

Foreword

Professor Akira Ikeya of Toko Gakuen University celebrated his 60th birthday on February , 1994. He has been one of the most influential figures in disseminating Montague Grammar and linguistic semantics in Japan. He is also one of the principal founders of the Logico-Linguistic Society of Japan(LLSJ), which organization, established in 1982, has been a haven, as it were, for many researchers in the field of formal and computational linguistics whose interests often pass the bounds of the commonly practised generative paradigm, hosting workshops, tutorials and conferences. It is thus a great pleasure to dedicate to him the present volume, which happens to be the proceedings of the Kyoto Conference held on August 10-12, 1994, in Kyoto, to commemorate the auspicious occasion and show our appreciation of his contribution to linguistic studies.

Professor Ikeya's main fields of research are Montague Grammar, Generalized Phrase Structure Grammar, Head-Driven Phrase Structure Grammar, and theories of linguistic semantics. Within these fields he has published a number of studies, the list of which follows this preface along with his curriculum vitae. From the list of his publications we learn that he was a structuralist linguist when he started his academic career as a linguist. But in the 1970's his interests shifted to formal approaches to semantics. During this period, he started a small workshop on Montague Grammar, which later developed into LLSJ. He also wrote more than a dozen articles and gave tutorials on Montague Grammar, whose audience included not only linguists but also computer scientists working on natural language processing. It was through his writings based on his detailed study of Montague analyses of natural language that many Japanese students have been initiated into the field of formal semantics.

The uniqueness of his contribution to Japanese linguistics is also characterized by his role as a founder of LLSJ. As has already been mentioned, LLSJ was established to provide a forum for discussion to researchers in formal syntax and semantics which is not restricted to devotees to any particular theory of linguistics. LLSJ's liberal atmosphere has been welcomed by many who are not satisfied with the orthodoxy of generative linguistics. But the people who have gathered under this flag of LLSJ have mostly been of such a strong and independent character that often recognizes no values in harmony. In spite of this precariousness of the membership, LLSJ has continued to be such a forum, which has been a boon to many independent researchers, and it owes its longevity mainly to Professor Ikeya.

His character has not only helped to keep up LLSJ but also won many friends among linguists abroad. In particular, it is responsible for the friendly relationship between Japanese and Korean NL researchers which continued in the form of a biennial joint workshop for about a decade. It is out of these Japan-Korea Joint Workshops on Formal Grammar Theory that the Asian Conference on Language, Information and Computation had grown, which, joining hands with the Pacific Asia Conference on Formal and Computational Linguistics, gave rise to the 1994 Joint Kyoto Conference.

The conference, hosted by LLSJ with Linguistic Society of Korea, Academia Sinica, and City Polytechnic of Hong Kong as co-hosts, consisted of the Joint Conference of the 8th Asian Conference on Language, Information and Computation, and the 2nd Pacific Asia Conference on Formal and Computational Linguistics, on the one hand, and the Special Workshop for Professor Ikeya, on the other. More than 40 people from more than 10 different countries participated in the conference. It was the hottest summer in several decades in Kyoto as well as in many other cities in Japan. In spite of the heat, thirty two papers dealing with such a wide range of topics as machine translation, natural language semantics, discourse analysis, computational lexicography, syntactic analyses of Japanese, Korean and Chinese, dialogue models, and cognitive linguistics were presented and avidly discussed. The papers collected in this volume represent two thirds of those presented at the conference and have been revised for this publication. They can be divided into the following five groups. The first group comprises papers dealing with relatively general problems of natural language, whereas the second group does ones concerning language-specific problems. In the third group, the reader finds papers with more computer-oriented topics such as computational lexicography, machine translation, etc. It should also be mentioned that the only invited paper of the conference by Chengming Guo is found in this group. The papers in the fourth group centers around the themes of discourse and dialogue. The fifth group is comprised of the last three papers, one of which is about pragmatics and the other two show two different styles of cognitive linguistic research.

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