

Preface

The mission of the language education program at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU) is to cultivate human resources who can become leaders in the global society. Based on this, we have focused on providing our students with the language skills they need to give something back to society, rather than conventional knowledge-centric university-level language education. Since opening 17 years ago, APU has produced a large number of graduates who are active in the global arena, and they are using the language skills they developed in accordance with this mission.

At APU, language education subjects in the regular curriculum are designed to provide “education through language”—not language education. Based on this, the emphasis of our program has been education in the form of cultivating skills such as the ability to comprehend culture and logical thinking.

This concept has gradually spread throughout the world of university-level language education, but APU is not a foreign language school. I think what puts us a step ahead of the rest is the existence of a consistent curriculum and the extent to which we have incorporated required language subjects into that curriculum.

It was amid the search for this new kind of language education that APU established the Center for Language Education in 2005. Since APU's inception, the vehicle for publishing research on languages and language education in the Asia Pacific region was *Polyglossia*, our regular bulletin. In 2015, the Center for Language Education decided to discontinue *Polyglossia*, but the following year, it inaugurated a new bulletin, *APU Journal of Language Research*, to expand upon *Polyglossia* and carry on its legacy. Aiming to be a leader for a new kind of language education, the *APU Journal of Language Research* operates on a two-fold mission.

- I. To establish pedagogical practices that transcend the boundaries of English, Japanese, and the Asia Pacific Languages (i.e., Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Vietnamese, Malay/Indonesian, and Thai).
- II. To establish an interactive cycle of research and practice in which we i) promote both basic research on language education and research that aims to structure and theorize the practice of language education, ii) feed the outcomes of this research back into teaching, and iii) use teaching to further advance research.

In closing, I would like to dedicate this second issue of *APU Journal of Language Research* to retiring Professor NISHIKAWA Koji, who worked diligently to establish the Center for Language Education and took the helm of language education at APU for many years as the Center's director. With this memorial issue, we shall honor the achievements of Professor NISHIKAWA while expressing our desire to faithfully carry on the ideals he championed as we seek to advance language education at APU.

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Chief Editor

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