A large body of knowledge has accumulated in recent years on the cognitive processes and brain mechanisms underlying language. Much of this knowledge has come from studies of Indo-European languages, in particular English. Japanese, a language of growing interest to linguists, differs significantly from most Indo-European languages in its grammar, its lexicon, and its written and spoken forms – features which have profound implications for the learning, representation, and processing of language. This handbook, the second in a three-volume series on East Asian psycholinguistics, presents a state-of-the-art discussion of the psycholinguistic study of Japanese. With contributions by over fifty leading scholars, it covers topics in first and second language acquisition, language processing and reading, language disorders in children and adults, and the relationships between language, brain, culture, and cognition. It will be invaluable to all scholars and students interested in the Japanese language, as well as cognitive psychologists, linguists, and neuroscientists.

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The Handbook of East Asian Psycholinguistics

*Volume II: Japanese*

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In memory of Miwa Nishimura (1951–2004)

While working on this book, we received the sad news that Miwa Nishimura had passed away in a car accident in Hawaii. Both she and her husband Clifford died almost instantly.

Miwa was a trained sociolinguist, specializing in code-switching and bilingualism. After obtaining her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, she taught at Georgetown University, the American University, Gumma Prefectural Women’s University, and Waseda University. She was a cheerful, energetic, and down-to-earth kind of person. She was loved by her colleagues and students at all institutions where she taught. This unfortunate accident happened when she was about to become a full professor at Waseda and expected to contribute even more to the field. Her work on code-switching tackles many interesting issues in theoretical linguistics, so our loss is great.

Because of their work, Miwa and Clifford were in different countries. Now, they are together, forever. May Miwa and Clifford rest in peace in Hawaii.

This volume is dedicated to the late promising linguist, Miwa Nishimura. We are very fortunate to be able to include her last article, “Intrasentential code-switching in Japanese and English,” as chapter 25.

Mineharu Nakayama, Reiko Mazuka, and Yasuhiro Shirai
Preface

This is the second volume of the three-volume series on East Asian psycholinguistics that includes Chinese, Japanese, and Korean, the languages that have received significant research interest in psycholinguistics outside the Indo-European language family. During the past two to three decades, a substantial body of knowledge has accumulated in the study of the cognitive processes and brain mechanisms underlying language use, language acquisition, and language disorders in the Japanese language.

Most of the work in Japanese psycholinguistics has been influenced by the study of English. However, in recent years, researchers interested in Japanese have employed a variety of theoretical and experimental paradigms to examine various issues in order to understand the human cognitive system. Japanese has served well as a crucial test case for general psycholinguistic theories and models. Both universal and specific aspects of the language have been revealed, which has made significant contributions to this fast-developing field. Although space does not allow us to exhaustively cover the topics and theories concerning Japanese psycholinguistics, we believe that we were successful in including most representative topics in the subfields of Japanese psycholinguistics, and are very pleased to be able to present the state-of-the-art theories and findings written by as many experts as can be included in this volume. As a matter of convenience, the articles in this volume are grouped into two sections: “Language acquisition” and “Language processing.” Please note that all articles are naturally interrelated beyond these groupings. We hope this book will serve as a rich resource for future investigations in experimental and theoretical psycholinguistics.

Finally, we would like to thank the University of Richmond and the Institute for Japanese Studies at The Ohio State University for their generous support, Jonathan Airhart and Akiko Kashiwagi of The Ohio State University for their extensive technical assistance, Hiroshi Matsusaka of Waseda University for his assistance in acquiring information on the late Miwa Nishimura, and Jayne Aldhouse, Helen Barton, Elizabeth Davey, Anna-Marie Lovett, Kay McKechnie, and Claudia Payer of Cambridge University Press for their patience and editorial assistance.

Mineharu Nakayama, Reiko Mazuka, and Yasuhiro Shirai