

Biographical Sketch - Robert A. Russell

Bob Russell received a B.A. in anthropology from the University of Utah (1968) and a Ph.D. in linguistics from Harvard University (1977), with concentrations in Arabic and Japanese. Between degrees, he served as a pilot in the Air Force during the Vietnam era. He began his professorial career at the University of Hawaii-Manoa in 1976, where he taught Japanese and linguistics, then found his way back to the mainland, where he joined the faculty at BYU in 1982.

At BYU he taught Japanese courses of all levels, graduate courses in linguistics and language acquisition, courses in business Japanese, and in Japanese linguistics and teaching methodology. His research interests include Japanese second language acquisition and attrition and CALL materials design and development, with most of his recently published work in JSL attrition. He has been principal investigator of large external grants for the design and development of CALL and multimedia courseware for Japanese. His service at BYU included two terms as chair of the Department of Asian and Near Eastern Languages. His service to the profession includes two terms on the Board of Directors of the Association of Teachers of Japanese and service as Language and Linguistics Editor of the *Journal of the Association of Teachers of Japanese*. With MBA coursework and experience working in the machine translation software industry in addition to his language teaching experience, he has helped to develop the field of Japanese for business purposes, giving numerous invited presentations and workshops for teachers of business Japanese at the national level.

Since retiring from BYU in 2011, he continued to teach business Japanese at BYU on a part-time basis for three years; taught ESL, linguistics, and business Japanese as a volunteer at BYU-Hawaii for a year-and-a-half; and has, for the past year, been supervising the development of test items for a nationally normed Japanese Reading Proficiency Test on contract with the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). He considers it a privilege to be able to associate now with students of Utah Valley University with a view to helping them to acquire useful, high-level skills in Japanese as a second language.