

Osamu Sawada, Recipient of the 2018 ELSJ Award

It is my great honor to be awarded the 2018 ELSJ Prize for my book, *Pragmatic Aspects of Scalar Modifiers: The Semantics-Pragmatics Interface*. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the members of the ELSJ Award Committee and the secretariat for taking the time to read and evaluate my book. I would also like to thank the reviewers for their valuable and thought-provoking comments.

This book investigates the meanings and uses of pragmatic scalar modifiers in terms of a semantics-pragmatics interface. My specific focus is on the “dual-use phenomenon,” which is a phenomenon where a degree modifier that is used at the semantic (at-issue) level can also be used at the pragmatic (conventional implicature) level. In the book, I consider the relationship between semantic scalar meaning and pragmatic scalar meaning through a detailed investigation of dual-use phenomenon in comparatives, intensifiers, minimizers, and counter-expectational adverbs, and I argue that both kinds of meaning can be analyzed in a unified way based on the idea of multidimensionality. Pragmatic scalar modifiers are used to signal a speaker’s attitude toward an utterance situation/proposition, to weaken the degree of imposition of a speech act, or to convey the importance of a given utterance at a discourse-pragmatic level. I show that these pragmatic scalar modifiers have systematic scale structures (similar to semantic scalar modifiers) and that their meanings and functions can be analyzed through formal semantic theory.

This book is a revised and extended version of my Ph.D. dissertation, submitted to the University of Chicago in 2010. I would like to thank my dissertation committee members, Chris Kennedy, Anastasia Giannakidou, Karlos Arregi, and Chris Potts for their extremely valuable discussions, support and encouragement. This book includes new chapters on the interpretations of embedded pragmatic scalar modifiers and the historical development of scalar modifiers, and additional data/analyses of pragmatic scalar modifiers, which I had the opportunity to present at various conferences and workshops, including CLS, DGfS, the English Linguistic Society of Japan, LENLS, LSA, Triple A, the International Modality Workshop, the Semantics Workshop in Tokai, and at the workshops and colloquiums at the University of Chicago, the University of Göttingen, Kansai Gaidai, Kyoto University, Nanzan University, and Mie University. I would like to thank the audiences for their valuable feedback. I would also like to extend my gratitude to Thomas Grano, Susumu Kubo, Yusuke Kubota, Elin McCready, Harumi Sawada, and Jun Sawada for their continuous and valuable discussions, which have enabled me to rethink the data and improve the analyses. Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues and family for supporting my academic life.

Although I am still a developing scholar, I will try my best to contribute to the development and advancement of the study of linguistics. Thank you, again, for the award.