Masako Maeda (Awarded with the 2015 ELSJ Prize)

I am greatly humbled and honored to receive The English Linguistic Society of Japan (ELSJ) Prize 2015 for *Derivational Feature-based Relativized Minimality*. First of all, I am grateful to The ELSJ Awards Committee for choosing this book as a candidate for such a great honor. This book is based on my doctoral dissertation submitted to Kyushu University in 2013. I extend my sincerest gratitude to Dr. Nobuaki Nishioka for constantly guiding me with his keen insight and warm encouragement since I started learning syntax. I have also benefited from many teachers who have offered me their advice and insights at different stages of my research.

Based on a cartographic approach, this book examines A′-movement interactions in a hierarchical CP/vP periphery in Italian, English and Japanese. I propose that elements may undergo parallel/split A′-movement and that movements obey Derivational Feature-based Relativized Minimality in the cartographic CP/vP structure. Further, I assume that such cartographic peripheries are syntactically encoded by the Labeling Algorithm (Chomsky 2013) and Criterial Head Movement.

The aim of syntactic research is to clarify various linguistic laws as being part of natural laws. For example, I have a ten-month daughter, and she once tried to hold hot water in our bathtub. She was curious at how she could not hold onto the water; I saw in her face the brilliant realization and wonder of discovering why things are what they are and feeling the wonders of natural laws. When studying the topics of this book, I also sometimes felt excited that I might also touch on something hidden under the visible linguistic data. Such moments are, of course, impossible without the sincere support from teachers and colleagues who are willing to share the joy of linguistic research. I am very appreciative of everyone's kind help and inspiration. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.