

Shigeo Tonoike, Recipient of the 2019 ELSJ Award

It is a great honor and pleasure to receive the 2019 ELSJ Award for my book *A Minimalist Approach to Comparative Syntax of English and Japanese* (written in Japanese and published by Kaitakusha Publishing Company). I would like to take this opportunity to thank, among many people who made the publication of this book possible, Tadao Nomura for urging me to write this book to compile my research over the last quarter century, Hiroki Egashira and Yohei Takahashi for painstakingly reading earlier versions and suggesting numerous corrections both typological and substantial, and Masaru Kawata of Kaitakusha Publishing Company for generously allowing me to add a few chapters at the last minutes and make various changes for consistency. Without their encouragement and assistance, I would not have been able to publish the book.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Masayuki Oishi for his letter of recommendation that gives a surprisingly compact summary of the chapters. Last but not least, I am grateful to the members on the Awards Committee for reading my book in detail for evaluation as well as for giving me detailed and sometimes critical comments.

This book contains a number of controversial claims about the organization of grammar as well as comparative syntax of English and Japanese that seriously challenge the widely held standard assumptions: (1) Movement (Internal Merge) can only see elements that have some phonetic shape so that there can be no covert movement such as QR; (2) the so-called Wh-Movement as seen in Wh-questions/concessives is not driven by the alleged need to create operator-variable constructions but by the need for the covert disjunction/conjunction function to take the proposition denoted by TP as their argument; (3) all cases of coreference between anaphoric expressions and their antecedents including the gap within relative clauses and their antecedent DPs are to be captured by the identity between two or more copies of the same D created by movement; (4) LF copy operations and PF deletion operations can and should be eliminated, (5) labeling based on "shared prominent features" can be eliminated and replaced by the assumption that only full categories (with both sound and meaning) are visible to the Labeling Algorithm, and (6) English and Japanese are mirror images of each other in their underlying clausal structures, etc.

It will give me a great pleasure if this ELSJ Award attracts attention to these controversial claims and stimulates active discussion on them among ELSJ members.