2024 COLLOQUIUM SERIES

**Research Center for Language, Brain and Cognition
Graduate School of International Cultural Studies, Tohoku University**

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Room M203

Multimedia Education and Research Complex, Kawauchi Kita Campus

Systematicity and individuality in the L2 development and use of English grammatical morphemes: Insights from large-scale learner corpora

In this talk, I will discuss the benefits of using large-scale learner corpora to investigate systematicity and individuality in the second language (L2) development and use of English grammatical morphemes, based on a series of corpus-based studies I have conducted. Specifically, I will first introduce Murakami and Alexopoulou (2016a), where we utilised a large-scale learner corpus to demonstrate that the accuracy order of English grammatical morphemes varies depending on learners' first language, contradicting the long-standing claim in second language acquisition that it is universal. I will then discuss Murakami and Ellis (2022), in which we used a large-scale L2 writing corpus to examine the role of usage-based distributional factors in the accuracy of L2 English inflectional morphemes. We found that the contingency between a lemma and its inflected form is a robust predictor of morpheme accuracy.

While Murakami and Alexopoulou (2016a) and Murakami and Ellis (2022) explored systematic patterns in L2 development and use, Murakami and Alexopoulou (2016b) and Murakami (2016) identified potentially idiosyncratic patterns. Murakami and Alexopoulou (2016b) clustered learners according to their longitudinal developmental trajectories of article accuracy and demonstrated that the aggregated pattern differs from the individual patterns within the group, casting doubt on inferring individual developmental patterns from aggregated data. Furthermore, Murakami (2016) simultaneously modelled systematicity and individuality in the L2 development of grammatical morphemes and showed how we can quantitatively compare the two.

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