

Acknowledgments

This book is a revised version of my doctoral dissertation submitted to International Christian University in Tokyo in 2000. Throughout the five years of juggling course requirements, dissertation writing, and my teaching commitments, I have received advice, encouragement, and support from many people.

First, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my doctoral evaluation committee members at International Christian University: Prof. John C. Maher, my advisor, Prof. Peter B. McCagg, Prof. Yoko Kuriyama and Prof. Akira Tachikawa. I also wish to thank Prof. Randolph H. Thrasher, who was a committee member until his sabbatical leave. Without their valuable comments and suggestions, the dissertation would never have been completed. In particular, Prof. Maher offered me the most appropriate guidance and suggestions. His support in the warmest and the most gracious manner helped me continue the program. Prof. Steven J. Ross of Kwansei Gakuin University gave me invaluable help with the statistical analysis, enabling this study to go beyond mere description.

I am also greatly indebted to all the organizations and individuals, not named here in order to assure their privacy, who distributed my survey questionnaire, and to the families who took the time to fill it out and give many insightful comments. Although I was not able to include every family who offered themselves for follow-up interviews, I thank them for their willingness. Those whom I did interview all welcomed me to their homes or offices and shared their very private feelings about raising children and about bilingualism. One family even had the children cut classes to come home earlier, so that they could join the interview!

The questionnaire study which forms the basis for the dissertation was funded by a Japanese Ministry of Education Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (C), Project Number 07610517.

While the dissertation was still in progress, I made a presentation at the AILA 1999 conference in Tokyo, based on the same data. Prof. Annick De Houwer of the University of Antwerp gave me many encouraging comments and insights, which helped shape my dissertation.

I am very pleased and honored to be able to publish this revised version of my dissertation in the Multilingual Matters series, 'Bilingual Education and Bilingualism'. I would like to thank Ms Marjukka Grover of Multilingual Matters, for her enthusiasm and much valued assistance, and to Prof. Colin Baker for including this volume in the Bilingual Education and Bilingualism series. Also I am grateful to the anonymous reviewer for the support and many detailed comments and suggestions.

Lastly, my thanks go to my own family. My husband, Jim Swan, has always been willing to spare time to help me, both as a colleague and also as my best friend; without his help, support, and patience, I would not have been able to finish either the program or this book.

The original inspiration for all my studies was our children, Pam and JY, both now mature English-Japanese bilinguals with abilities in several other foreign languages, too. Watching them grow confirmed to me what an intriguing and rich experience it is to all of us – the children and the parents as well – to live in a bilingual environment.

Masayo YAMAMOTO