

Ohio University

OHIO Open Library

All Forum Articles

College of Arts & Sciences Forum

8-2-2021

50th Anniversary Linguistics Colloquium | Hiro Oshita on A big earthquake occurred many people to sudden death, Sept. 24

Ohio University College of Arts & Sciences

Follow this and additional works at: https://ohioopen.library.ohio.edu/cas_forum_all

Recommended Citation

Ohio University College of Arts & Sciences, "50th Anniversary Linguistics Colloquium | Hiro Oshita on A big earthquake occurred many people to sudden death, Sept. 24" (2021). *All Forum Articles*. 8379. https://ohioopen.library.ohio.edu/cas_forum_all/8379

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the College of Arts & Sciences Forum at OHIO Open Library. It has been accepted for inclusion in All Forum Articles by an authorized administrator of OHIO Open Library. For more information, please contact deborded@ohio.edu.

50th Anniversary Linguistics Colloquium | Hiro Oshita on ‘A big earthquake occurred many people to sudden death?’ Sept. 24

August 2, 2021

Categories: Events

Tags: Hiroyuki Oshita, linguistics colloquium, linguistics events



Dr. Hiro Oshita

The [Linguistics Colloquium series](#) presents [Dr. Hiro Oshita](#) discussing “*A big earthquake occurred many people to sudden death???: Hidden degrees of acceptability among English resultative sentences*” on Friday, Sept. 24, from 12:55 to 1:50 p.m. via Microsoft TEAMS.

- [Watch the meeting on Teams.](#)
- Or call in (audio only) [+1 614-706-6572,,914855010#](#) | United States, Columbus phone conference ID: 914 855 010#

Contact [Dr. David Bell](#), linguistics chair, belld@ohio.edu, for questions about watching.

Oshita is associate professor and graduate chair of linguistics and director of the Japanese language program in the College of Arts & Sciences at Ohio University.

Abstract: My talk concerns English sentences like the following and the range of their grammatical acceptability:

1. Chris broke the vase to pieces.
2. Pat swept the floor very clean.
3. The angry man kicked a hole in the wall.
4. The veteran trainer stared the tiger into submission.
5. The audience laughed the poor singer into embarrassment.

The examples (1) to (5) have the same syntactic pattern, i.e., S-V-O followed by an additional phrase, and express a general meaning that the grammatical subject was involved in some event and as a result the grammatical object underwent some conditional change. The sentences like these are called resultative sentences, and their semantic and syntactic properties have been widely discussed in the literature (Goldberg 1995, Levin and Rappaport Hovav 1995). Now, consider the following example, which is in the same syntactic pattern:

6. A big earthquake occurred many people to sudden death.

The intended meaning of (6) is obvious but how about its grammaticality? Is it acceptable on par with (1) to (5)? If not, how is it different from the others? Or, for that matter, are the examples (1) to (5) all grammatical to the same degree?

In this talk, adopting the lexical conceptual structure (LCS) and semantic predicate conflation (Kageyama, 1997) as an analytical framework, I argue that the example sentences above represent six contrastive LCS conflation patterns, which predict a declining scale of grammaticality in the given order. This prediction was tested with a grammaticality judgment

survey administered to four language groups (native English speakers and L1 speakers of Japanese, Ukrainian and Vietnamese). Based on the obtained data, I discuss three major findings: (i) a judgment pattern common among the four language groups, (ii) a pattern significantly different between native and nonnative groups, and (iii) a pattern which separates the Japanese from the other groups. The significance of these findings is considered with respect to the theoretical analysis of resultative sentences as well as to the question of ultimate grammatical attainment of L2 learners of English.

About Linguistics' 50th Anniversary Celebration

“We are really looking forward to everyone joining us this year, either live in person or via Microsoft TEAMS to celebrate our anniversary,” said Bell, who also invited alumni and friends to add their names to the donor wall by making a gift, of whatever amount, to the [Linguistics Department's crowdfunding campaign](#).

He noted that all funds go to support our students' registration and travel expenses to conferences where they will present their research.

“And please stay in touch! Send us a message on our Linguistics FB page at <https://www.facebook.com/LingDeptOHIO>,” he added.