Exploring a News Battery of Multi-Facet Vocabulary Tests 2

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Since 2007 we have made attempts to develop a battery of vocabulary tests in order to measure vocabulary knowledge in different dimensions and estimate a learner’s English proficiency based on the test results. We have reported our findings in the symposiums of the JACET Conventions and had lively discussions with participants. This year we would like to present the newest findings of our research and discuss them with participants in the symposium.

Proposal 1: Mochizuki presents four versions of the simplified English vocabulary size test, J8VST80, which challenges test-takers to choose the most appropriate English word for a given Japanese word and estimates a vocabulary size up to 8,000 words based on the JACET8000 Word List. He examines the validity and reliability of the test and the parallelism of the four versions. He suggests use of the four versions of the new vocabulary size test that can be administered in a short time.

Proposal 2: Sugimori presents an English polysemous word test that he has developed since 2010 and reports the relation between polysemous word knowledge and English proficiency. He discusses how multidimensional vocabulary knowledge is organized in Japanese learners of English.

Proposal 3: Ishikawa discusses the relationship between L2 proficiency and reaction time in higher-order L2 lexical processing. In order to examine the reliability of reaction time as a proficiency index, he conducted a series of experiments using different task modules, which include semantic, phonological and part-of-speech judgment of paired words. He reports how the relationship varies according to task types.