

Vocabulary Acquisition Research Group

JACET Special Interest Group

Foundation ~1~

- ✿ In 2000, **JACET Vocabulary List Revising Committee** (chair: Dr. Minoru Murata) was established. This committee aimed to revise JACET 4000 (1981), the original list of 4000 words.
- ✿ In 2003, the committee published ***The JACET List of 8000 Basic Words*** and also in 2004, ***The Handbook of JACET8000 Usage*** was published.

Foundation ~2~

- ✿ The committee fulfilled its original purpose and was disbanded in 2004.
- ✿ Not only to keep up with but also **to lead the vocabulary acquisition research** in Japan, a Special Interest Group: **Vocabulary Acquisition Research Group (VARG)** was established.
- ✿ VARG has been a rapport between users and the JACET headquarter.

Foundation ~3~

- ✿ With the leadership of the first executive members, Dr. K. Aizawa and Dr. M. Mochizuki, VARG started to hold **book reading sessions** and **annual conferences** regularly.
- ✿ There are currently 24 active members in the VARG, and aside from the official members, there are many teachers and researchers regularly participating our events.

Activities ~Book Reading 1~

✦ We have held 21 Book Reading Sessions since 2007.

	Date	Venue
1st	February 10th, 2007	Tokyo Denki University
2nd	April 28th, 2007	Tokyo Denki University
3rd	June 2nd, 2007	Tokyo Denki University
4th	September 29th, 2007	Tokyo Denki University
5th	December 1st, 2007	Tokyo Denki University
6th	January 5th, 2008	Tokyo Denki University
7th	March 1st, 2008	Tokyo Denki University
8th	May 10th, 2008	Tokyo Denki University
9th	July 19th, 2008	Tokyo Denki University
10th	Oct 25th, 2008	Tokyo Denki University

Activities ~Book Reading 2~

	Date	Venue
11th	January 24th, 2009	Tokyo Denki University
12th	March 28th, 2009	Tokyo Denki University
13th	May 23rd, 2009	Tokyo Denki University
14th	July 4th, 2009	Tokyo Denki University
15th	October 24th, 2009	Tokyo Denki University
16th	January 9th, 2009	Tokyo Denki University
17th	March 13th, 2010	Tokyo Denki University
18th	May 22nd, 2010	Tokiwa University, Shibaura
19th	October 23rd, 2010	Tokyo Denki University
20th	January 8th, 2011	Tokiwa University, Shibaura
21st	June 25th, 2011	Tokyo Denki University

Activities ~Book Reading 3~

- ✿ 15-20 teachers and researchers regularly join us.
- ✿ A reporter summarizes a chapter, answers questions, and leads discussions on the chapter.
- ✿ Participants share knowledge and ideas for future research.



Activities ~Book Reading 4~

- ✦ The book reading is one of the most popular activities.
- ✦ So far, we have held **21 sessions** and have read **8 books** so far.



Activities ~Book Reading 5~

- ✿ Bogaards, P. & Laufer, B. (2004). *Vocabulary in a second language*. John Benjamins.
- ✿ Folse, K. (2004). *Vocabulary myths*. University of Michigan Press.
- ✿ Daller, Milton, & Treffers-Daller(2007). *Modelling and assessing vocabulary knowledge*. Cambridge University Press.
- ✿ Takač, V.(2008) *Vocabulary learning strategies and foreign language acquisition*. Multilingual Matters.

Activities ~Book Reading 6~

- ✿ Lengyel, Z., & Navracsics, J (Eds.). (2007). *Second language lexical processes: Applied linguistics and psycholinguistic perspectives*. Clevedon, England: Multilingual Matters.
- ✿ Nation, I. S. P. (2008). *Teaching vocabulary: Strategies and techniques*. Boston, MA: Heinle, Cengage Learning.

Activities ~Book Reading 7~

✦ Fitzpatrick, T., & Barfield, A. (Eds.). (2009). *Lexical processing in second language learners: Papers and perspective in honour of Paul Meara*. Bristol, U.K.: Multilingual Matters.

✦ ... and the current book we are reading is:

Schmitt, N. (2010). *Researching vocabulary: A vocabulary research manual*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan.

Activities ~Book Reading 8~

- ✦ Special lectures are given irregularly. The speakers include:
- ✦ **Dr. N. Akamatsu** (Doshisha Univ.) on **vocabulary knowledge and reading**
- ✦ **Dr. K. Tagashira** (Hiroshima Univ.) on **changes in mental lexicon models***
- ✦ **Dr. Y. Hoshino** (Tokyo Fuji Univ.) on **factors that affect multiple choice tests' difficulty**

* In cooperation with Dr. M. Mochizuki's project group for JSPS Grants-in-aid for Scientific Research.

Activities ~Book Reading 9~

- ◆ **Dr. A. Mizumoto** (Kansai Univ.) on **vocabulary learning strategies**
- ◆ **Dr. F. Hatano** (Tokyo Gakugei Univ.) on **vocabulary size and writing**
- ◆ **Dr. M. Kojima** (Gifu City Women's College) on **estimating productive vocabulary size**



Activities ~Book Reading 10~

- ✿ Some special lectures were given in cooperation with the SIG: **ESP Kanto Chapter**.
- ✿ **Dr. C. Nakagawa** (Tokyo Keizai Univ.) on **how words are wrongly memorized**.
- ✿ **Mr. K. Kasaraha** (Hokkaido Univ. of Education) on **how to teach collocates better**.
- ✿ **Ms. K. Murakami** (Shibaura Institute of Technology) on **linguistic environment for foreign visitors**.
- ✿ **Dr. A. Yamazaki** (Shibaura Institute of Technology) on **integrating vocabulary research and ESP research**.

Activities ~Annual Conference 1~

- ✿ Since 2004, VARG has held annual conferences on vocabulary research. So far, there has been **7 conferences** up to today.
- ✿ Our annual conference is held in December or March. It hosts about **20 to 40** presentations, including poster presentations.
- ✿ The conferences are bilingual, and about **half of the presentations are given in English** and the other half in Japanese.

Activities ~Annual Conference 2~

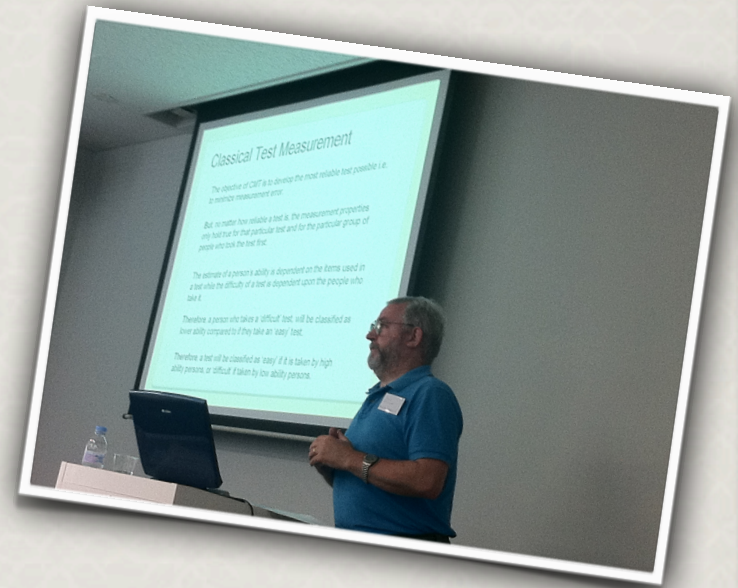
- ✿ March 2005: 1st Annual conference @ Tokyo Denki University in conjunction with Society of English Lexicography.
- ✿ December 2005: 2nd Annual Conference @ Chuo University.
- ✿ December 2006: 3rd Annual Conference @ Chuo University.
- ✿ March 2008: 4th Annual Conference @ Reitaku University in conjunction with Society of English Lexicography.

Activities ~Annual Conference 3~

- ◆ December 2008: 5th Annual Conference@ Kwansei Gakuin University in conjunction with Reading Group.
- ◆ December 2009: 6th Annual Conference @ Reitaku University Shinjyuku Campus.
- ◆ December 2010: 7th Annual Conference at Waseda University in conjunction with Society of English Lexicography.

Activities ~Annual Conference 4~

- ✦ We've invited some of the world's leading vocabulary researchers for keynote speeches.
- ✦ The list of keynote speakers includes **Dr. Paul Meara** (Swansea University), ***Dr. Tess Fitzpatrick** (Swansea University), and **Dr. John Shillow** (Nanzan University).



* In cooperation with Dr. M. Mochizuki's project group for JSPS Grants-in-aid for Scientific Research.

Activities ~Annual Conference 5~

- ✿ Dr. Meara on **“Growing a vocabulary,”** and **“Estimate productive vocabulary size”**
- ✿ Dr. Fitzpatrick on **“Using word association responses to explore the nature of vocabulary knowledge”**
- ✿ Dr. Shillow on **“Basic introduction to Rasch analysis”**

Activities ~Upcoming Events~

◆ 22nd book reading session is scheduled on Oct. 15th at Toko Denki University.

◆ This year's conference is scheduled on **Dec. 10th** at **Reitaku University Shinjyuku Campus**.

◆ For more information on both events, visit our website.



Interested?

- ✦ If you are interested, please contact the current exec. member:
- ✦ Tatsuo Iso, Rie Koizumi, Yuko Hoshino.
(tiso@reitaku-u.ac.jp)
- ✦ Visit our website:

<http://j-varg.sakura.ne.jp>

