

Introduction

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Iowa State University was pleased to host the Second Language Research Forum (SLRF) in Ames, Iowa on October 13-16, 2011, with the theme *Innovation in Second Language Research: Converging Theory and Practice*. The conference this year was particularly meritorious as SLRF celebrated its 30th Anniversary; the anniversary was recognized based on the research of past conferences by Yasuhiro Shirai, Professor and Chair of the Department of Linguistics at the University of Pittsburgh. A banquet to celebrate the occasion was held in the Sun Room at the Memorial Union on the Iowa State University campus with entertainment.

The conference program was highlighted by four distinguished plenary speakers in Second Language Acquisition: Roumyana Slabakova (University of Iowa), Steven L. Thorne (Portland State University & University of Groningen), Jan H. Hulstijn (University of Amsterdam), and Nina Spada (University of Toronto), making this conference extraordinary for a variety of SLA researchers. The conference featured three colloquia titled *Social Influences on the Acquisition of L2 Phonetics and Phonology* organized by John Levis (Iowa State University), *(Why) does SLA Need a Bilingual Turn?* Organized by Lourdes Ortega, and *Interface between Second Language Acquisition and Language Assessment: The Next Generation* organized by Carol A. Chapelle and Dan Douglas (Iowa State University), and a workshop on Corpora & Second Language Acquisition, hosted by David J. Oakey (Iowa State University) and Nina Vyatkina (University of Kansas). Out of 294 abstract submissions, 102 papers and 23 posters were accepted and presented at the conference.

Eighteen (18) peer-reviewed papers were included in the Selected Proceedings of the 2011 Second Language Research Forum, covering topics in Formal Approaches to SLA (Nagano; Park-Johnson), Functional Approaches to SLA (Kitade), Psycholinguistic Approaches to SLA (Yao; Reichle, Tremblay & Coughlin; Rodriguez; Miller; Coughlin; Dekydtspotter, McGuire, & Mossman; Kim & Kim; Winters, Lichtman & Weber), Second Language Classroom Research (Tanaka; Nagle; Wang & Koda), Second Language Phonetics and Phonology (Garcia; Namjoshi, Gaillard & Tremblay), and Second Language Testing and Assessment (Eghtesad) and Technology and SLA (Kang).

SLRF 2011 would not have been possible had it not been for the help of a great number of people and organizations. We would like to thank our generous sponsors from Iowa State University, including Center for Technology in Learning and Teaching, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Graduate College, Department of English, Department of Psychology, Department of World Languages and Cultures, Intensive English and Orientation Program (IEOP), International Teaching Assistants Program, and TESL/Applied Linguistics Program; our two exhibitors, Cambridge University Press and John Benjamins Publishing; We greatly appreciate the volunteers who contributed their time at the conference. We would like to extend our appreciation to the plenary speakers, colloquia/workshop organizers and participants, and the reviewers for their insights that informed and inspired the SLA research field. Last but not least, we would like to thank our faculty advisors, Carol A. Chapelle, David J. Oakey, Barbara Schwarte for their expert advice, guidance, and support. We hope the addition of this volume enriches our understanding of the SLA research, advocates discussions in the field, and stimulates diversified future SLA research.

Selected Proceedings of the 2011 Second Language Research Forum: Converging Theory and Practice

edited by Erik Voss,
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