

July 19, 2024

To: Dr. Yoshinori WATANABE, President, the Japan Language Testing Association

From: Dr. Kazuhiko KATAGIRI, Chair, the Best Book Award Selection Committee

2024 JLTA Best Book Award Selection Report

Based on the process outlined below and the rigorous review and deliberation by the Best Book Award Selection Committee, we hereby recommend the following book as a candidate for the 2024 JLTA Best Book Award.

Recommended Book for the Award:

Title: *Understanding L2 Proficiency—Theoretical and Meta-Analytic Investigations*

Editors: Eun Hee Jeon and Yo In'nami

Publisher: John Benjamins Publishing Company

Publication Date: August 4, 2022

Award Recipient [in Japanese alphabetical order, followed by the representative]:

Dr. Yo IN'NAMI (Chuo University) [Representative Recipient]

Yuya ARAI [Ph.D. Candidate] (Waseda University)

Dr. Rie KOIZUMI (University of Tsukuba)

Dr. Junko YAMASHITA (Nagoya University)

Reasons for Recommendation:

This book provides a comprehensive and in-depth review of previous research on L2 proficiency, organizing internal subcomponents and related external factors that influence the four language skills. It offers detailed explanations and insights, followed by meta-analyses of the correlations between each skill and its associated factors, thereby presenting more refined findings. Each skill is addressed in separate chapters.

Although the methods for reviewing prior research vary slightly by chapter, all chapters thoroughly capture relevant studies. For example, Chapter 3 reports searches across five major databases (ERIC, LLBA, ProQuest, PsycINFO, PsycARTICLES) and 29 journals in applied linguistics and related fields. The comprehensiveness of this work is remarkable.

This book represents fundamental research in L2 assessment. It is an internationally co-authored work, written in English, making it accessible to readers worldwide.

For these reasons, the book aligns with Article 1 of the Book Award regulations, which aim to disseminate research and practice related to language testing broadly to the public.

Additionally, given the current surge in global prices and the depreciation of the yen, it is noteworthy that the PDF version of this book is available for free download (<https://www.jbe-platform.com/content/books/9789027257697>, accessed July 6, 2024).

Selection Process:

March 31, 2024: One recommendation was received from a member meeting the eligibility requirement (membership of 3+ years).

April 1, 2024: Preliminary review of the PDF version began.

April 3, 2024: Requested purchase of the book from the association office.

June 4, 2024: The book arrived, and full review of the original began.

July 6, 2024: Selection committee meeting (remote) unanimously decided to recommend the book to the Board.

Chapters Authored by Award Recipients:

Chapter 2

L2 reading comprehension

Theory and research

Junko YAMASHITA

Chapter 3

L2 reading comprehension and its correlates

An updated meta-analysis

Eun Hee Jeon and **Junko YAMASHITA**

Chapter 6

L2 writing and its external correlates

A meta-analysis

Masumi Kojima, **Yo IN'NAMI** and Taku KANETA

Chapter 8

L2 listening and its correlates

A meta-analysis

Yo IN'NAMI, **Rie KOIZUMI**, Eun Hee Jeon and **Yuya ARAI**

Chapter 10

L2 speaking and its internal correlates

A meta-analysis

Rie KOIZUMI, **Yo IN'NAMI** and Eun Hee Jeon

Chapter 11

L2 speaking and its external correlates

A meta-analysis

Eun Hee Jeon, **Yo IN'NAMI i** and **Rie KOIZUMI**

Chapter 13

Discussion, limitations, and future research

Eun Hee Jeon, **Yo IN'NAMI** and **Rie KOIZUMI**