

Koji Koike, Recipient of the ELSJ Junior Research Award 2017

I am really honored to be awarded the ELSJ Junior Research Award 2017 for my paper “The Development of Negative-Initial Constructions in the History of English.” This paper analyzes the decline and loss of negative-initial constructions led by *ne* or *not* in terms of competing phrase structures and finds some evidence for such structural competition from the historical corpora. Some of the theoretical proposals and empirical observations in this paper are based on the valuable suggestions from my professors, Takeshi Omuro and Tomoyuki Tanaka. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to both of them and I feel glad that I can repay their favors by receiving the award. I am also deeply grateful to the members of the EL Editorial Board for spending much time editing this paper. Among them, Naohiko Kurokawa points out some typos in the reference list by his proofreading of the earlier version of this paper. Thus, it is with the assistance of these teachers that I wrote up this paper.

I just started to teaching at university in April of this year. When working in such unfamiliar surroundings, I sometimes feel exhausted in the face of a greater amount of work than I expected. However, being influenced by the students with genuine curiosity in my class, I remember what state of mind I was in when I began learning English linguistics. I will continue studying diligently, treasuring the intellectual excitement gained through academic research, just as I have done since I was an undergraduate student.