

Systems of Second Language Education

The graduate program in the Systems of Second Language Education is committed to analyzing a diversity of linguistic phenomena through different mode of inquiry. We examine language through its phonetic systems, acquisition, use in context, and via psycholinguistic models. By valuing the legitimacy and relevance of research at every level of analysis, we aim to help students to build a foundation for language studies. Specifically, we focus on:

- researching language pedagogy by applying knowledge in linguistics, psychology, and related fields;
- exploring learners' second language developmental process from the SLA perspectives;
- investigating the psycholinguistic and cognitive processes involved in language learning;
- researching a range of methods and approaches for teaching literary works; and
- exploring the environment for language teaching and learning with ICT.

Students' research themes

Master's program: Use of Lexical Stress Information in Silent Reading and Speech Production by Japanese Learners of English: Evidence from Eye Movements and Naming Tasks, The Effects of Short-Term Overseas Training and Corrective Feedback on Second Language Writing of Japanese Learners of English

Doctoral program: The automatization of grammatical encoding process during oral sentence production by Japanese EFL learners: A syntactic priming, An investigation of the automaticity in parsing for Japanese EFL learners: Examining from psycholinguistic and neurophysiological perspectives

Teaching staff

Atsuhisa SHIMAZU, Professor

Subjects: Language and Cultural Representation

Research fields: Modern American literature. I am particularly interested in Jewish American literature, and am attempting to decipher Bernard Malamud's novels and short stories from the perspective of expression.

Yasunori TAKAHASHI, Associate Professor

Subjects: Contrastive Linguistics and Cognition

Research fields: Chinese linguistics, phonetics and phonology. I have researched tonal phenomena in Chinese dialects from both phonetic and phonological viewpoints.

Mayu HAMADA, Assistant Professor

Subjects: Language Learning Environments

Research fields: My area of research is psycholinguistics, and I am trying to explore the cognitive mechanisms of L2 comprehension and production especially focusing on syntactic processing in terms of the learners' input and output. I would like to use and adopt findings to classroom teaching.

Daichi HIROTA, Associate Professor

Subjects: Language and Culture I

Research fields: French literature. My object of study is modern French poetry represented by Baudelaire, and I am trying to describe his poetics from a linguistic viewpoint. In addition, I am interested in literary criticism and language teaching through the use of computers and the Internet.

Sachiko YASUDA, Professor

Subject: Linguistic Science (Second Language Acquisition & Foreign Language Pedagogy)

Research fields: My main area of research is in second language writing, particularly longitudinal development of academic literacy of EFL learners.

Rei YASUDA, Lecturer

Subjects: Language and Culture II

Research fields: phonetics in language teaching, contrastive phonetics. I am interested in teaching German pronunciation and currently working experimentally on how Japanese learners pronounce German.

Hirokazu YOKOKAWA, Professor

Subjects: Psycholinguistics and Language Teaching

Research fields: English education studies and psycholinguistics. My main research themes are L2 reading, writing, speaking and listening as well as the cognitive mechanisms for vocabulary, and how all of this might be adapted for practical applications in classes.

Contents in Second Language Education

The Contents in Second Language Education course is aimed at training people who can take an active role in innovating language education by conducting research into the content and method of Applied Linguistics. In this course, we work with an academic base of linguistics (corpus linguistics, cognitive linguistics, pragmatics, conversation analysis, speech science, grammar, education, educational science and class theory) and emphasize research with a focus on practical use in the field of education. Through a multifaceted approach to the challenges of teaching other languages, students in this course will be sought after by education agencies all over the world. Even if you haven't specialized in linguistics in your undergraduate studies, this course welcomes any student with a desire to contribute to the globalization of society through second language education.

Students' research themes

Master's program: English intensifiers, English collocation, English causative verbs, English activating expressions, First and third person German verbs, Japanese katakana, shadowing, phonics rules, Focus-on-form pronunciation aids, English/Japanese code-switching

Doctoral program: Identity and second language use, Developing tests for elementary school English teacher suitability, Formulation in interaction, Japanese compound verbs, Similar forms in Chinese and Japanese, Developing interactional competence

Teaching staff

Shin'ichiro ISHIKAWA, Professor

Subjects: Applied Linguistics II

Research fields: My research fields cover applied linguistics, corpus linguistics, psycho-linguistics, and TESOL (especially vocabulary learning, development and analysis of teaching materials, and language teaching methodologies). I welcome any students who want to consider languages and language educations from a scientific perspective.

Harumi KASHIWAGI, Professor

Subjects: Second Language Learning and Technology

Research fields: Recently, I have been interested in developing a learning system by using the position information of learners and objects in real space. I am also interested in developing a listening-based learning system and a system with an interactive whiteboard. I welcome any students who are interested in developing a learning system with new technology. If you have any questions, e-mail me.

Emiko KIHARA, Associate Professor

Subjects: Second Language Pedagogy

Research fields: My research relates to Cognitive Linguistics, especially to constructions in English. I have focused on the correlation between form and meaning in English (written by the native speaker), and currently I am studying constructions written by L2 learners (Japanese college students).

Tim GREER, Professor

Subjects: Second Language Pragmatics

Research fields: I am interested in the relation between linguistic expressions and the people that use them. I specialize in L2 pragmatics, using qualitative investigation methods and detailed, empirical analysis of conversations. I research social activities involving words that come up in ordinary and bilingual conversation, as well as conversation in oral English ability tests. Additionally, I also research conversation analysis, identity construction and bilingualism.

Shunyaku SHU, Professor

Subjects: Applied Contrastive Linguistics II

Research fields: My research interests are situated at the intersection between speech science and second language education. I research speech from psychological, biological and physical standpoints, and consider ways to more effectively teach second language pronunciation. I would like to supervise students with an interest in second language pronunciation and its pedagogy.

Kazuhiro YAMATO, Professor

Subjects: Applied Linguistics I

Research fields: I am interested in teaching English pronunciation, particularly English prosody (i.e. rhythm and intonation) and currently working on analyzing and describing the use of intonation by Japanese EFL learners. Additionally, I am also interested in the methods and theoretical backgrounds involved in developing pragmatic competence.

Advanced Communication (Joint Research Course in Doctoral Program)

The increasing problem of cultural friction as well as the matter of coexistence with robots, which is a concern we will face in the near future, is nothing if not a communication issue. What is human communication and what cultural differences does it reflect? What roles do languages, nonlinguistic actions, body language and paralanguage play in communication? How can we make use of these in studying foreign languages? The Advanced Communication course is dedicated to using the latest technology to examine these issues, opening new possibilities for communication.

Joint Research with: Advanced Telecommunications Research Institute International (ATR)

Students' research themes

Doctoral program:

- Effects of pronunciation training on foreign language learning
- The role of presenting visualized articulatory gesture in English education

Teaching staff

Akira UTSUMI, Invited Professor

Subjects: Advanced Communication

Research fields: Computer vision, gaze tracking, human-computer interaction

Hideobu SUMIOKA, Invited Associate Professor

Subjects: Advanced Communication

Research fields: Communication between humans and robots

Reiko YAMADA, Invited Professor

Subjects: Advanced Communication

Research fields: Speech perception, production and learning of second language, and development of language learning systems.

