

October Newsletter, 2014

Autumn is here in Japan, the season for viewing the beautiful autumnal colors. Surely, it is also the harvest season when people have a good appetite. I hope this letter finds you all well. The October newsletter gives you brief summaries of the Autumn Research Forum and the general meeting, as well as information about abstract submission for J-SLA 2015 and the PacSLRF conference in 2016.

Report (1) Summary of the Autumn Research Forum

The forum was held in Kwansei Gakuin University, Umeda campus on the 19th of October. A total of 33 participants enjoyed three lectures starting at 10:30 and the first lecture was by Professor Ayumi Matsuo from Kobe College, entitled “Intermodal Preferential Looking.” She introduced us to the *intermodal preferential looking* paradigm, an experimental method in which small children are shown videotaped actions on dual screens with an audio to measure aspects of their linguistic knowledge, followed by how they acquire their L1 through bootstrapping, that is, through certain linguistic cues that they are biased toward for comprehension. Then, the 2nd 2014 general meeting followed lunch*.

In the afternoon, we had two lectures: Professor Kiyomi Kusumoto from Kwansei Gakuin University “Type Theory and Quantification” and Professor Hideki Kishimoto from Kobe University “Comparison of the syntactic structures between Japanese and English.” Prof. Kusumoto gave a talk on a semantic parameter, explaining noun types from Japanese, English, and French, along with definite articles and quantifiers. The third lecture by Prof. Kishimoto focused on negation in Japanese and English: Why some negative sentences are grammatical and others ungrammatical in both languages, and why the two languages differ in terms of negation.

*We used to have only one general meeting each year, but holding an additional general meeting at the Autumn Research Forum was approved at the 1st general meeting this year, held on June 1st.

Report (2) Minutes of the 2nd 2014 general meeting

The J-SLA Secretariat Miki Shibata gave information on three annual events scheduled 2015.

(1) The annual conference J-SLA 2015

Dates: June 6 & 7, 2015

Place: Hiroshima University (<http://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/index-j.html>)

Plenary speaker: Dr. Holger Hopp (University of Mannheim, Germany)

(2) Summer Seminar 2015

Dates : August 17, 18, & 19, 2015

Place : Chuo University Hachioji Seminar House

(3) Autumn Research Forum

Date : October 25, 2015

Place : Meijo University, Meieki Satellite Campus (MSAT)

Then, in-coming J-SLA president, Shigenori Wakabayashi, explained the following three agenda items and all were approved:

- (1) The new committee members (appointed for the term from 2015 to 2017)
- (2) Expenditure on homepage for PacSLRF 2016 : Half of the expenses will be paid out of a reserve fund in the budget for fiscal year 2014.
- (3) Budget for PacSLRF 2016

In addition to the three agenda items, Mr. Wakabayashi described the progress in on-going preparations and plans for the conference.

(1) Call for papers for J-SLA 2015

The annual conference J-SLA 2015 has been scheduled as follows:

Dates: June 6 & 7, 2015

Place: Hiroshima University (<http://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/index-j.html>)

Plenary speaker: Dr. Holger Hopp (University of Mannheim, Germany)

Now we invite abstracts for oral presentations and poster presentations and encourage students to submit abstracts for the Student Workshop. The submission guidelines are available on the J-SLA website (<http://www.j-sla.org/j-sla2015-call-for-papers/>).

For inquiry and more information, please contact Miki Shibata (J-SLA Secretariat) at shibatam@hiroshima-u.ac.jp.

(2) PacSLRF 2016 at Chuo University

PacSLRF, which stands for Pacific Second Language Research Forum, is among the most well-known international SLA conferences. J-SLA is proud to sponsor PacSLRF and Chuo University will host it in 2016! A tentative schedule is from September 9th to 11th.