



Shirô Hattori

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EMERITUS PROFESSOR SHIRÔ HATTORI died of pneumonia on the 29 January 1995, at the age of 86 years.

Professor Hattori was born in 1908 in what is now Kameyama City of Mie Prefecture. He studied linguistics at the former Tokyo Imperial University, from which he graduated in 1931. He took up appointments at his Alma Mater, as a Lecturer (in 1936), as an Associate Professor (in 1942), and as a Professor (in 1949). He trained many students who later became central figures in the Japanese linguistic scene. He retired in 1969.

Professor Hattori's academic interests were truly wide-ranging. In particular, he made invaluable and unparalleled contributions in fields such as phonetics, phonology and semantics in theoretical linguistics; accentology, genetic relationship and other issues in Japanese linguistics; Mongolian linguistics and Altaic linguistics in general; and Ainu linguistics. In these fields, Professor Hattori made important discoveries and proposed influential theories.

Another noteworthy aspect about Professor Hattori's scholarship is the rigour in his methodology. All his analyses were based on scrutinising observation of carefully collected data. This rigour was ubiquitous not only in his writings but also in his classes.

After his retirement from the University of Tokyo, Professor Hattori continued his energetic activities. He served as the President of the Linguistic Society of Japan from 1975 to 1977, organised the 13th International Congress of Linguists held in Tokyo in 1982, and served as a Vice-President of the International Permanent Committee of Linguists from 1982 to 1987.

For his outstanding contributions to scholarship Professor Hattori was awarded many academic prizes and orders, including the Order of Culture, conferred by the Japanese Government. Also, he was elected an honorary member of many overseas academies.

Professor Hattori was, with Stephen Wurm, co-editor of the monumental *Language Atlas of the Pacific Area*, the first in the series of Language Atlases produced under the auspices of the Australian Academy of the Humanities during the last two decades. In this capacity, he made very significant contributions to the Atlas, engaged eminent

Japanese scholars to collaborate in it, and arranged for the Japan Academy to be co-sponsor of the Atlas, with a significant financial contribution. For these activities, the Australian Academy of the Humanities made him an Honorary Fellow in 1984.

Stephen Wurm