

# Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages



## *Anniversary Celebration*

**Friday | April 29, 2022 | 1:00 - 5:00 PM**

**STORM HALL WEST/SHW 011**

**You are cordially invited to join the department  
as we celebrate and recognize students, faculty,  
staff, and alumni.**

**Opening remarks by Provost Hector Ochoa and  
CAL Dean Monica J. Casper.**

**Plenary talks by Joan Bybee and Naoko Taguchi**

**RSVP**

**Reception to immediately follow**

**Free parking will be available on the top floor of  
Parking 12. Attendees must adhere to the  
university's latest facial covering requirements.**



**SDSU**

College of Arts and Letters  
Linguistics and  
Asian/Middle  
Eastern  
Languages

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## **How and why languages change: Implications for evolution**

**Joan Bybee**  
**University of New Mexico**

Recent research into two major types of language change—grammaticalization and sound change affecting consonants—shows that within each type, the set of changes that occur are very similar across time and across languages, and that in general each type of change moves in one direction only. Working backwards from known directional changes leads us to earlier stages in the evolution of language. Research on grammaticalization shows that the only necessary pre-conditions for grammar are the existence of words and their common use in a social context. For consonants, a small set gives rise to all other consonants by sound change, while this same set has no source in sound change, and thus constitutes a starting point for the evolution of sound systems.



## **Learning pragmatics: A perspective from Japanese speech style**

**Naoko Taguchi**  
**Northern Arizona University**

Pragmatics is the study of linguistic forms, how they are used, and what meanings they create in social contexts. Crystal (1997) defines pragmatics as “the study of language from the point of view of users, especially of the choices they make, the constraints they encounter in using language in social interaction and the effects their use of language has on other participants in the act of communication” (p. 301). This definition underscores the relations between linguistic forms and speakers, while highlighting agency in linguistic choice-making and the consequences of such choices in social interaction. In this lecture, I will discuss these multiple dimensions of pragmatics in the context of second language acquisition. Using the acquisition of Japanese speech style as an example, I will present three main dimensions of pragmatic competence: (1) knowledge of form-meaning-context mappings, (2) interaction abilities, and (3) agentic choice-making capacity. I will conclude my lecture with implications for teaching Japanese speech style.