

# Profile of Professor Emeritus Michinobu Takagi

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Professor Michinobu Takagi became Professor Emeritus when he retired in 2004 after 36 years' teaching at Chiba University of Commerce. He earned his Masters Degree from Aoyama Gakuin University in 1964 and began his teaching career the same year. He started teaching at Chiba University of Commerce in April of 1967 and was promoted to Assistant Professor the following year. He was promoted again in 1973 to Associate Professor and in 1979 to Full Professor.

Professor Takagi spent one year studying at University of California - Los Angeles campus from 1973 through 1974. He has also taught part-time at several other universities including Tokyo University of Education, Aoyama Gakuin University, Keio University, Tokyo Keizai University, and Kogakuin University. He is continuing to teach at Chiba University of Commerce as a part-time teacher after his retirement from full-time teaching.

Professor Takagi has been an active writer of linguistic materials. He has authored at least 17 academic papers and several books (including his latest in 2004 called *The Mechanism of Synonymy*), and co-authored several other books, and translated at least two other books. He has also helped edit a Japanese-English dictionary, and has worked on many linguistic projects.

Professor Takagi joined The Japan Association of College English Teachers (JACET), (大学英語教育学会) in 1969 and continues even now to take an active leadership role in the organization. He invited me to join JACET and I became a member in the SIG of which he was the chairman. It is the JACET Special Interest Group on English Usage (語法研究会), formerly called Committee on English Usage (語法研究委員会) that started in 1985. The committee has been

conducting surveys on synonymous words, including adjectives, nouns, verbs, and phrasal verbs, for the past fifteen years. This group consists of JACET members in Tokyo and its vicinity. They have published three books as a result of their research from the surveys.

Professor Takagi has a large circle of acquaintances in the association and he appeared on the boards of a first-class stage when he participated in the 12th World Congress of Applied Linguistics (第12回国際応用言語学会 世界大会) (AILA '99) in 1999. "The Roles of Language in the 21st Century: Unity and Diversity" (21世紀における言語の役割—求心性と多様性—) was the catchphrase of the congress. It was attended by 2,795 participants, including 1,371 from outside Japan. His symposium provided an overview of English synonym studies and focused on 35 sets of synonymous verbs in English and minutely analyzed the distinctive features according to semantics, collocations, and syntactic features. Special attention was paid to the differences between English verbs and their Japanese counterparts. The data was based on dictionaries, usage books, the COBUILD Corpus, and supplemented by a special usage study administered to ten informants of four English-speaking countries.

He also was a co-presenter along with W. R. Elliott at The Third ASIALEX Biennial International Conference, The Asian Association for Lexicography (アジア辞書学会), August 27~29, 2003, talking about "Phrasal Verbs and Their Synonymous Counterparts—With Special Reference to the Verbs *get*, *go*, *break*, and *fall*, respectively—." He has also been a presenter at numerous local and national conferences and continues to be an advisory member of the JACET study group, as well as a member of the Steering Committee (研究企画委員) and a trustee (評議員) of the Association.

Professor Takagi has taken an active part in JACET because the primary objectives are towards the betterment of English language education in Japan. JACET also offers its members opportunities to exchange information on

topics relevant to its goals and supports a variety of academic activities.

It has been an honor and a pleasure for me to be a colleague and working partner of Professor Takagi at both CUC and JACET.