

Preface

 <https://doi.org/10.1075/pbns.202.oopre>

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Soliloquy in Japanese and English

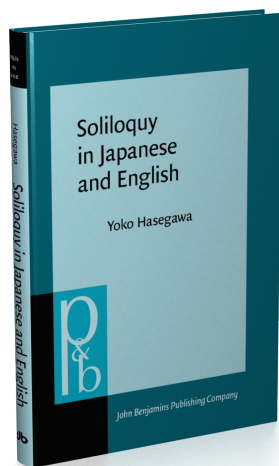
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[Pragmatics & Beyond New Series, 202] 2010. ix, 230 pp.

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Preface

My thanks to the 24 Japanese and 10 English participants who volunteered as subjects for the data-gathering related to this project. Without their assistance, this book could not have materialized. Throughout this research, I have become increasingly fascinated by hearing other persons' soliloquies. Indeed, when I transcribed my subjects' soliloquies, I felt very close to them – a kind of feeling I had never previously experienced. This is one of the powers of soliloquy. Revealing one's thoughts without interpersonal linguistic devices is a manifestation of trust. I appreciate my subjects' trust and their forthright words, including criticism of my experiment and of my office possessions, as well as of their personal problems.

My interest in soliloquy was originally triggered by the works of the late Professor Shige-Yuki Kuroda. He cautioned that many proposed characteristics of linguistic expressions could be derived from communicative settings themselves, and were not necessarily properties of such expressions. I remember in particular his claim that if the selection of *wa* and *ga* (Japanese particles to mark the topic and the grammatical subject, respectively) is determined solely by the consideration of communication (e.g., whether the entity is given or new, identifiable or not to the addressee), their behaviors in soliloquy and dialogue must be quite different. I wanted to cite this statement in this book, but I was unable to find the source. When I asked Prof. Kuroda in 2008 in which of his works it appeared, he responded that he was not sure it was his. Well, I'm sure it was. No one else could make such an insightful comment.

I also would like to express my appreciation to the following individuals for their valuable comments and suggestions: Isja Conen, Anita Fetzner, Yukio Hirose, Ashlyn Moehle, Russell Lee-Goldman, Wesley Y. Leonard, Eve Sweetser, Yukinori Takubo, Helen Rippier Wheeler, and two anonymous referees.