

Celebrating 25 Years of The Japan Journal of Multilingualism and Multiculturalism / 多言語多文化研究

The first issue of this journal appeared at the JALT conference in Nagoya in November 1995. In celebration of reaching the 25th issue, we have asked each of the people who have edited the journal over the past quarter century to look back on their involvement with its publication, laying out a little of our history as we prepare to build on it and continue into the next 25 years.

That first issue did not spring magically into existence. It resulted, first from the perspicacity of Mary Goebel Noguchi who said, rather quietly and diffidently, “You know I think there is enough research being done by BSIG members to sustain a journal.” Then, a spark of creativity (if memory serves, there was a *shinkansen* ride and a certain amount of ice-cream involved), as we brainstormed ways to fund the notional journal. The magical part was that we did indeed, without a great deal of effort, find twenty people¹ each willing to make a donation to provide the seed money the project would need. Then, of course, there was the effort that Mary, suddenly challenged to put her hard work where her perspicacity was, put into recruiting reviewers, calling for papers, designing a blind peer-review system, and all the other sundry tasks that go into creating a journal out of enthusiasm and a hunch. And after all that work, she arrived at the conference in Nagoya with a bulging box of journals, saying “What do you think of the cover? I’m not sure I got it right.” It was great, Mary, the whole thing.

Since then, our journal has carried 85 articles, 61 book reviews, and one Research Note, representing the work of well over 90 authors. Almost all of these papers and reviews are available in PDF form from the SIG’s website. On paper, the journal is distributed free to SIG members and has 20 institutional subscribers. This suggests that, not only was Mary right, but also that, thanks to the hard work of authors, editors, reviewers, and proofreaders, the journal has established a place for itself, as originally intended, as both a source and an outlet for Japan-related bilingualism research.

¹ Their names deserve to be recorded here for posterity: William Belew, Martin Pauly, Michael Bostwick, David Pite, Eileen Christianson, Stephen M. Ryan, Sandra S. Fotos, Simon Sanada, Peter Gray, Craig Smith, Stephen D. Hattingh, Randall Terhune, Laurel Kamada, Sharon Vaipae, Steve McCarty, Yamamoto Masayo, Mary Goebel Noguchi, Kathleen Yamane, Gail Okuma, and Bonnie Yoneda

Now, let's hear from each of the editors in turn about their involvement with *JJMM*.

The B-SIG, *JJMM* and Me

Mary Goebel Noguchi

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Vols. 1-12

I consider my association with the Bilingualism SIG and *JJMM* to be a source of many blessings. It has not only broadened my perspectives and helped me understand my children and many of my students better, it also furthered my research, and in turn, my career. I trace this association back to the Symposium on Bilingualism at the 1986 JALT International Conference. A good friend with whom I went to the Conference, and who, like me, had just had her first child, insisted that we go, saying she'd attended the first such symposium the previous year and had found it very enlightening.

I confess that until that time—and perhaps even a bit longer—I held a rather unfavorable view of bilingualism. I'd worked with people who had grown up in Japan and attended a well-regarded international school but made grammar mistakes in their written English and were unable to read Japanese, even though they could speak both Japanese and English fluently. I was therefore skeptical of trying to raise children with two languages, as I felt that it was important to have a strong command of at least one language in order to develop high-level cognitive skills.

However, that symposium set me off on a new path, investigating what it means to be bilingual and learning what a gift it can be. I feel that this change was in large part due to the dynamic couple who organized the symposium: Jim Swan and his wife Yamamoto Masayo. While Jim offered the nurturing perspective of a parent who was trying to give his children the gift of literacy in both English and Japanese, Masayo argued that, as an academic association, JALT should be presenting research-based information to help parents and teachers make better-informed decisions. The two continued to organize the symposium for a number of years and also were instrumental in helping form the Bilingualism SIG in 1990 as one of JALT's first two special interest groups. Throughout their involvement with the group, Jim and Masayo continued to emphasize the twofold nature of the SIG as both a support group for parents and teachers and a fountain of research findings that could deepen understanding of bilingualism.

Soon, I was wrapped up in the SIG's activities, both as a parent raising two Japanese-English bilinguals, and as a teacher. Figuring that I could find out what to do with my own children while building up my resume as a university teacher, I started by writing reviews of some of the few works in English on bilingual childrearing and

bilingualism available at the time (Noguchi 1989, 1990a). Then, noticing that many of the people who came to the bilingualism symposium each year were parents who were worried about how to teach their children to read English, I began investigating how this might be done, both by reading about it and conducting a survey of parents who had tried to do this in Japan. Again, I figured I could apply what I learned in my own family. I presented the results at the Bilingualism Colloquium in 1990 (Noguchi, 1990b) and began writing them up in a series published in the SIG newsletter between 1994 and 1996 and eventually published as one of the early SIG Monographs (Noguchi, 1996).

I was then invited by Yamamoto Masayo to coedit a special issue of *The Language Teacher* focusing on bilingualism, which came out in May, 1995 (Yamamoto & Noguchi, 1995). In collecting submissions for this issue, I became aware that there was a great deal of research on bilingualism going on within JALT. I therefore proposed to the SIG Decision-Making Team that we start publishing an annual research journal. Thanks to the generous financial contributions of 20 fellow SIG members, the first volume of *JJMM* was published in November of the same year, with myself serving as Editor and Masayo as the Japanese Language Editor.

Since the journal at first contained almost exclusively English-language material, Masayo bowed out of the Japanese editorship the following year, while I continued to edit the journal through Volume 12. In Volume 4, we were able to publish our first full research article in Japanese. Hoping to make the journal more fully “bilingual,” I recruited Yuriko Kite of Kansai University to serve as the Japanese Language Editor, a position in which she served for the next seven years. From Volume 11, Yukawa Emiko of Ritsumeikan University, who had previously published research articles and book reviews in the journal, took over this role.

Over the years, working with these insightful co-editors and a fantastic editorial board, as well as a large number of talented contributors, I was able to learn about many different aspects of bilingualism and bilingual identity. Virtually every issue I edited had something new, at least to me, and in many cases the articles offered groundbreaking research. Moreover, they covered an amazing range of topics. Vol. 1 contained Sandra Fotos’ (1995) rigorous analysis of Japanese-English conversational codeswitching. Vol. 2 had two more articles on codeswitching (Hara, 1996; Wanner, 1996), each unique in its perspective, as well as an article on Japanese compliment responses (Ueda, 1996), comparing them to previous research in English-speaking countries. Vol. 3 contained an article by Yukawa Emiko (1997) which analyzed language attrition, an article by Stephen Murphy-Shigematsu (1997) on American-Japanese ethnic identities and an article by Usui Yoshiko (1997) on Japanese heritage language education in Hawaii. Vol. 4 led with another article by Yukawa Emiko (1998), this one on children in need of bilingual

education in Japan, while Vol. 5 included two articles on returnees (Fujita, 1999; Taura, 1999) as well as an article on the interdependence of cognitive and linguistic development in a bilingual child (Shirai, 1999). Vol. 6 returned to heritage language education in Hawaii, but this time Kimi Kondo-Brown's article (2000) focused on identity, while Takeuchi Masae's (2000) article in this volume furthered research on how parents' discourse strategies influence bilingual children's language development. Vol. 7 featured the first of a series of articles by Tim Greer (2001) on the identity of biracial Japanese children. Vol. 8 featured an article by Yukawa Emiko (2002) on classroom interaction in an English immersion program and a rigorous study by Taura Hideyuki (2002) on vocabulary retention by returnees. Vol. 9 contained a groundbreaking article by Alison Wray & Namba Kazuhiko (2003) about the use of formulaic language in the development of bilingual language skills, as well as a highly insightful article by Clara Lee Brown (2003) about the stages in the development of a bicultural identity, in addition to another article by Tim Greer (2003), this one incorporating Conversation Analysis methodology to explore multi-ethnic Japanese identity. Vol. 10 featured two articles on reading in two languages (Shimizu, 2004; Stephens & Blight, 2014), while Vol. 11 highlighted the development of multiple identities with four articles focusing on different issues and language combinations (Ascough, 2005; Greer, 2005; Jie, 2005; Kamada, 2005). Finally, Vol. 12 contained an article on the relationship between language competency and cultural intelligence in Australian expatriates in Japan (O'Connell, 2006), as well as an article on the use of a Chinese child's L1 as a motivator and support in preparation for his studies in a Japanese school (Kiyota, 2016). These are just some of the amazingly wide range of topics that the journal covered during my tenure as editor, each of which helped me become familiar with new perspectives and methodology.

The hard work of compiling and editing such a large variety of submissions slowly transformed me from a rank amateur into something of a specialist in the field. Influenced by Yamamoto Masayo and her critical view of the stereotype of "bilinguals" in Japan as limited to those who speak English and Japanese, I eventually moved on to consider a much wider range of subjects in a book I coedited with Sandra Fotos in 2000, and in research I later did on Zainichi Koreans (Noguchi, 2005, 2015).

Gradually, the SIG attracted a number of scholars who were investigating bilingualism and bicultural identity in Japan as they were working on their doctorates in applied linguistics. Feeling that this new cohort was much better qualified than me to move the SIG forward towards its goal (clarified in the Statement of Purpose, printed on the back cover of the journal each year) of "addressing the need for high quality research in this uniquely exciting venue," I approached one of the brightest of these young researchers, Tim Greer, to take over the helm of the journal. Totally intimidated by Tim's

intelligence, drive, and knowledge, I pretty much turned the editorship over to him without any real transition, feeling that he would know how to give it new direction and make it ever stronger. And of course, that's just what he did, bringing in greater academic rigor, submissions on an even wider range of topics and language combinations, and a cleaner design, while also developing an online presence for the journal. In addition, he secured SIG funding for the journal and engaged more SIG members in support activities such as mailing out each issue.

Looking back over the beginnings of *JJMM* and my years as its editor, I feel tremendously grateful for all I gained in terms of understanding my children, my students, and myself, my development as a scholar, and the contacts it helped me make with a host of gifted researchers and fascinating bilinguals. May those who carry it forward into its second quarter century be equally blessed.

Reflections on My Tenure as *JJMM* Editor

Tim Greer
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Vols. 13-17 & 23

I will always be grateful to *JJMM*, and particularly the founding editor Mary Noguchi, for all the support it gave me during my early career. I published some of my earliest peer-reviewed papers in the journal (Greer, 2001, 2003, 2005), and the encouragement I received from the reviewers, the editor and eventually the readers gave me the courage and motivation to go on and refine my research interests and publish in bigger and better-known venues. As a young researcher I was still working on my doctoral dissertation, but I had decided to publish along the way rather than once I had finished the project, partly to boost my CV, but also because I was studying via distance education and I needed feedback from professionals who were more familiar with the topics I was working on than my advisors overseas could ever be. To me at that time, the editorial teams at *JJMM* were *dai-sempai*, almost akin to academic demi-gods; I aspired to be like them some time in a distant imagined future, but I never would have thought that responsibility would come so soon.

Therefore, I was more than a little surprised when Mary Noguchi offered me the job of editor in 2006, at a time when I was still finishing up my doctoral dissertation. I was honored she trusted me to take care of the "child" she had raised from infancy, but far more deeply etched into my memory are the feelings of fear and dread that I had at the prospect of taking on such an important task. I was still very much in awe of Mary and did not think I had enough experience to bring to the role.

However once again, Mary stepped up to the plate and provided me with plenty of information about the way she had been running the journal, which made the handover a smooth one. More importantly, she also granted me the freedom to take the journal in new directions, and that is something I did, with a revamped cover, updated formatting and the beginnings of an online presence. At some point we also decided that the PDF copies of the articles would become freely available online one year after the print version, and this has provided both increased accessibility and an online archive of our research.

Throughout my tenure Mary remained a guiding influence. If I ever had a question or needed advice, she was there for me, but, more often than not, all it took was for me to ask myself "What would Mary do?" and that was usually sufficient for me to work through the issue alone. I tried hard to pay that forward, too, by aiming to be the sort of editor that I had respected so much as an author. I'm not sure that I always achieved that, but I certainly did my best, and, as I did, I found myself blessed once again by learning more about the editing process, how to manage a lengthy project, and how to deal with authors, reviewers and institutional subscribers. Taking on the editorial position therefore gave me a fresh set of skills that were highly relevant to my life as an academic, and it helped me see myself as part of the community of bilingualism researchers in Japan and further abroad.

I would like to claim the experience was all rosy, but, in truth, it was sometimes a lonely and seemingly thankless task. too. There were long hours in the summer revising manuscripts when I would have rather been at home with my family or working on my own research, and, when the journal did come out in the fall, I was sometimes left wondering how many people were actually reading it. However, I always thought back to my own positive experiences with the journal as a fledgling academic and I therefore came to see the job as one of giving back to the community, and in doing so I like to think I have played a small part in raising the next generation of bilingualism researchers. It was always a thrill when one of them took the time to thank me for my editorial assistance.

I was also fortunate to have the support of Dr. Takigawa Yuzuru, who was the Japanese language editor during my tenure. Yuzuru was a brilliant editor, collaborator, and teacher. I greatly appreciated her input on the Japanese papers and, in truth, I sometimes asked her for feedback on some of the English ones too. She was a great friend to me and a considerate mother to her bilingual daughter, and we were all shocked and saddened by her sudden passing in 2015.

Among the trends that I have seen over the journal's 25-year history has been a gradual broadening in interest from bilingualism to multilingualism and from

multilingualism to multiculturalism. That is not to say the first of these is no longer of interest—it very much is—but that we have started to see more interest in topics like identity, attitudes, and policy, that both underpin and reflect bilingual language issues. In addition, the early volumes of *JJMM* were largely concerned with Japanese-English bilingual contexts, perhaps due to the dominant demographic of both the SIG and the journal's readership; however, this too is changing and there has been a number of articles on bilingualism in other language pairs, or indeed across multiple languages.

Although there were too many articles to mention them all here, some of those that stand out to me most do so due to their originality and meticulousness. In Vol. 13 Lachlan Jackson (2007) challenged the need for hard-and-fast interpretation of the one-person-one-language (OPOL) approach to bilingual development. In Vol. 14 Takigawa Yuzuru (2008) shifted the focus from bilingual child-adult interaction to talk between the parents themselves in her fascinating micro-analysis of an argument between an international couple. In Vol. 15, Motobayashi Kyoko (2009) investigated issues of production and experience in analyzing the writing on bilingual people, suggesting sojourners' reports of transcultural experiences could be more descriptive and informative when written in the language they used during the event they were reporting. Vol. 16 featured a variety of innovative topics, including literary retention (Taniguchi, 2010), multilingual awareness (Maher et al., 2010), and Japanese-Chinese codeswitching (Meng, Myamoto, & Nakamoto, 2010). Among the standout studies in Vol. 17 was that of Vivian Bussinguer-Khavari (2011), who considered Brazilian parents' attitudes toward their children's bilingual development in Japan. After a hiatus of some years, I returned to edit Vol. 23 in 2017, which again contained a number of creditable feature articles, such as those by Janice Nakamura on parental interactional practices that may result in relatively passive bilingualism. As an editor, I was continually being challenged to think about elements of bilingualism that were new to me, and in retrospect I realise that the process of preparing each manuscript for publication was just as educational for me as it was for the authors.

All in all, I am glad to have had the opportunity to be part of the journal. My tenure reflects the issues that were topical at the time I was at the helm, and future researchers and editors will no doubt tackle issues that become relevant to them, and also revisit old issues in order to develop and enhance them. Already the collective knowledge of bilingualism researchers in Japan has been significantly shaped by *JJMM*'s contribution to the field, and I look forward to witnessing the directions it takes as it goes into its second quarter century.

Editing the JJMM 2012-2016

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Vols. 18-22

The *Japan Journal of Multilingualism and Multiculturalism's* readership has always comprised, unsurprisingly, primarily linguistically intermarried parents seeking information regarding the trials and tribulations of bi/multilingual childrearing. In this sense I am no exception. As a new father, I came upon the *JJMM* in my quest to determine the answers to two questions. Firstly, surrounded by numerous intermarried families who seemed to have been largely unsuccessful in having their children acquire two languages, I somewhat skeptically wanted to know whether it was realistic to raise my children to speak both English and Japanese. And secondly, if this was actually possible, I wanted to know how on earth it could be done. Bilingualism is, of course, as a field of academic inquiry, about much more than raising children in two (or more) language. Nevertheless, I suspect that a good proportion of *JJMM's* readership, initially at least, find the challenge of bilingual childrearing quite daunting, and are drawn to the journal to get answers to questions similar to the ones that I initially posed.

It did not take long for my personal interest in bilingual childrearing to influence my career trajectory as a language teacher. Although I had never met him, I remember writing to Tim Greer around 2001 asking if he could recommend some essential reading for an M.A. I was writing about what I then referred to as "multi-ethnic children" in Japanese public schools. Tim promptly sent me a comprehensive list of articles and books, as well as a VHS tape of the wonderful documentary *Doubles* (Life, 1995). This gesture underscores the generosity and good-will that Tim has always extended to others in the field and his willingness to give back to the academic community. I did not realize it at the time, but this was a lesson that would serve me well when I took over the Editorship over a decade later.

By 2004 I had both started teaching at Ritsumeikan University and commenced a Ph.D. on bilingual childrearing in linguistic intermarriage. I was both delighted and incredibly intimidated to learn that Mary Goebel Noguchi was a professor on the same campus. After plucking up the courage, I found myself knocking on her office door to see if I might be able to bounce some ideas around regarding the direction of my studies. Mary, too, was incredibly generous with her time and expertise, and, astonishingly, suggested I submit something for consideration to *JJMM*. The following year I sent her a book review of Okita Toshie's *Invisible Work* (Jackson, 2005) which she patiently helped me polish to publication standard. It was only a short, two-page book review, but I remember feeling elated to see something I had written published in

JJMM. I felt like I was on my way. Like others before me, I had transitioned in the SIG from an interested parent-reader of *JJMM* to a contributing writer. I continued submitting review articles regularly to *JJMM* (Jackson 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010). It was in 2007, however, that then Editor Tim Greer helped me bring my paper to publication. It was a small but somehow significant step in my career. Having had several pieces steered to publication under the editorial patience and support of both Mary and Tim is something that I, as a fledgling, early-career researcher experienced firsthand, and to both of them I am most grateful.

Tim invited me onto the Editorial Board in 2010, and then to work under him as Book Review Editor in 2011. It was during this year that I was given a behind-the-scenes look at what was actually involved in putting an issue of the journal together: the call for papers (and the inevitable extension of it); the pairing of submitted manuscripts to suitable reviewers from the Editorial Board; the syntheses of reviewers' feedback for distribution to the authors; the rewriting/editing stage; layout and typesetting; proofreading; and liaising with our printers in Kyoto. I genuinely think most people would be surprised at just how much work is involved in producing an issue of *JJMM*, and how much it relies on the cooperation and effort of authors, reviewers, editors, proofreaders—even the volunteers who mail out the journal to subscribers. In my year as Book Review Editor, I came to appreciate just how much of a collaborative endeavor *JJMM* actually is.

It was a great honor to be asked by Tim to take over the Editorship in 2012, but in truth, at the time I doubted I was up to the task. Tim gave me a couple of days to think about it and assured me that he would be available to troubleshoot any questions I had in a transition year. With Tim's reassurances and encouragement, I agreed to serve as editor for five years. One of the first tasks I undertook was to search for a new Japanese Editor to replace the outgoing Takikawa Yuzuru. I approached Otsuji Emi from the University of Technology, Sydney, and she graciously agreed to step into the breach. Emi and I were of the view that we should try, at least, to broaden the scope of the journal. Like Tim, we wanted to further increase the number of articles dealing with contexts other than Japanese-English bilingualism. On reflection, this was a somewhat ambitious goal, but we were able to bring to publication several interesting papers on such topics as Japanese-Thai medical translators in Thai hospitals (Watanabe, 2012), Japanese language transmission in Korean-Japanese intermarriage (Hanai, 2012), children of Japanese-Filipino intermarriage (Jabar, 2013), and non-native Japanese input from Thai mothers in Thai-Japanese bilingual childrearing (Nakamura, 2015), amongst others. We also published several memorable pedagogically focused papers such as Kennett's (2015) canvassing of a tutoring program involving Australian

students of Japanese, Sano's (2014) exploration of critical thinking skills in EFL, and Pigott's (2016) articulation of cultural identity and its influence on language learning.

My time as editor of *JJMM* wasn't, to be sure, without its challenges. To start with, we didn't always receive as many quality submissions as we would have liked. In light of this, I regret not having been able to elevate the profile of the journal more during my time as editor. In addition, some authors were, as to be expected, more difficult to work with through the editing stage than others, and there were times when I wondered why I was spending so much time on other people's work. On the bright side, this challenge provided me with an opportunity to try and improve my own communication, interpersonal, and diplomatic skills, and, while the job did feel on the rare occasion a thankless one, it was never a lonely one. The support I received from Tim Greer and Otsuji Emi in particular, as well as our Editorial Board of reviewers, in addition to an incredible group of dedicated, reliable, and talented proofreaders was outstanding. Getting to know these people was more than enough reward for my time as editor.

Finally, one wonderful characteristic of *JJMM* that sets it apart from several other journals of a similar nature is its willingness to mentor early-career researchers, particularly those authors writing in their second language. It gives researchers new to the field a start, a chance to get up and on our way. This is commendable, and only strengthens *JJMM*'s relevance. I'm sure the next 25 years will see an even greater number of scholars launch their publishing careers with *JJMM*.

Coming Home to *JJMM*

Stephen M. Ryan
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Vols. 24-25

It was quite a surprise to be asked to return to *JJMM*. I had, in a sense, been in at the creation, as Director of Publications for the SIG when the journal was launched. In truth, though, publications took very little directing in those days: Mary looked after the journal, I ran the newsletter. The focus of my interests had moved on since then. Ema, my daughter, whose bilingual development was the motivator for my interest in the field had long since assumed responsibility for her own development, but the reading I had done on bilingualism when she was young meant I could at least understand what people were saying on the topic, and the newsletter and journal had kept me more or less current.

Why not, then? Why not plunge back into the world of those wanting to learn how to raise their children right, and of those who insisted that bilingualism was about

much more than our children? Why not re-connect with old friends, follow up on some of the names I had seen come to prominence in SIG publications, and reach out to newer scholars and enthusiasts in the field?

So here I am, about to put my second issue of *JJMM* to bed. The first was a learning curve, gentled by Tim's prompt advice and concerned watchfulness. It also brought the anticipated connection to old friends, many of them now our trusty and hard-working reviewers, and new friends, our up-and-coming authors and SIG officers. The chance to read ground-breaking research articles in detail was a thrill. Laura Kurotobi's article (2018) on the advice given by professionals in Japan about bringing up a child bilingually struck a particular chord as did Tim Greer's (2018) paper on code-switching in an adolescent community.

Volume 25, the one you have in your hands now, brings similar pleasure. We meet again a young trilingual previously featured in these pages, learn about the role that English plays in the academic success of Brazilian-Japanese students, the realities of building a Japanese workplace where English is the official language, and attempts to bring an understanding of bilingualism to elementary school students. I hope you will enjoy these research articles, and the two book reviews as much as I have. This time, I also had the pleasure of working with Otsuji Emi, our Japanese language editor.

And now, it is time for me to echo the chorus of editors at all times and in all places: Be sure to see the Call for Papers, available now on the SIG website, to learn how your paper can be considered for inclusion during the next quarter century of *JJMM*, as the adventure continues.

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