

DEDICATION

PROFESSOR BATES HOFFER

We dedicate this special issue of *Intercultural Communication Studies* (ICS) to Professor Bates Hoffer. In so doing we recognize not only his major contributions to the International Association for Intercultural Communication Studies (IAICS), but his extensive professional contributions to the study of linguistics, literature, and intercultural communication. Throughout his illustrious career, he has sustained a clear focus on the inherent excitement of language. With a passion contagious to his many students and colleagues, he has stimulated and challenged them to consider the nature and uses of language in a wide diversity of contexts and as a synthesizing aspect of our humanity. Whether teaching or conducting research about language in literature, about comparative languages, or about applications of language knowledge to a host of human problems, he has always observed the interdisciplinary aspects of his work and cast a wide influence on people from many different perspectives. As we recount some of his many contributions, notice the breadth and commitment reflected in his life.

Those of us at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas (USA) are especially proud that his career development led him to our campus. He received his baccalaureate degree in English and his doctoral degree in linguistics at the University of Texas in Austin. Perhaps that taste of south Texas led him to return after some appointments at two other universities. After his graduation from UT, he taught Japanese and English linguistics for two years as an Assistant Professor of Japanese in the East Asian Languages Department at the University of Hawaii where he also taught theoretical linguistics in the Linguistics Department. Subsequently, he taught courses in theoretical linguistics as a Visiting Associate Professor of Linguistics at Cornell University (Ithaca, NY, USA). He then turned down offers at both of these universities when Trinity University offered him a chance to build a linguistics program and also teach literature and other interdisciplinary courses. With these challenges before him, he has spent most of his career at Trinity.

His invaluable work at Trinity has skillfully acknowledged the centrality of language study throughout the liberal arts and sciences. At the three universities where he has taught, he has collaborated with professors from seventeen different departments and programs in teaching courses and conducting research. From anthropology and art history to religion, sociology, and speech communication, he has created interdisciplinary approaches to teach students about language and linguistics. In addition to a wide range of linguistic courses, he has taught literature courses on Chaucer, Shakespeare, Twain, Joyce, Hemingway, Greene Malamud and O'Connor. A course in comparison of animal communication and human language that he developed with a psychology professor won a national award. His excellence as a teacher has certainly enhanced his influence and was recognized by nomination for a statewide teaching award and student recognition as Outstanding Professor. His administrative work within the university further extended his influence. He served as the

Chair of the English Department for five years, coordinated the Bilingual Education Program for two years, and taught in the Upward Bound Program for the last eighteen years. Throughout these endeavors he has continuously promoted linguistics.

Both as a youngster and later in his professional development, his connection with Japan has forged a unifying theme. From his father, who arrived in Japan just after peace was declared, he learned and developed a familiarity and fondness for the Japanese language and people. This early initiative was reinforced during his doctoral program when he spent a year conducting research at the Tokyo Electrical Engineering College. As an exchange researcher from the Linguistics Research Center at UT-Austin, he worked with a group of scholars on the machine translation of Japanese and English. This experience served to formalize his connection with Japan and launched developments that would create many friendships, collaborations, and research projects for the remainder of his career with several projects still underway. During the interviews for this dedication, we learned that Bates has spent nearly five percent of his adult life in Japan. As many of his colleagues in Japan will attest, the Japanese roots of his work continually manifest themselves in many of his extensive publications.

As a scholar, Professor Hoffer has brought great prestige to IAICS, to our journal, and to Trinity University. He has been an author, co-author or editor of over 100 books and an author or co-author of some 200 articles, book chapters, and reviews. The breadth of this work is amazing: He has had an article on computers and poetry selected for international circulation, an article on American author Malamud selected for a special publication about him, as well as many other publications about a wide diversity of linguistics concerns. His work has appeared in a variety of journals including *Word*, *Language Sciences*, *AILA Review*, *Die Neuren Sprachen*, *Papers in Linguistics*, *International Studies in Bilingualism*, among many others. He founded and edited the journal *Language and Literature* for the years 1975-2004. His books have easily established his world renown as a linguist, especially as this corpus deals with the intercultural relations between the East and West with special emphasis on Japanese-American relations. In the USA the National Science Foundation, the Social Science Research Council, and the Office of Education have funded his research; in Japan support has come from the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science and the Japan Foundation. He has given papers in fourteen countries of North America, Asia, and Europe, including six keynote addresses.

Unlike some scholars who hide within their research or labs, Professor Hoffer has a strong service commitment for which we are all beneficiaries. At home he has provided leadership not only to his Department of English and our interdisciplinary minor in Linguistics, but also the University Curriculum Council, the Faculty Senate, and many other committees. He has been the President of six church-related organizations including one School Board. Beyond these local commitments, he has been the President of six professional organizations and an officer in many more. This record of service indicates a theme throughout his professional career: Ideas have consequences and unless we pursue our ideas to fruition we lose the opportunity to control some of those consequences. Not only does Bates think, write, and speak about his ideas, he further enacts them through group and organizational networks and pursues their implications to successful ends. Reflecting this pattern are the suggestions and guidelines he offers in his many presentation to the IAICS membership. He urges all of us to implement the ideas we discuss and to build a force through our ideas and unity that will enhance our potential impact.

As we reflect on our many years of collaboration with Professor Hoffer we are genuinely impressed with the quality and quantity of his work. As all of us in IAICS reflect on his work for our organization we are deeply indebted to his energy and ingenuity. IAICS emerged from years of dedicated work by Professors Hoffer, Honna, and Koo who in 1985 formed a loose organization that ultimately led to the development in 1987 of the Institute for Cross-Cultural Research situated at Trinity University. When Professor Hill moved to Trinity in the summer, 1988, Bates recruited him, and we began our efforts to expand the Institute. With the help of several other members, we established our journal, *Intercultural Communication Studies*, with the first issue appearing in the spring, 1991. During 1995, shortly after our fifth biennial conference in Harbin, China, we created IAICS. As we celebrate our twelfth conference in 2006, the place of our conference in San Antonio and his presidency of IAICS make it so appropriate to honor this founder of our organization and its journal.

In many ways IAICS and our journal clearly manifest the themes for which we honor Professor Hoffer. IAICS offers a broad, interdisciplinary emphasis on the nature and application of language and linguistic study. IAICS emphasizes the application of our ideas to improve intercultural communication. IAICS reflects the energetic implementation of our thoughts and motives into an organizational reality. As we honor Professor Hoffer and his distinguished career, we are also honoring our host organization and the efforts to use our knowledge about language and linguistics to improve the human condition. We sincerely hope that these dedicatory comments recognize Professor Hoffer as a wonderful person and professional, but also as the force that stimulates so much of our work now and well into the future.

Brooks Hill, General Editor ICS
IAICS President, 1995-1999

Nobuyuki Honna, Editor ICS
Founder and President Elect, IAICS