

SECOND LANGUAGE STUDIES — ONE YEAR MORE

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Before we discuss this year’s issue, we would like to pause for a moment of acknowledgement. Last month marked the 1-year anniversary of the wildfires that devastated the town of Lahaina on the island of Maui. Due in no small part to the diversion of water for the sake of tourism and agriculture, this disaster resulted in the loss of at least 102 lives (Lyte, 2024). Many of the graduating students of Lahainaluna High School Class of 2024 will enter the University of Hawai‘i system this academic year.

We welcome them.

AWAY AGAIN

Now in its second year under an all-graduate production team, we present you with the 42nd Volume of *Second Language Studies*. We would like to extend our thanks to the submission authors, and for your attention while you read the articles within.

Movement does not cease. We would like to acknowledge the graduation of two of our previous board members, Dr. Ha Nguyen and Dr. Hitoshi Nishizawa, whose dissertation titles you will find within. We congratulate them on their achievements and newly acquired positions. Kristen Urada has also stepped down while she finishes the last phase of her dissertation; we wish her success.

In their place, we add three new members to the board: Milang Shin, Jue Wang, and Joonhee Kim. These three members have dedicated their time and effort into making this issue possible.

THE CURRENT ISSUE

Our first paper, authored by MA graduate Maggie McGehee, was awarded a Harry Whitten Prize for Scholarly Excellence. This research focused on assessing the relationship between English language proficiency (ELP) test scores and academic performance at the University of

Hawai‘i at Mānoa. It explored whether variations in academic success were influenced by different ELP tests used for admission. This study is pivotal for evaluating the validity of the Duolingo English Test (DET) within admissions processes and contributes to existing literature by exploring outcomes at a large, public university in the U.S., employing a broader range of ELP scores and incorporating newer tests. The study analyzed various indicators of student success, including GPA, academic probation rates, and withdrawal rates, and compared these metrics for students with differing ELP scores and those exempt from ELP requirements. The results offer valuable insights into the effective use of DET in conjunction with IELTS and TOEFL scores for admissions at UHM.

Our second paper, authored by MA graduate Sohyeon Lee, investigates the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) Consortium and the Center for Applied Linguistics’ short form assessment—the WIDA Screener—available in both print and online versions. This paper provides a detailed review of the WIDA Screener Online, evaluating its practicality, usability, and validity. Its aim is to affirm its effectiveness as a valuable tool for both students and educators.

Our final paper, by PhD candidate Michaela Nuesser, uses the concepts of linguistic relativity and conceptual transfer for the examination of categorization preferences of drawing- and painting actions between three groups: German monolinguals, English monolinguals, and German–English bilinguals. This is done using similarity judgment tasks containing critical triads of picture stimuli alongside filler triads. A discussion of the paper’s relevance to the study of linguistic relativity and transfer is included.

That sums up this issue; please enjoy. If publication in *Second Language Studies* is appealing to you, we are open to a wide variety of submissions, including: empirical articles, theoretical papers, research proposals, language test reviews, pedagogical or research materials, scholarly interviews, and short essays. We thank you again for reading Volume 42 of *Second Language Studies*.

Mahalo nui,

Rickey Larkin, Chief Editor

Micah Mizukami, Review Editor

Joonhee Kim, Copy Editor

Milang Shin, Summary Editor

Michol Miller, Review Editor

Jue Wang, Submissions Editor

REFERENCES

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