

藤田ラウンド幸世先生に敬意を表して

Homage to Professor Sachiyo Fujita-Round

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The purpose of ‘Homage’ is twofold: to publicly confer a special honour to a person of merit and to express, publicly, words of respect to them. This is singularly appropriate for Dr. Sachiyo Fujita-Round who has shown fortitude and dedication in teaching as well as scholarly commitment over her years at International Christian University. There is no better qualification for a homage, in an ever-changing and fractious academic world, than to say a colleague has been not only productive but also good and trustworthy.

I had the pleasure of meeting Sachiyo Fujita-Round over two decades ago in the context of a bilingual education project: the ‘Bilingual Children’s English Club.’ This project expanded to the formation of the ‘Bilingual Children’s Theatre’ (‘The Riverbankers’) in which her own children were also involved – language learning, drama, recitation and recitals and stage performances. It was a project, in fact, sponsored by the Institute for Educational Research and Service to support ICU-related children in bilingual families, especially those living on ICU campus. Dr. Fujita-Round, therefore, has had a long association with the IERS. Needless to say, as Dr. Fujita-Round’s own children were drawn to this creative endeavour perhaps this glimmering of project-related work on bilingualism helped in the formulation of her future research goals.

‘Creative’ is a key word in the description of our colleague. She has been an enthusiastic supporter of bilingual education at the grass-roots level, having worked on bilingualism in schools, but also in issues of language life and multilingualism in international marriages. During her years at ICU, starting as a doctoral student, Dr. Fujita-Round showed imagination and hard work. She completed a very good thesis in 2011.

In a relatively short space of time, Dr. Fujita-Round became a much-in-demand speaker in her chosen field of sociolinguistics. Her primary focus has been bilingual education and multilingualism in Japan; the process of how an individual person acquires plural languages and cultures, and the relations between those multilingual individuals and society. She has raised questions regarding both individual learning as well as language maintenance and language loss, language endangerment, language death and revitalization. A floating theme above and beneath her work has been the nuance and layering of speakers’ personal needs where identities are personally constructed and negotiated.

Her initial research focused on the multicultural environment of Shinjuku, in particular, with reference to a Korean school-age sojourner. Under the theme of multicultural ‘kyosei (co-existence)’ she conducted extensive and longitudinal fieldwork in Shinjuku

ward in Tokyo. This work, clearly, had implications for multicultural studies and language policy in an urban setting. She proceeded seamlessly from the urban downtown to island culture. She started to investigate one particular endangered language of Japan (there are several such languages) researching Miyakoan (Myaakufutsu) in Miyako city of Okinawa prefecture and examining issues of language revitalization of Myaakufutsu. The possibility of comparing language life in the central-urban and the peripheral has been a forceful impetus in her sociolinguistic explorations.

Her recent work on the languages of the Ryukyu islands is admirable. She is a documentary filmmaker; her film on Miyako Islands is shown in Miyakojima City and Tokyo, it was selected to show during the online conference of European Association for Japanese Studies in 2021. The film will be a part of commemoration event for the 50th anniversary of Okinawa's return from U.S. rule at the only cinema in Miyakojima City in 2022. Her 48-minute documentary film with video artist Mr. Katsuyuki Hattori was shown in 2019. 'The Future of Miyakoan Language: Vanishing Voices, Emerging Voices' was a high-point in her creative career. It combined robust ethnographic research with visual imagination. The results speak for themselves. A taste of this work is available in the following: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtsbu9qQ7GUiB558D4z4Brg> as well as <https://multilingually.jp/?lang=en>. She has delivered numerous conference presentations in English and Japanese on this topic – in Europe, South Korea, Thailand, Japan and New Zealand. She was the recipient of numerous JSPS Kakenhi Grant-in-Aid for her work on the Miyakoan language.

She has also brought the special photo exhibition to ICU HachiroYuasa Memorial Museum, 'Memories of Ritual Prayer on Miyako Island: The Photographs of Uwai Sachiko and Higa Yasuo' with the collaboration of Mabuigumi Photographers' Group,

the first photo exhibition outside Okinawa prefecture. This photo exhibition was a part of JICUF innovative education programme. However, due to the lock down of ICU, the students were not able to see the exhibition. Instead, Dr. Fujita-Round and the staff of museum collaborated to create Youtube gallery tour of this exhibition available on internet which is now a part of Yuasa Museum's digital archive.

For the bilingual education, she focused the cultural resources of Ryukyu and was interested in making the folklores and folk songs available for education of language revitalisation. She collaborated with a team of researchers who raised the cloud funding and were about to publish 4 folklore picture books featuring Yonaguni Island, Taketomi Island, Tarama Island and Okinoerabu Island, the first book will be published in December 2021. She participated in the project as a translator from Japanese to English with her British husband and translated Ryukyuan culture into English. She is also currently making a proverb card game 'karuta' of Miyako Island. These learning resources are essential for the education of the next generation of Ryukyuan Islands and she is putting the bilingual education theory into educational practices.

Her bilingual ability has made her much in demand throughout the world of sociolinguistics and she has been a doctoral examiner for the School of Oriental Studies, University of London.

Among numerous book chapters that she has written we may note the recent 'Bilingualism and Bilingual Education in Japan' in *Routledge Handbook of Japanese Sociolinguistics* (2019), and a chapter of the Miyakoan language in the forthcoming sociolinguistics book *Language Communities in Japan* (Oxford University Press, 2022).

Dr. Fujita-Round was a Part-Time Lecturer at ICU in 2013 and then appointed Visiting Associate Professor at ICU 2017-2020 which was extended until 2022. Dr. Fujita-Round came to ICU as an all-

rounder: competent in several areas of language teaching. She came as a bilingual, fluent in Japanese and English. She came as an eminently cooperative person, a patient and attentive listener, willing to try new ideas and challenges and internationally experienced with a grasp of global issues regarding multiculturalism and importance of bilingualism in the world.

At the personal level, Dr. Fujita-Round was always a likeable and pleasant colleague, who came to work early in the morning – and weekend – until late and whose long line of eager senior thesis advisees extended down the corridor. ICU, including the Graduate School and the IERS, will continue to reap the benefits of Dr. Fujita-Round's work for years to come.

Professor Fujita-Round we wish you a long career and much success in your future research and teaching. *Tandigaa tandi!* (“thank you” in Miyakoan).