

Institute for Japanese Studies Lecture Series

The Syntax of Participants

Shigeru Miyagawa

Department of Linguistics and Philosophy
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Thursday, September 15, 2016
2:20-3:40 pm
Baker Systems 260
1971 Neil Avenue



Abstract: Syntax of Participants (SOP) is concerned with a variety of linguistic phenomena that occur at the interface of syntax and pragmatics: sentential particles, allocutive agreement that marks politeness, interjections, and so forth. These share the trait of referencing either the speaker or the hearer, or both. The allocutive is a regular form of agreement, hence it must enter into a probe-goal relation. Using a modern version of Ross's Performative Analysis proposed by Speas and Tenny (2003) and Haegeman and Hill (2011), we show that the goal of the allocutive is the representation of the Hearer in Ross's performative structure and what Speas and Tenny more recently call the Speech Act Phrase (SAP). Miyagawa argues that the politeness marking *-des/-mas-* in Japanese is a form of allocutive agreement (Miyagawa 2012, in press). Cross linguistically SOP phenomena are highly restricted in distribution, being available only in root clauses.

Bio: Shigeru Miyagawa has been at MIT since 1991, where he is Professor of Linguistics and Kochi-Manjiro Professor of Japanese Language and Culture. He works on syntax, morphology, and Altaic and East Asian linguistics. He has recently been exploring the idea that grammatical agreement, broadly conceived, is universally present in human language. He is the author of *Agreement Beyond Phi* (to appear, *Linguistic Inquiry Monograph*, MIT Press); *Case, Argument Structure, and Word Order, Leading Linguists Series* (Routledge, 2012); *Why Agree? Why Move?* by MIT Press (2010), and co-editor with Mamoru Saito of the *Oxford Handbook of Japanese Linguistics* published by the Oxford University Press (2008), along with over sixty articles on various linguistics topics. He received his B.A. from the International Christian University in 1975 and his Ph.D. from the University of Arizona in 1980. Prior to his MIT appointment, he was Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, and also the Chair (1988-1991) of the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures at The Ohio State University.

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Contact: Nathan Lancaster | **East Asian Studies Center** | lancaster.102@osu.edu | easc.osu.edu