

Curriculum Vitae

Dr Elizabeth A. Thomson

Contact details

Work

Senior Lecturer
Linguistics, English and Japanese Language
School of English Literatures, Philosophy and Languages
Faculty of Arts
University of Wollongong
Wollongong NSW 2522
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Qualifications

- 2002 Doctor of Philosophy (Linguistics)
Faculty of Education, University of Wollongong
Thesis title: *Exploring the Textual Metafunction in Japanese: A case study of selected written texts.*

Excerpt from examiner's report:

Elizabeth Thomson's thesis has opened up a new and original perspective on text-grammatical description and explanation of the Japanese language. By utilizing Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) as a theoretical and analytical tool, it successfully shows how texts in Japanese are organised as a coherent message and informational whole To my knowledge, Elizabeth Thomson's thesis is the first SFL theory-based attempt to explore the metafunctional mapping of text-forming and text-developing lexicogrammatical resources applied to authentic Japanese texts of different kinds", (Professor Noboru Yamaguchi, Toohoku University, Japan)

- 1988 Master of Arts (Merit) - Applied Linguistics (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages),
University of Sydney
- 1982-4 Advanced I Intensive Japanese Course
Japanese Language Institute, Yotsuya, Japan
- 1984 Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics, Macquarie University, Sydney
including cross institutional Japanese Language study, University of Sydney

Employment history

- 2002–2007 Lecturer Level C in Japanese and English Language and Linguistics, Modern Languages,
University of Wollongong
- 1995-2002 Lecturer Level B in Japanese and English Language Studies, Modern Languages Program,
University of Wollongong
- 1993-1994 Lecturer Level A in Japanese, University of Wollongong
- 1991-1993 Lecturer Level B in Japanese (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand)
- 1986-present Director of *Gonichi* Language Services (formally trading as Surry Hills Language Centre 1986-1991)

This enterprise was originally a private concern specialising in Japanese language teaching and teacher training and translation, established by my partner and I, as a response to the inappropriate treatment of Japanese tourists during the boom in the mid-1980s. The Centre offered in-house Japanese language classes to the general public but more importantly offered specialist Japanese language and cultural awareness training to businesses in the tourism sector. Australians had little understanding of the Japanese people during this period and tourism businesses were in serious need of Japanese cultural awareness and language training. I was commissioned to research, write and teach Japanese for Specific Purpose courses in NSW, Victoria and Fiji across the tourism sector. The business employed five full time staff and approximately four casual teachers. The Centre was very successful for five years, until the Keating 'banana republic' period, when the tourism sector contracted, reducing spending in preparation for a recession. I closed the Centre after securing an academic position in New Zealand. However, *Gonichi* Language Services still trades, engaging in occasional consulting activities as well as publishing.

1985 Japanese Language Teacher, Tokyo Creative Life Seminar BE Shibuya, Tokyo

I was asked to teach beginning Japanese to students from an English-speaking background. I helped the students transition from having no Japanese to managing a Japanese-only classroom.

1982-1985 English as a Second Language Teacher, Japan.

While living in Japan, I taught English in a variety of contexts. The significant ones are listed below:

- Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) – Japan's Peace Corps. I taught English to academics, specialists and professionals who were doing development work prior to their overseas placement through the Japanese governments aid programs.
- Toyoko Junior Women's College, Tokyo. I taught English to 100 and 200 level university students.
- Nakano Kindergarten. I taught English to 3-5 year old children at a Catholic kindergarten.
- Fujitsu Corporation. I taught English to businessmen in their workplace after hours as part of the career development program.

Language Teaching and Language Teacher Training Entrepreneurial Activities

Throughout my career I have engaged in significant entrepreneurial language teaching and teacher training activities. The securing of contracts was a result of targeted direct marketing, reputation and successful course delivery, which in turn, produced further contracts:

Education Sector

1986-1991 (as *Gonichi* Language Services)

- Contracted by Newcastle University to design and coordinate a 4 week (100hrs) intensive summer bridging course for 100 students of Japanese language. Included in the cohort were retraining Dept of School Education Japanese language teachers.
- Contracted by Macleay College, a private media and hospitality college, the Intercontinental Hotel School and Billy Blue Graphic design College to run Japanese for hospitality purposes programs. These contracts lasted for four years.
- Contracted by University of NSW, Institute of Languages to assist in the development of a Certificate in the Teaching of Asian Languages.

1993-1998 (with permission while working at University of Wollongong)

- Contracted as a Japanese Language Teacher Trainer, Certificate in the Teaching of Asian Languages, Institute of Languages, University of NSW.

2000-2001

- Published a CD-ROM, *Academic Writing: a language based approach*, by Robyn Woodward-Kron, Elizabeth Thomson and James Meek, using the Trading name, *Gonichi Language Services*.

Reviewer's comment:

“This package is a rare combination of sound language theory, intelligent instructional design and elegant navigational devices...In short, this team has produced a rich resource which meets a number of needs for support and practice in the study of language as well as in academic writing”, Dr. Margaret Allan, Senior Lecturer in Language Education, School of Education, James Cook University in *Australia Language Matters Oct/Nov/Dec 2000* edition.

The CD-ROM was the **Winner** of the 2001 Tertiary Technology Showcase Category in The Australian Awards for Excellence In Educational Publishing. The CD-ROM is number 7 on the best sellers list of the distributor, The National Centre for English Language Teaching and Research (NCELTR) Publishing < <http://www.nceltr.mq.edu.au/publications/topten.html>>. It has sold nationally and internationally – selling over 1,500 copies.

Corporate Sector

1986-1991 (as Gonichi Language Services)

- Contracted by Qantas Limited to research, write and implement two Japanese for Specific Purpose language courses in 1989/90 - an intensive Airport Ground Staff course and an intensive Reservation Staff course (125 hours each). Qantas bought the copyright of the materials and has since onsold them to Singapore Airlines.
- Contracted by Fiji Tourism to run an intensive Japanese Language Course for tourism workers in Nadi (100 hours). Again, the materials were purpose written and the training delivered in Fiji.
- Contracted by the Hilton Hotel chain to run Japanese language and cultural awareness programs for Front Desk, Housekeeping and Food and Beverage staff.
- Contracted by The Intercontinental Hotel School, Southern Cross Hotels, the Australian Hotels Association, the NSW and Victorian Retailers Associations to run in-house Japanese cultural awareness courses for staff and members.

Awards

- 2003 Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning (Arts) For 'the development of the curriculum and teaching/learning materials of the English Language and Linguistics major'.
- 2001 Winner Tertiary Technology Showcase Category in The Australian Awards for Excellence In Educational Publishing for Woodward-Kron, R., Thomson, E. & Meek, J. (2001) *Academic Writing: a language based approach*. An interactive multi-media resource for English language learning for overseas students.

Professional memberships

Foundation member of Japan Association of Systemic Functional Linguistics (JASFL)
Japanese Studies Association of Australia (JSAA)
Association of Systemic Functional Linguistics, Australian (ASFLA)
International Systemic Functional Linguistics Association (ISFLA)

Other professional activities

Peer Reviewing

Regular reviewer for International Journal – *Functions of Language*

Visiting fellow/scholar

1996 Visiting Fellow, University of Fukushima, Japan, Session 2

Research Grants

Year	Granting Agency	Title of research grant, or project	Amount (\$)	Investigators
2008-	ARC Discovery	Surface tensions: journalistic attitude and the representation of Australia in the Indonesian, Chinese and Japanese print media	600,000 submitted	Thomson , Kitley, White
2006	ARC Asia Pacific Research Futures Scheme	Representations of Australia and Australians in the media of Japan, China and Indonesia	3,000	Thomson
2006	CAPSTRANS	Preparation of ARC Discovery Grant	500	Thomson
2004	Faculty Research Grant	News Project: White seminars, workshop and manuscript preparation	3,200	Thomson
2004	URC Small Grant	Words and deeds: a linguistic study of relationships between environmental attitudes beliefs and practices	6,000	Thomson , Head
2003	Faculty Research Grant	Mapping the written genres of the Japanese workplace	7,000	Thomson
1999	Vice-chancellor's Challenge Grant	Academic Writing: A language-based approach	\$9,400	Thomson , Woodward-Kron
1998	Apple University Development Grant	Academic Writing: A language-based approach	\$8,000	Thomson , Woodward-Kron
1996	Vice-chancellor's Challenge Grant	Development of interactive multi-media resources for English Language and Linguistics major at UoW	\$21,000	Thomson
1995	PVC (Academic) Grant	Developing Learning/Teaching resources for discipline specific academic writing	\$22,000	Thomson

Publications

Books

Thomson, E.A. & White, P.R.R. (eds.) (December 2007) *Communicating Conflict: multilingual case studies of the news media*, Continuum: London.

Thomson, E.A. & Armour, W. (eds.) (December 2007) *Systemic functional perspectives of Japanese: descriptions and applications*, Equinox Publishing: London.

Book Chapters

My authorship of many of the chapters in the Thomson & White and Thomson & Armour edited collections needs some explanation. Both books were conceived as an opportunity to showcase the work of two major projects and related areas. Many of the writers are young academics and postgraduate students whose work is groundbreaking and important and a number of the writers are colleagues and students for whom English is a second language. My role in many cases (not necessarily as originally planned) was to provide

substantial mentoring of writers and assistance writing chapters; in other cases I conducted the research jointly with the co-author. Each edited collection had 12 chapters in total.

- Thomson, E.A. & White, P.R.R. (Dec. 2007) 'The News Story as rhetoric: linguistic approaches to the analysis of journalist discourses' in Thomson, E.A. & White, P.R.R. (eds.) *Communicating Conflict: multilingual case studies of the news media*, Continuum, London. (Chapter 1)
- Tran, T.H.V., & Thomson, E.A. (Dec. 2007), 'The nature of 'Reporter' voice in a Vietnamese hard news story' in Thomson, E. & White, P.R.R. (eds.) *Communicating Conflict: multilingual case studies of the news media*, Continuum, London
- Thomson, E.A., Fukui, N. & White, P.R.R. (Dec. 2007) 'Evaluating 'reporter voice' in two Japanese front page lead stories' in Thomson, E. & White, P.R.R. (eds.) in Thomson, E. & White, P.R.R. (eds.) *Communicating Conflict: multilingual case studies of the news media*, Continuum, London.
- Thomson, E.A. & Armour, W. (Dec. 2007) 'Systemic Functional Theory: Descriptions and Applications' in Thomson, E.A. & Armour, W. (eds.) *Systemic functional perspectives of Japanese: descriptions and applications*, Equinox Publishing: London.
- Sano, M. & Thomson, E.A. (Dec. 2007) 'How to argue in Japanese: A systemic functional interpretation of the logico-semantic relations in Japanese exposition' in Thomson, E. A. & Armour, W. (eds.) *Systemic functional perspectives of Japanese: descriptions and applications*, Equinox Publishing: London.
- Thomson, E.A. (Dec. 2007) 'The System of Theme' in Thomson, E.A. & Armour, W. (eds.) *Systemic functional perspectives of Japanese: descriptions and applications*, Equinox Publishing: London.
- Ramzan, R. & Thomson, E.A. (Dec. 2007) 'Modelling Writing: Using the Genre Approach in the Japanese as a Foreign Language classroom', in Thomson, E.A. & Armour, W. (eds.) *Systemic functional perspectives of Japanese: descriptions and applications*, Equinox Publishing: London.
- Thomson, E.A. (2005) 'Informing curriculum design using genre analysis: A study of three genres in Japanese', in Bourke, B. (ed.) *Innovative Practice in Japanese Language Education*, Queensland University of Technology Press: Brisbane pp.17-41.

Refereed Journal Articles

- Thomson, E.A., Cléirigh, C., Head, L. & Muir, P. (in press 2007) 'Gardeners' Talk: A linguistic study of relationships between environmental attitudes, beliefs and practices', in *Language and the Human Sciences*, Equinox: London.
- Thomson, E.A., White, P.R.R., & Kitley, P. (in press 2007) "Objectivity" and the "hard news" report across cultures: comparing the news report in English, French, Japanese and Indonesian journalism, in *Journalism Studies, Special Issue on Journalism and Language*.
- Thomson, E.A. (2005) 'Theme Unit Analysis: A systemic functional treatment of textual meanings in Japanese' in *Functions of Language 12.2*, John Benjamins Publishing Company pp.151-181
- Thomson, E.A. (2001) 'Themes, T-units and Method of Development: an examination of the news story in Japanese', in *JASFL Occasional Papers no. 2, 2001*. Tokyo: Japan Association of Systemic Functional Linguistics
- Thomson, E.A. (2000) 'Life as a Noun in Japanese: a partial systemic-functional description of the Nominal Group', in *Japanese studies: communities, cultures, critiques. Vol. 4: New directions in Japanese linguistics*.
- Thomson, E.A. (1998) 'Thematic Development in NORUWEI NO MORI: Arguing the need to account for co-referential ellipsis', in *JASFL Occasional Papers no. 1 1998*. Tokyo: Japan Association of Systemic Functional Linguistics (JASFL)
- Thomson, E.A. (1998) 'Testing for Theme in Japanese', in *Sekai no Nihongo Kyooiku, vol. 8 (Japanese-Language Education Around the Globe)*, Tokyo: The Japan Foundation Japanese Language Institute.
- Thomson, E.A. and Woodward-Kron, R. (1997) 'Teaching Academic English: Language and culture in the academic community', in *Overview*, University of Wollongong. ISSN 1320 3304
- Mulvihill (nee Thomson), E.A. (1992) 'Designing a Japanese for Specific Purpose Course: Putting Theory into Practice', in *Japanese Teaching Around the Globe Journal. vol.2 March 1992*. Tokyo: The Japan Foundation Japanese Language Institute. ISSN:0917-2920.

Refereed Conference Proceedings

- Thomson, E.A. & Sano, M. (2006) 'Mapping the Factual Genres of the Japanese Workplace', in the 16th *Biennial Conference Proceedings of the Asian Studies Association of Australia*

Other publications

McGregor, K. with Thomson, E.A. (1998) *David Larwill* Craftsman House, Melbourne ISBN 90 57037815

Keynote and plenary presentations

Thomson, E.A. *Bridging our differences: systemic functional analysis of Languages Other than English*, presented at the Australian Systemic Functional Linguistics Association Conference, University of Wollongong, June 29 – July 1, 2007.

Conference Presentations

Thomson, E.A. *Representations of Women and Cultural Values in Japanese Folk Tales*, presented at the Japanese Association of Systemic Functional Linguistics Autumn Conference, Ritsumeikan University, Biwako Kusatsu Campus, Japan, October 20-21, 2007

Thomson, E.A. *The register of 'hard news': Case studies on news reporting in Vietnam, Japan and Indonesia*, presented at the International Systemic Functional Congress, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, July 16-20, 2007.

Thomson, E.A. *Bridging our differences: systemic functional analysis of Languages Other than English*, presented at the Australian Systemic Functional Linguistics Association Conference, University of Wollongong, June 29 – July 1, 2007.

Sano, M. & Thomson, E.A. *Japanese Nursery Tales: A study of genre, semantic attributes, evaluation and lexicogrammar*, presented at the Australian Systemic Functional Linguistics Association Conference, University of Wollongong, June 29 – July 1, 2007.

Thomson, E.A. & Sano, M. *Mapping the Factual Genres of the Japanese Workplace*, Presented at the 16th Biennial Conference of the Asian Studies Association of Australia, University of Wollongong, June 26-29, 2006.

Thomson, E.A., Head, L., Cleriegh, C & Muir, P. *Words and Deeds: A linguistic study of relationships between environmental attitudes, beliefs and practices*. Presented at the 32nd International Systemic Functional Congress, University of Sydney, July 17-22, 2005

Thomson, E.A. and Fukui, N. *Evaluating 'reporter voice' in two Japanese front page lead stories*. Presented at the 32nd International Systemic Functional Congress, University of Sydney, July 17-22, 2005

Thomson, E.A. *An Environmental Study of Particle -wa in Japanese: A Determination of its Linguistic Function* presented at the 31st International Systemic Functional Congress, Doshisha University, Kyoto, August 30-September 4, 2004

Thomson, E.A. *The System of Theme in Japanese: implications for teaching grammar and literacy in the Japanese as a Foreign Language (JFL) classroom*. Presented at the 16th Euro-International Systemic Functional Linguistics Workshop, 28-31 July, 2004, Miraflores, Madrid, Spain.

Thomson, E.A. *A brief look at five genres in Japanese: An analysis of method of development and generic structure potential* presented at the 13th Biennial conference of the Japanese Studies Association of Australia (JSAA), Queensland university of Technology, Brisbane, July, 2003 and presented at the Australian Systemic Functional Association Conference, July, Adelaide. (Thomson)

Thomson, E.A. *The theorisation of a 'unit' beside the clause on the rank scale in Japanese*. Presented at the Australian Systemic Functional Linguistics Association (ASFLA) Conference, Macquarie University (July, 2002)

Thomson, E.A. *Investigating the staging of Selected Genres in Japanese: applying theory to practice*. Presented at the JASFL Conference 2001, Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan (Oct. 2001),

Thomson, E.A. *Themes, T-units and Method of Development: an examination of the news story in Japanese* presented at 1. the JASFL Conference 2000, Mukogawa Women's University, Hyogo, Japan (Nov. 2000), 2. the 27th International Systemic-Functional Congress (ISFC), University of Melbourne (July, 2000)

Thomson, E.A. *Clauses 'dressing down' as words: a case of rank reduction in Japanese* presented at the 25th ISFC, University of Cardiff, Cardiff, Wales (July, 1998)

Thomson, E.A. & Woodward-Kron, R. *A systemic functional approach to learning academic writing: a multi-media resource* presented at 1. the Australian TESOL Conference, Sydney (Jan, '01), 2. the National Language and Academic Skills (LAS) Conference, La Trobe University (Nov.'00), 3. the 27th

- ISFC, University of Melbourne (July,'00), 4. the Australian Systemic Functional Linguistics Association (ASFLA) Conference, University of Queensland (Oct. '99)
- Thomson, E.A., Woodward-Kron, R., Droga, L., Humphrey, S. *Learning Disciplinary Discourses, Learning Grammar: exploring academic discourses using SFL with undergraduates* presented at 1. at the Australian TESOL Conference, Sydney (Jan, '01), 2. the National LAS Conference, La Trobe University (Nov.'00), 3. the 27th ISFC, University of Melbourne (July,'00),
- Meek, J. & Thomson, E.A. *Challenges for text-based Materials on the Small Screen: some solutions found in developing a CD-ROM about Academic Writing* presented at the Apple University Conference, University of Wollongong, (April '00)
- Thomson, E.A. and Woodward-Kron, R. *Learning the art of linguistic commentary: apprenticing undergraduate non-English speaking background learners'* presented at the ASFLA Conference, University of South Australia (Sept. '98)
- Thomson, E.A. *It's quite a thing - the nominal group in Japanese!* presented at the Australian Systemic Functional Linguistics Association Conference, University of Wollongong, Wollongong. (Abstract p.28) (Oct,1997)
- Thomson, E.A., Woodward-Kron, R. and Zeng Yongqiang *Developing an interactive multi-media CD ROM for learning about writing at university: a systemic functional approach*, presented at the Australian Systemic Functional Linguistics conference, , University of Wollongong, Wollongong (Abstract p.30) Oct, 1997
- Thomson, E.A. *Life as a noun in Japanese: a partial systemic functional description of the nominal group*, presented at the 10th Biennial Japanese Studies Association of Australia, University of Melbourne, Melbourne (Abstract p. 52) July 1997
- Thomson, E.A. *Complex Structures in Japanese: Clauses and Groups* presented at the Japan Association of Systemic Functional Linguistics, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan (Abstract p.8) Nov, 1996
- Thomson, E. A. *Nihongo no shudai Bunseki (The Analysis of Theme in Japanese)* joint workshop conducted in Japanese at the Japan Association of Systemic Functional Linguistics, , Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan (Abstract p.14) Nov, 1996
- Thomson, E.A. *Thematic development in Momo Taroo: a Japanese fairy tale* presented at the 23rd International Systemic Functional Congress, University of Technology, Sydney (Abstract p. 75) July, 1996
- Thomson, E.A. *Constituents of Theme in Japanese*, presented at the 1995 Australian Systemic Functional Linguistics Conference, Melbourne University. Sept, 1995
- Thomson, E.A. *Testing for Theme in Japanese* presented at the 1st Japanese Association of Systemic Functional Linguistics (JASFL) conference, Obirin University, Tokyo. Nov 1994
- Thomson, E.A. *Systemics, register & Japanese*, conference paper presented at the Third New Zealand Language and Society Conference, University of Auckland, New Zealand, August 1992
- Thomson, E.A. *Compatibility of CALL software and second language pedagogy*, presented at the 9th NZ Asian Studies Conference, University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand, August 1991

Materials development

Woodward-Kron, R., Thomson, E.A. & Meek, J. (2001) *Academic Writing: a language based approach. An interactive multi-media resource for English language learning for overseas students.*

This was a joint project with Faculty of Education and Modern Languages, Faculty of Arts funded by:

- Challenge Grant from VC (\$21,000);
- Apple University Development Grant of (\$8,000); and
- Challenge Grant from VC (\$9,400).

Winner 2001 Tertiary Technology Showcase Category in The Australian Awards for Excellence In Educational Publishing.

Collaborative pilot project (1990) between *Gonichi* Language Services, Apple Australia and Learnware Pty Ltd to develop *Doing Japanese*, a Computer Assisted Language Learning software package (inkind

programming assistance and computer provision). This was one of the earliest CALL programs developed for Apple.

Unpublished Learning/Teaching Materials

- Thomson, E., Droga, L., & Rando, G. *An introduction to writing at university*. Manuscript under preparation based on lecture notes and tutorial exercises from the subject ELL 151, *English for Academic Purposes: a second language perspective*. Expected completion date, 2007
- Thomson, E.A. (1990) *Doing Japanese*, a Computer Assisted Language Learning software package, Learnware and Gonichi Languages Services.
- Thomson, E.A. and Woodward-Kron, R. (1997) *English Language Studies 2*
- Thomson, E.A. and Woodward-Kron, R. (1997) *English Language Studies 3*
- Thomson, E.A. (1997) *Phonetics and Phonology*
- Thomson, E.A. (1989) *Japanese for Exporter Managers*
- Thomson, E.A. (1988) *Airline Japanese*
- Thomson, E.A. (1988) *Airline Japanese for Qantas Ground Staff*
- Thomson, E.A. (1988) *Airline Japanese for Qantas Reservation Staff*
- Thomson, E.A. (1987) *Retail Japanese*
- Thomson, E.A. (1986) *Hotel Japanese*
- Thomson, E.A. (1986) *Restaurant Japanese*

Unpublished Japanese Cultural Awareness Materials

- Mulvihill, W.D. and Thomson, E.A. (1989) *Airline Cabin Crew*
- Mulvihill, W.D. and Thomson, E.A. (1989) *Museum Guides*
- Mulvihill, W.D. and Thomson, E.A. (1987) *Selling to the Japanese Tourist*
- Mulvihill, W.D. and Thomson, E.A. (1986) *Hotel Front Office*
- Mulvihill, W.D. and Thomson, E.A. (1986) *Hotel Food and Beverage*
- Mulvihill, W.D. and Thomson, E.A. (1986) *Restaurant Operators and Staff*

Miscellaneous

- 2007 Australian Canoeing Flatwater Instructor – Kayak, Certificate IV in Outdoor Recreation (SRO40203);
- 2006 Senior First Aid Certificate, valid to November 9, 2008;
- 2005-2007 President of the NSW Sea Kayak Club Inc.;
- 2004 Australian Canoeing Sea Skills Award for Kayaking, Identification no. 27958;
- 2004 Vice President of NSW Sea Kayak Club Inc.;
- 2001-2002 School Liaison officer for AFS Australia;
- 1999 Certificate in Small Business Management, West Wollongong TAFE. Completed all units.