

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

JONATHAN B. BRITTEN has lived and worked in Japan since 1989. He teaches at Nakamura University in Fukuoka. His academic interests include learner development and lifelong learning. He is the Asia Coordinator for the World Language Process, an international non-profit organization.

MERCEDES CASTRO is an instructor in Spanish at *Instituto Cervantes Tokio* in Japan, one of the branches of the official institution promoting Spanish language and culture around the world. She has an MA in Teaching Spanish as a Second Language and an MA in e-Learning. Currently she is pursuing a PhD about the use of new technologies in language learning.

KIYOMI FUJII is the head instructor of the first and third year Japanese courses at the University of Arizona in the USA. She completed her M.A. in Japanese Language and Pedagogy at the University of Oregon. One of her primary interests is how learners of Japanese as a foreign language acquire honorifics and politeness expressions, as well as sociocultural and pragmatic competence. Recently she has also been working on projects using Web 2.0 technology in language pedagogy

YOHEI HONDA is a certified English language teacher and a recent graduate of the TESOL Program at Sophia University in Japan. His dissertation focused on the perception of different English pronunciation by English language learners. He analysed data from a critical applied linguistics perspective. He is currently enjoying teaching English full-time at Chuo University High School.

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YOKO OKITA Ph.D is an associate professor in the International Exchange Center at Tokyo Medical and Dental University as well as a visiting researcher at Waseda University. Her research interests are psycholinguistics, cognitive-neuro sciences, and CALL.

MITSUYO SAKAMOTO received her Ph.D. in second language education from OISE/UT in 2000, under the supervision of Jim Cummins, best known in the area of bilingualism research. Currently she is Associate Professor in the Department of English Studies, Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan, where she teaches in both undergraduate and graduate programs. Her areas of interest include the effects of technologies on student interactions, specifically in terms of language learning, explored from a socio-cultural perspective.

YUICHI SHIOZAKI has been a high school teacher in Kanagawa Prefecture since 1993 when he completed a master's degree in English literature. From 2007 to 2009 he was on a special research posting to Kanagawa Prefectural College of Foreign Studies. He is interested in fostering autonomous learning via the Internet and presently teaches at Yamato-Nishi High School.

MICHAEL THOMAS Ph.D. is a Professor in English at Nagoya University of Commerce & Business in Japan. Among his publications are *Handbook of Research on Web 2.0 and Second Language Learning* (2009), *Interactive Whiteboards for Education: Theory, Research and Practice, Task-Based Language Teaching and Technology* (forthcoming) and *The Reception of Derrida: Translation and Transformation* (2006). He is editor of the *International Journal of Virtual and Personal Learning Environments* (IJVPLE), associate editor of the *International Journal of Computer Assisted Language*

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SIMON THOMAS has been a teacher of language and communication skills at Osaka Prefecture University in Japan since 2003. Since the university opened new technology enhanced facilities in 2007 his research has focused on the methodology of stimulating and enhancing oral skills through the use of technology and CALL systems. His further interests include the utilization of wikis to develop online classrooms, social networking for language learning, the use and adaptation of the Internet and technology on learners' language acquisition and the effects of collaborative learning.

MARCEL VAN AMELSVOORT is an Associate Professor at Kanagawa Prefectural College of Foreign Studies in Yokohama, Japan. His interests include learner motivation and autonomy, in particular how they are affected by ICT. He is presently working on the development of an online teacher training system for English teachers in Kanagawa Prefecture.

JEREMY WHITE is a Lecturer in Business and Economics English at Ritsumeikan University (BKC) in Japan. Jeremy originally came to Japan from New Zealand in 2003 as a member of the JET program to teach English as an assistant language teacher. Whilst on the JET program Jeremy began to study for a Master of Arts (Applied Linguistics) from Griffith University in Australia, graduating in 2006. During his studies he began to focus on computer assisted language learning (CALL) and has continued to research this area. Most recently his research has focused on the use of social networking sites as a language-learning tool in the classroom.

SAYOKO YAMASHITA Ed.D. works at Meikai University, Faculty of Languages and Cultures Graduate School of Applied Linguistics. Her research interests include cross-cultural, and interlanguage pragmatics, medical communication, and applied linguistics. She has been a president of JALT Tokyo Chapter since 2008.