

Masaru Kanetani, Recipient of the 2019 ELSJ Award

It is my great honor to be awarded the 2019 ELSJ Prize for my book, *Causation and Reasoning Constructions* (John Benjamins, 2019). I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of those who supported me while writing the book. I also thank the ELSJ Award Committee and the secretariat for taking a long time to evaluate my book and the reviewers for their valuable comments.

This book is published as the 25th volume in the Constructional Approaches to Language series by John Benjamins Publishing Company. Since I submitted the book proposal, I have taken a long—extraordinarily long—time to have the book published. I specifically thank the series editors Kyoko Hirose Ohara (Keio University) and Jan-Ola Östman (Helsinki University), who have provided me with detailed and constructive comments and suggestions from contents to styles, handled correspondence with the reviewers, and encouraged me through the long period. Without their dedicating help, I could not have finished this book.

The time I have spent to write the book is so long that new types of research methodologies have been introduced in the field of linguistics during this time. Specifically, statistic or quantitative studies using large-scale corpora are widely conducted nowadays, although the book does not use such a methodology. This book adapts a “classical” method, whereby to account for the grammaticality of given sentences to explore the speaker’s linguistic knowledge. Classical as it may be, this is indeed a universal method, and I do linguistics exclusively in this way. The style of my linguistic research was originally developed during the graduate days at Tsukuba, especially with influences of the research philosophies of two of my teachers: Professor Minoru Nakau, who initiated me into the thoroughly evidence-based argumentations, and Professor Yukio Hirose, who taught me the importance of the spirit of “homeownership”, that is, the spirit of building one’s own framework. I am lucky to have established such a firm foundation as early as during my graduate days. I thank my teachers and senior fellows for their guidance in earlier days.

Seizi Iwata, a senior fellow alumnus of Tsukuba, once said, citing Professor Minoru Yasui’s words, that researches of English linguistics conducted by Japanese researchers need to contribute to better understandings of the English language. I hope my book makes a small contribution to a better understanding of the English language to us, non-native speakers of English, and I will continue my research to keep making small contributions.