty Development. He currently serves as the Graduate Program Director for Education and Psychology and as an advisor to the Faculty Council.

In addition to these leadership roles in various ICU units, Dr. Yoshida has served on numerous university-wide committees, including the Graduate School Council, the Service Learning Committee, the Center for Teaching and Learning Committee, and the Top Global University Project Committee, among others. These committees are devoted to enriching the learning environment for students and the teaching environment for faculty at ICU.

Dr. Yoshida served as the Area Chief of Linguistics for the journal *Education Studies*, which is maintained by IERS. He has co-sponsored a number of IERS events inviting international scholars to ICU using the shared budget of the institutes. These events provided opportunities for students and professors in the larger ICU community to interact with renowned scholars in linguistics and language education.

In recent years, I have had the opportunity to collaborate on several sentence processing projects comparing data from younger and older speakers of Japanese and Korean. The beginning of these projects was an international collaboration from 2017 to 2020 with Ewha Womans University, which examined instrumental constructions that vary in word order, such as “With the pencil, push the plate” and “Push the plate with the pencil.” This project led to a Kakenhi project on comparative constructions (“The pencil is shorter than the ruler” vs. “Compared to the ruler, the pencil is short”), which evolved into a two-year bilateral project between Japan and Korea. During weekly meetings, these projects involved linguistics students in research activities, and some of them continued to study linguistics in graduate schools in Japan or the United States.

Let me say one more thing about Dr. Yoshida’s graduate students. After receiving their Ph.D. degrees, some students have contributed to the field of linguistics by taking up faculty positions at various institutions in Japan or abroad. I believe that these students are continuing Dr. Yoshida’s tradition of teaching and advising to the next generation of

linguists.

Since I joined ICU, Dr. Yoshida has been a role model for me in terms of teaching, advising, and also as a colleague in the ICU community. It is hard to believe that Dr. Yoshida will no longer be in his corner office where he was surrounded by a multitude of linguistics books and shared his knowledge of linguistics as well as various life wisdoms. The ICU community will miss you as you move on, but you will still be with us. Thank you for sharing so much with the ICU community.