Norimasa Hayashi, Recipient of the ELSJ Junior Researcher Award 2019

I feel deeply honored to be awarded the ELSJ Junior Researcher Award 2019 for my paper, "The Derivation of Non-Restrictive Relative Clauses and Their Invisibilities." I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to Professor Nobuaki Nishioka, my supervisor, and my seniors and fellow cohorts, who help me with everything necessary for research. I feel relieved to think that I can become a respectable researcher if I follow them. Thanks to them, I have little to worry about the future so that I can dedicate myself to research. I am also deeply grateful to the members of the EL Editorial Board and EL reviewers for devoting their time to review my paper.

This paper attempts to explain the behavior of non-restrictive relative clauses under the theory of the free Merge hypothesis, focusing on their differences from restrictive relative clauses. Although the current theory of generative grammar postulates two operations of set/pair Merge for the difference between complements and adjuncts, the distinction between the two types of relative clauses, both of which are adjuncts, cannot follow this binary opposition. Therefore, to explain the difference, this paper makes another division in terms of the order of operations: cyclic/counter-cyclic Merge.

This study is based on the research done for my master thesis. Having studied the recent theory of generative grammar in my master's course, I have applied the theoretical analysis to non-restrictive relative clauses. Now, I am working on *wh* interrogatives, which share some properties with relative clauses, under the current theory. Seeing my seniors who already have full-time employment in academia, I think the doctoral course is my last chance to fully immerse myself in research. I would like to keep studying, appreciating the time I can spend freely.

To sum up, this award genuinely encourages me to continue my research. I will make even more efforts to make a notable contribution to academia.