



Open Lecture and Symposium: *Windows to the Mind*



Date: January 12, 2013 (Saturday) 13:00 – 18:00
Place: Nishi-Waseda Campus, Bldg 63, Floor 2, Conference Room 03
Hosted by: Faculty of Science and Engineering and
CELESE (Center for English Language Education)
<http://www.celese.sci.waseda.ac.jp/node/883>
Inquiries addressed to: Fusa Katada at katada@waseda.jp
Part I: 13:00 – 14:00 Open lecture by Dr. Margaret Thomas
14:00 – 14:15 (break)
Part II: 14:15 – 18:00 Presentations by CELESE faculty members

Part I: Open Lecture

Lecturer

Dr. Margaret Thomas, Professor, Boston College, MA USA

Title of the Lecture

Acquisition of *Kanji* by Second-Language Learners
in the Age of the Word-Processor

Abstract

Learning to read and write in Japanese makes very heavy cognitive demands on second-language learners, especially with respect to *kanji*. Most teachers and learners consider learning *kanji* to require memorizing links between (1) meanings, (2) sounds, and (3) shapes. But a fourth, kinesthetic (movement-based), dimension of *kanji* exists and supports literacy in Japanese, because writers / readers of Japanese unconsciously use their hands, in a little-researched technique known as *kūsho* (air writing), when they learn and recall *kanji*. The on-going shift from handwriting to keyboard-based writing has massive cultural, educational, and social consequences for the Japanese language; how does this change interact with the fourth, kinesthetic, dimension of *kanji* knowledge? The lecture will show video footage of learners using *kūsho*, and analyze its effects on their ability to remember *kanji*. It concludes with some speculations about the relevance of these findings to the teaching and learning of Japanese in an age when handwriting is being replaced by writing with a keyboard.

a student doing kūsho



About the Lecturer

Dr. Margaret Thomas is a professor of linguistics at Boston College, Massachusetts, USA. She graduated from Yale University with a degree in Japanese Language and Literature, and completed a PhD in Linguistics at Harvard University. She teaches courses on psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, and formal linguistics, including the Linguistic Structure of Japanese. She writes about second language acquisition and the history of linguistics, but has long-standing interest in Japanese, and has visited Japan several times—most recently in July 2012 as a grantee of the Japan Foundation. Dr. Thomas is author of *Fifty Key Thinkers on Language and Linguistics*, Routledge, 2011.

Part II: Presentations

- 14:15 – 14:45 Emmanuel Manalo (CELESE), Yuri Uesaka (Tokyo University), and Koki Sekitani (Tokyo University): Using mnemonic images and explicit sound contrasting to help Japanese children learn English alphabet sounds
- 14:45 – 15:15 Laurence Anthony (CELESE) and Mark Bowen (ICSEP, Waseda University): Mapping native speaker intuitions about English language use to real-world data: The case of mathematics research article writing
- 15:15 – 15:45 Nobue Tanaka-Ellis (CELESE): Interacting with nonhumans: Another way of looking at activities in language classrooms
- 15:45 – 16:15 Kazuko Tanabe (Guest presenter, Japan Women's University): Newspaper corpus based lexical grammatical analysis of Sino-Japanese words
- 16:15 – 16:30 (break)
- 16:30 – 17:00 Ralph Rose (CELESE): A descriptive account of the developmental trajectory of L2 learners' use of hesitation phenomena
- 17:00 – 17:30 Chris Sheppard (CELESE): Measurement and definition of perceptual learning styles: Defining through working memory
- 17:30 – 18:00 Fusa Katada (CELESE): Backward *ludling* in auditory working memory: Orthography-free evidence for the structure of long segments in Japanese
- 18:00 – 18:15 (closing)
- 18:45 – reception (place to be announced, everyone is welcome at a fee)