

This issue is dedicated to

John Hinds

1943-1994

The influence of John Hinds as a pioneer in the field of Japanese discourse linguistics has been felt throughout this country and Japan since he began his studies in the early '70s. His 1976 book *Aspects of Japanese Discourse Structure* was released at a time when interest in Japanese grammar and structure had just blossomed, thanks to the many critical publications in the field, such as Kuno's (1973) *Structure of Japanese* and Shibatani's (1976) *Japanese Generative Grammar*.

John's main area of interest was always discourse. Exploring areas that no one had previously (especially with respect to the Japanese language), he was probably the only linguist in the '70s who rigorously used actual Japanese discourse data as a means to examine Japanese grammar. He insisted that many, if not most, grammatical phenomena could not be adequately described nor analyzed by looking only at isolated sentences, and demonstrated this insight in his 1976 book, as well as in his two subsequent books, *Anaphora in Discourse* (1978) and *Ellipsis in Japanese* (1982). The contributions in this issue by Hayashi and Niimura, Kanagy, Kimura, and Ohta may be considered as developments from the broad area of Japanese discourse analysis that John opened up for us.

Never feeling satisfied that he had analyzed enough nor explained enough, John was always too energetic to stop at any one project. He kept exploring new areas in linguistic research, and also became a pioneer in the area of non-verbal communication. He actively collected conversational data on video tape as early as 1975-1979 when he was teaching at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, utilizing a technique which took the general field of discourse analysis a good number of years more to establish as a critical analytical tool. John's belief was that communication is achieved holistically, and that audio tapes could only capture a small fraction of the total interactive situation. He often carried video cameras and audio equipment to Japan to try and capture a variety of conversational and interactive settings.

John's interest in language typology and conversational interaction extends far beyond Japanese settings. He conducted research projects in Korea in 1976 and in Thailand in 1988-89, and he was dedicated to the study of

cross-cultural communication. John would have greatly enjoyed reading the papers in this issue by Minami and Spees.

John did not limit his focus to only spoken data and also was very much interested in comparative rhetoric. He is well known to applied linguists and educators in this field, and two of the articles in the present issue (i.e., Yokota and Wang) cite his 1987 article "Writer versus Reader Responsibility," which demonstrates John's insightfulness in the analysis of discourse from a broader perspective.

John was also author of the descriptive grammar book *Japanese*, which is referred to in the review section of this issue (Kawanishi) as a partial basis for comparison to the volume *Korean*, by Ho-min Sohn.

The contribution that John made in the fields of discourse, conversation, language typology, rhetoric, and cross-cultural communication is too great to summarize. I hope, however, that he will always be remembered as a great scholar and pioneer, who provided us with so many areas to explore and who touched the lives of so many of us, sharing with us his joy of studying languages, people, and communication.

On a more personal level, he was my best friend. He taught me as much about friendship as he did about language. I hope that one day, through my own study and that of my students, I will be able to repay the enormous debt that I have to him.

Shoichi Iwasaki

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Shoichi Iwasaki is Assistant Professor in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at UCLA. His main interests are in the areas of Japanese and Thai grammar, discourse, and conversation; functional approaches to language, and typological studies of language. He studied under the late John Hinds between 1977 and 1979 at the University of Hawaii and worked on several projects with him until his death.