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From the Editor

The launching of *The Japan Journal of Multilingualism and Multiculturalism* marks another milestone in the development of JALT (the Japan Association for Language Teaching) and its National Special Interest Group (N-SIG) on Bilingualism. The movement to focus on the issues that arise when languages and cultures come into contact was launched with the first Colloquium on Bilingualism at the 1985 JALT international conference. The Colloquium was the brainchild of Yamamoto Masayo and her husband Jim Swan, both English teachers experiencing "life with two languages" in their classrooms and at home with their two bilingual children. Feeling that JALT members could better understand the process their students were undergoing as they learned foreign languages, that they might benefit from increased awareness of the phenomenon they themselves experience as foreigners living in Japan or as Japanese teaching a foreign language, and that those who were parents of potential bilinguals could make more informed choices about their children's upbringing, for 10 years Masayo and Jim arranged for a wide range of research on bilingualism to be presented at the Colloquium.

The pair also struggled to gain formal recognition for the N-SIGs in JALT; as a result, in June 1990 Bilingualism was one of the first N-SIGs to be inaugurated. That August, as N-SIG Chair, Jim began editing the group's first newsletter, *N-SIG Niffance*. With enthusiasm for the group building, duties were gradually devolved. John Dean took over editorship of the newsletter in 1991 and saw it through its transition to its current bimonthly form and its new title, *Bilingual Japan*, in 1992. Since January 1993, Stephen Ryan has edited the newsletter, building it into a hefty publication packed with stimulating material pertaining to language and culture contact. Stephen also developed the *Bilingual Resource*, a bibliography and lending library for members, and in 1994, he compiled the N-SIG's first monographs, one in English and one in Japanese.

When the N-SIG guest-edited a special issue of the JALT monthly magazine *The Language Teacher* in May 1995, the many submissions made us realize the need for a forum to publish research beyond the scope of the newsletter. Only the generosity of the founding sponsors--listed on the inside cover--made this venture financially possible, however. And only the capable and dedicated efforts of the editorial board--Sandra Fotos, Kathleen Yamane and Stephen Ryan--made it possible to establish a thorough blind review system to ensure the quality of our feature articles. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those whose efforts have helped make this publication possible.

This inaugural issue begins with a study by Sandra Fotos on an aspect of bilingualism that is often viewed by monolinguals as problematic. Her findings offer insight into the functions of codeswitching that may help language teachers view this phenomenon with greater tolerance. Next, Laurel Kamada presents the results of a longitudinal study on teaching a developing bilingual baby to read. Then Nakagawa Hitomi examines one aspect of a bilingual child's linguistic skills: the ability to distinguish between the Japanese and English systems for answering negative questions. In his message, N-SIG Chair Steve McCarty presents the results of two studies intended to give a clearer picture of the kinds of research the N-SIG has presented to date and the topics that members are interested in. The issue then closes with reviews of two new books in the field that should prove of interest to readers. We sincerely hope this issue will not only stimulate greater interest and research in this field, but also make readers look forward to future editions of this fledgling journal.

Mary Goebel Noguchi, Editor

編集者からの挨拶

中曽根前首相が、日本は単一民族社会で、少数民族はいないと堂々発言したことが、遠い過去の出来事のように思われます。アイヌの代表が国会議員となり、琉球出身のミュージシャンが次々とヒットをとばし、在日韓国・朝鮮の人々が投票権を求め、市議員に立候補しようとしたり、また西洋人だけでなく日系人やアジア諸国の人々の姿も国内に多く見受けられるようになり、さらに、帰国子女の受け入れや雇用の問題もかなり改善されてきた近年の社会状況の中にあって、日本人の多くは、たとえ実際に外国に行ったことがなくとも、国内で、異文化と接触する体験を持ったことがあるのではないのでしょうか。

異なる言語や文化が接触する時、社会や個人がどう変わるか、いわゆる多言語・多文化研究は、移民の歴史の長い国、アメリカ、カナダ、イギリス、ドイツなどでは、しっかりと根をおろしています。しかし、これらの国々で行われる研究では比較的似た言語同士のもの—たとえば、英語とフランス語の組み合わせ—が多く、漢字などの違う文字を用いる言語との組み合わせを対象とした研究が欠けていると言えるでしょう。この意味で、日本のバイリンガルについての研究が要求されています。

また、バイリンガリズムが外国語教育の最終目標であると考えますと、我々JALTの会員にとり、バイリンガリズムの発達を促進したり阻害したりする要因や、人がバイリンガルになるのに伴い生ずる心理的過程に関する知識を持つことは、価値あるものと言えましょう。

こうした考え方にに基づき、JALTのバイリンガリズム研究部会では、『多言語・多文化研究』を刊行することにしました。第1号では、この挨拶と各論文・記事の概要にのみ日本語が使用されていますが、今後、この研究雑誌がより「バイリンガル」になるよう、多くの皆さんからの日本語による投稿をお待ちしています。

このささやかな研究雑誌が、この重要な課題をめぐる日本と他国との対話に、多少なりとも貢献できれば、誠に幸いです。

編集者 野口メアリー・ゲイブル