

LINDA SUGIOKA ABE

Linda S. Abe retired in May 2019 as coordinator of the academic English Language Improvement program for students matriculated at Indiana University. Linda enjoyed a long career at IU with 34 years of teaching in the field of teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) in a variety of teaching positions. Linda's history at Indiana University started as an undergraduate student in the School of Education. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Education in June 1971. Upon graduation, she moved to New York City, pursuing a career in acting. She enrolled at the New School for Social Research, receiving a certificate in intensive Japanese in 1974. In 1977, Linda made a decisive career move: She left New York for Japan to teach English at the Hirosaki Gakuin Seiai High School, Hirosaki Gakuin College, and Hirosaki University, which she did until 1984. This central experience abroad led Linda to the field of applied linguistics and set the stage for her later career with international students in the United States. Linda returned to her alma mater for further graduate training in the fields of linguistics and second language acquisition. She earned her M.A. in Applied Linguistics in 1985 and her Ph.D. in Linguistics in 1999. In her academic career, Linda developed an interest in oral skills, producing a dissertation entitled "The Effects of Discourse Structure Training and Interviews with Native Speakers on L2 Listening Comprehension."

In January 1985, Linda started her long teaching career at Indiana University. As she was about to embark on her Ph.D. coursework, she started as an associate instructor in the Intensive English Program—a program for pre-matriculated students. Students in the Intensive English Program typically seek to develop their academic English skills in order to seek admission to an institution of higher learning in the United States. In 1990, Linda became a full-time instructor in that program. In 2001, she transitioned to the academic English Language Improvement Program for matriculated Indiana University students. Linda started her duties as coordinator of the Intensive English Program in 2006 at the rank of lecturer, after holding the position in an acting capacity the previous year. She was



promoted to senior lecturer in the role of coordinator in 2014. Linda's interests in TESOL are best described as the confluence of a deep interest in language and linguistics and of a calling to serve others. Linda greatly enjoyed teaching and facilitating the teaching of others. Linda obtained a Master of Divinity degree from Christian Theological Seminary in 2004.

Linda also contributed to the advancement of others in the field of TESOL through frequent presentations at professional organizations such as the Annual Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages Convention, the Indiana Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages Convention (INTESOL), and the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. With Vance Schaefer and Isabelle Darcy, Linda just published a paper entitled "The Distress in Not Stressing and De-stressing Stress in English: Using Wordplay to Boost Awareness, Intelligibility, and Communicative Competence" in the first-tier publication *TESOL Journal*.

Over the course of her career, Linda developed significant teaching experience in reading, writing, listening, grammar, and speaking, and teaching at diverse levels of proficiency—including the writing of research papers. She also had extensive experience and success in developing pedagogical materials. Linda assisted in the development of English as a Foreign Language and English for Specific Purposes programs in Japan, and

developed English as a Second Language and English for Specific Purposes short-term programs at Indiana University. She developed the highest degree of expertise in oral skills, pronunciation, fluency development, and listening skills. Linda's teaching included the support of both undergraduate and graduate students in academic English. She was also a mentor to graduate student associate instructors. As a teachers' mentor, Linda introduced many new graduate students to teaching. As a coordinator, she skillfully managed and adjudicated conflicts between students and instructors. Linda also contributed to graduate student teaching by teaching sections of the graduate TESOL practicum.

Linda also coordinated a range of activities related to English for academic purposes. This coordination included the administration of the Indiana Academic English Test (IAET) placement exam. It also required coordinating with the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education (OVPUE), the Office of the Registrar, the Office of International Admissions, and the First Year Experience Office, as well as other campus units. She co-organized the beginning-of-year training workshops for new graduate student instructors, in addition to actively assisting the mentoring and professional development of lecturers and graduate student instructors in the program. She also assisted the departmental office in scheduling.

Linda was engaged in university faculty affairs through her service on the Non-Tenure Track Task Force. She was co-chair of Non-Tenure Track Subcommittee of the Faculty Affairs Committee. She also served on the Bloomington Faculty Council Diversity and Affirmative Action Committee. The Department of Second Language Studies thanks Linda for her many years of dedication to student training. Indeed, generations of budding teachers and of international and domestic multilingual students seeking to enhance their lives have benefited from her dedication and support.

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