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## Introduction

SHIGETO KAWAHARA

The Keio Institute of Cultural and Linguistic Studies

The 7th meeting of Formal Approaches to Japanese Linguistics (FAJL 7) was jointly hosted by NINJAL (National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics) and ICU (International Christian University) on June 27-29th, 2014. The first FAJL meeting was held at MIT in 1994, and this 7th meeting was thus held on FAJL's 20th anniversary. This timing was particularly fitting, as FAJL 7 was organized as a part of the 60th anniversary events at ICU as well. The meeting was also held as a part of a NINJAL International Symposium.

To briefly review the history of FAJL:

FAJL 1, 1994, MIT (Cambridge, USA)

FAJL 2, 1996, Tohoku University (Sendai, Japan)

FAJL 3, 2001, MIT (Cambridge, USA)

FAJL 4, 2006, Osaka University (Osaka, Japan)

FAJL 5, 2010, University of California, Santa Cruz (Santa Cruz, USA)

FAJL 6, 2012, ZAS (Berlin, Germany)

This list makes it clear that FAJL is a series of international conferences on the Japanese language, often discussed in comparison with other languages, and that although FAJL is sometimes held in Japan, it never loses its international scope.

The organizing committee members of FAJL 7 were Junko Ito (UC, Santa Cruz), Shigeto Kawahara (Keio University), Shigeru Miyagawa (MIT/Tokyo University), and Tomoyuki Yoshida (ICU). In addition, Yurie Hara (City University of Hong Kong), Armin Mester (UC, Santa Cruz), and Satoshi Tomioka (University of Delaware) offered much needed help as abstract reviewing committee members. Haruo Kubozono and John Whitman at NINJAL took care of most of the logistic details on NINJAL's side.

We had received a total of 74 abstracts, from which only 15 were selected for oral presentations (the competition rate was ca. 20%). Additional 8 presentations were selected as alternates. This volume contains papers that grew out of these presentations.

The invited speakers were Liliane Haegeman (Universiteit Gent), Shin Ishihara (Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universitaet Frankfurt am Main), Kazuo Okanoya (The University of Tokyo), and Satoshi Tomioka (University of Delaware). The current volume includes work by these prominent invited scholars, except for, unfortunately, one by Prof. Okanoya.

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The talks presented at FAJL 7, including poster presentations, covered a wide range of topics on the phonetics, phonology, syntax, semantics and psycholinguistics of Japanese. The approaches taken, reflecting the current trends in the field, range from traditional theoretical analyses to various sorts of experimental approaches, both behavioral and neurological. As a key feature of FAJL, all the talks addressed issues concerning the general question of how languages work, going beyond addressing issues that are specific to Japanese—Japanese is simply used as a case study. During the three days, we had a total of 138 participants, with the following breakdown: 14 organizational members including the invited speakers, 84 faculty members, and 40 students.

During the meeting as well as during the reception, we had the pleasure of having Prof. Kazuko Inoue as our honorary guest. The picture above is Prof. Inoue giving a speech at the banquet on June 28th.

Before closing this introductory remark, I would like to take this opportunity to thank many undergraduate students at ICU, who offered their "man-power" during the meeting, which was indispensable.

Last but not least, on the behalf of the organizational committee, I would like to express our appreciation for their financial support from the following organizations: ICU Linguistics, Japan ICU Foundation (JICUF), the Keio Institute of Cultural and Linguistic Studies, and the Department of Linguistic Theory and Structure as well as the Department of Cross-linguistic Studies at NINJAL.

Tokyo, October 2014 Shigeto Kawahara (Keio University)