

A Tribute to Commemorate Professor Masuya's Retirement

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It is my great honor to write a few words for the special issue of the Journal of the Institute for Language and Culture commemorating Professor Yoshihiro Masuya on the occasion of his retirement from Konan University. It is a privilege to trace the brilliant history of Professor Masuya's academic achievements in academia as a linguistic scholar and phonetician.

Professor Masuya graduated from Konan University in 1956 and started working for Konan Junior and Senior High Schools. In 1960 he studied at the University of Edinburgh as a British Council Scholar. Then he became a lecturer for the English Department at Konan University. In 1966 he became an associate professor of English Linguistics and Phonetics and in 1973 he became a full professor. He returned to the University of Edinburgh for further postgraduate work from 1977 to 1978. He was Department Head of English in the Faculty of Letters and taught in the graduate program for MA and Doctoral students for many years. He transferred to the Institute for Language and Culture in 1996 where he first became Department Head of English and then became the Dean of the Institute for Language and Culture from 1997 to 1998. He has taught a great number of students for 40 years at Konan University and has been respected and loved by many undergraduate and graduate students both on and off our campus.

It is worth noting that Professor Masuya's lecture on "Language Acquisition and Kenneth L. Pike" at the 11th Language Teaching and Curriculum Development Workshop sponsored by The Institute for Language and Culture was very impressive and suggestive in terms of foreign language teaching. It is also worth remembering that Professor Masuya set up a phonetic laboratory research facility with a sophisticated phonetic analyzer and recording and computer equipment where many graduate students continue learning even now.

Professor Masuya has been an influential researcher in the field of Applied Linguistics, especially in the areas of phonetics and phonology, integrating phonetics into English education in Japan. His expertise ranges over the diverse areas of phonology, morphology, phonation and prosody. He has also completed research employing contrastive grammar between Japanese and English sentence structures, lexicon

and the translation of English verse and prose, both old and new, into Japanese. It is not too much to say that his expertise is not only in the field of linguistics proper, but extends into the related fields of poetry and literary study.

Professor Masuya developed a new approach to phonetic studies based on his work at the University of Edinburgh as a British Council scholar in 1960 and at the Department of Linguistics of the University of Edinburgh as a sabbatical researcher in 1997. During his sabbatical at the University of Edinburgh he worked with distinguished scholars such as the late Professor David Abercrombie, Professor Jack Aitken, Mrs E.T. Uldall, Professor John Laver, Dr. Alan Kemp and Professor Karl Inge Sandred from Uppsala University, Sweden and other famous scholars. He made the following comment about the impact of these scholars upon his work:

“It was not until I went to Scotland to study at the University of Edinburgh as a British Council scholar in the autumn of 1960 that I first experienced genuine phonetics — phonetic studies based on training — and turned my steps towards departing from paper phonetics. Since then I have enjoyed trying to solve my own phonetic questions, finding my own approach to the field of study.” (Masuya: 1997)

Professor Masuya has published more than 19 books, 34 academic papers and 30 academic articles. One of his prominent books is *Phonetics and Phonology* in 1997. A partial list of the titles of his research publications will sufficiently illustrate the range and diversity of his interests in the field of phonetics: *Phonetics and Phonology* (1996), *Classification of Speech Sounds* (1972), *Some Phonological Fictions* (1982), *Etic and Emic Approaches to Phonation* (1985), *A writing System Partly Based on Prosodies* (1979), *Syllable and “Chestable”* (1979), *“Stress” Reconsidered* (1991), *Change in Some Aspects of Intonation of the 20th Century English Spoken in England* (1982), *Auditory Effect of Shakespearean Blank Verse From a Phonetician’s Point of View* (1990), *On the Phonetic Transaction of the 14th Edition of Daniel Jones’ Pronouncing (not Pronunciation???) Dictionary* (1979), *Two Kinds of Verse Prosody-Temporal Traditonalist’s View and Classic View* (1983), *Voice Onset Time of the Syllable-Initial /p/, /t/ and /k/ Followed by an Accented Vowel in Lowland Scottish English* (1989), *Isochronicity of Lowland Scottish English* (1994). All of his academic papers represent his empirical and theoretical challenge and originality as an authority in phonetics and applied linguistics.

On behalf of the Institute for Language and Culture and the Department of English I would like to congratulate Professor Yoshihiro Masuya again on his retirement. He will continue to meet new academic challenges and experience new successes in his continued contribution to academia. I am sure that many of his followers and graduate students will continue to employ and develop his approach as his academic legacy. Let

me close my tribute to Professor Masuya with the following quotation from John Dewey which represents the infinite spirit of Professor Masuya's academic explorations.

By science is meant, as already stated, that knowledge which is the outcome of methods of observation, reflection, and testing which are deliberately adopted to secure a settled, assured subject matter. It involves an intelligent and persistent endeavor to revise current beliefs so as to weed out what is erroneous, to add to their accuracy, and above all, to give them such shape that the dependencies of the various facts upon one another may be as obvious as possible.

John Dewey

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March 31, 2002