

In Appreciation of Professor Fred E. Anderson

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journal or publication title	英米文學英語學論集
volume	11
page range	1-2
year	2022-03-19
URL	http://doi.org/10.32286/00026751

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I am delighted to be able to write this appreciation of my colleague and friend, Professor Fred E. Anderson, and to congratulate him on his retirement from the Department of English Linguistics and Literature at Kansai University. I know he will be sorely missed by the students, the faculty and the staff: his friendly, unassuming nature, his outgoing personality and his devotion to excellence in research and education have made him one of the most popular members of our faculty.

Professor Anderson is a real “people person”. He knows scholars all over the world and seems to effortlessly network with people in a wide range of fields, not only at Kansai University but also at other institutions where he has studied and worked, as well as those he has actively gone out of the way to meet at the many academic conferences he has attended and presented at over the years. This ability to befriend others, as well as a willingness to work through sometimes challenging bureaucratic procedures to get things done, has enriched our department. In addition to happily sharing his wide-ranging knowledge with students and colleagues, Professor Anderson was able to arrange for a number of scholars to join us as visiting professors, including Hans Lindquist from Sweden, Michael Harrington from Australia, and most recently, Craig Alan Volker from Portugal.

I believe this capacity for networking is an offshoot of Professor Anderson’s natural curiosity: he loves to learn new things as well as to share knowledge with others, and this has made him a fine researcher as well as an excellent teacher. He seems to truly enjoy interacting with his students and nurturing their research skills. I have learned a great deal from him and feel blessed to have worked with him at Kandai for 13 years.

Our relationship actually goes back much further. I first became acquainted with him in the 1990s, when we were both members of the Bilingualism Special Interest Group (Bilingualism SIG) of the Japan Association for Language Teaching (JALT). Later, when I was co-editing a volume on Japanese bilingualism, he approached me about submitting an article to it. “Language and Culture Revitalisation in a Hokkaido Ainu Community”, which he co-authored with Masami Iwasaki-Goodman, was subsequently included in that volume, *Studies in Japanese Bilingualism* (Multilingual Matters, 2001). Soon, I invited Professor Anderson to serve on the Editorial Board of the Bilingualism SIG Journal, *The Japan Journal of Multilingualism and Multiculturalism*, which I was editing at the time.

This led to a deepening of our friendship as we consulted with each other not only about submissions to the journal but also about our children's higher education options.

We kept in touch over the years and then in 2008, Professor Anderson contacted me about an opening in the Department of English Linguistics and Literature at Kansai University, to which he himself had recently moved. I will forever be grateful to him for encouraging me to apply for the position despite my initial feelings of inadequacy. Getting the post not only gave me the opportunity to move beyond teaching English language classes and deepen my research in various areas of sociolinguistics, but also led to a wonderful working relationship.

Professor Anderson and I, as the two native English speakers in our department and as researchers who focused on similar areas of sociolinguistics, were able to share ideas about course content and techniques for presenting information, plan joint retreats for our senior seminars, and also consult each other about ways to encourage our students to write better graduation theses. This latter form of collaboration eventually led us to share what we had learned in a joint presentation titled "Supervising *Sotsuron*" at the Pan-SIG Conference in Akita in 2017 and then publish a co-authored paper in the conference proceedings the following year as a way to try to help less experienced non-Japanese who teach seniors at Japanese universities. In addition, Professor Anderson invited me to submit an article on language and identity among Korean residents of Japan (*Zainichi*) to a volume he was co-editing with Craig Alan Volker titled *Education in Languages of Lesser Power: Asia-Pacific Perspectives*, which was published by John Benjamins in 2015.

Thus, I have enjoyed a long, fruitful relationship with Professor Anderson that involved not only research but also teaching and personal friendship. Having retired last year, I already miss collaborating with him, and am sure that the department will acutely feel his absence next year. However, knowing how hard he has been working over his years at Kandai, I feel he deserves a nice rest and wish him all the best in the coming years.