I have been continuing my research into second language writing assessment, having finally published my article in Language Testing. I am also using many-facet Rasch analysis to analyze the graduation thesis ratings carried on by the English department, and plan to present on my results at the PROMS conference in Hong Kong in July 2009. I am also using Rasch analysis to investigate a vocabulary test which I developed for my English composition course for English majors. I also helped organize the Pacific Rim Objective Measurement Symposium (PROMS) 2008, which was successfully held at Ochanomizu University from July 31 to August 3, 2008.

I am advising two doctoral students, who are researching second language writing acquisition and corpus linguistics respectively. I also carry a full teaching load, helping undergraduate students to develop their skills in English speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

I will attend the Pacific Rim Objective Measurement Symposium in Hong Kong in July 2009 to present on my research into differential rater functioning, using data collected from an analysis of the English department ratings of graduation theses over three years. I am also using Rasch analysis to investigate the validity and reliability of a self-developed vocabulary test for English majors studying English composition.

This is an exciting time to be studying English as well as other foreign languages. I hope you can experience the joy of learning to speak another language. If you decide to major in English or another language, I want you to be aware that there are so many aspects and areas in the field of language studies, and I’m sure you can find something that will capture your interest.