

Seizi Iwata, Recipient of the 2020 ELSJ Award

It is my great honor to be awarded the 2020 ELSJ Prize for my book *English Resultatives: A Force-Recipient Account* (John Benjamins, 2020). I would like to thank the ELSJ Award Committee and the reviewers for devoting so much time to the evaluation of my book. I'd also like to express my deepest gratitude to my mentors and friends at the University of Tsukuba, my alma mater: the late Minoru Yasui, Minoru Nakau, Yukio Hirose, Nobuhiro Kaga, Toshifusa Oka, as well as many former students of the University of Tsukuba. Interacting with all of these fine people has laid the foundation for what I am today, which fact I cannot be too grateful in appreciating.

Although it may sound strange, I once thought of resultatives as the last topic I'd want to work on. The reason was simple: With such a vast amount of literature on resultatives already in existence, digesting it all would be nearly impossible, let alone contributing a new theory. Or so I thought. But things changed sometime in 2003 (maybe during the spring break), when I realized one important aspect of the resultative *The door swung open* which had been previously unexplored. As a result I eventually found myself drawn in to working on resultatives, and before long I realized that this was shaping up to be a book-sized project.

So I spent nearly fifteen years working on resultatives, and still another two years have passed before my submission and resubmission of the manuscript and the acceptance for publication from John Benjamins. To persevere with the research of a single topic for fifteen years may sound amazing (or crazy, as the case may be), but to me there is nothing special about it. After all, back then I did not understand what resultatives are, and I simply wanted to find answers myself to a number of questions which were not satisfactorily addressed in previous studies, including Goldberg (1995) and Boas (2003).

In other words, all those years I was driven by two persistent questions: "Why can non-subcategorized objects appear in resultatives?" and "Which resultatives are possible and which are not?" The answers were hard to come by, but at one point a "revelation" came to me: Non-subcategorized objects are simply force-recipients. Then as I explored this possibility, my ideas kept growing, and finally I came to feel that I had covered everything I should have. That is, I worked on resultatives for fifteen years because it took me as many years to convince myself.

So this is one manifestation of a very simple truth: Every research effort starts with "Why?" and ends by finding an answer; researchers are driven by their desire to satiate themselves by finding the answer. Unfortunately, however, this truism is not necessarily adhered to these days. I do hope that young scholars come back to this very simple truth in conducting their research.

Of all my works so far, this Resultative book is undoubtedly the best, both in content and in length. But I'd like to accomplish a no less excellent work someday, which will allow me to say that this Resultative book is "one of the best." I am not sure when that someday will come, but I am already working on another topic, aiming to contribute to the progress of English linguistics.