

## Introduction

For decades linguistic research has been a vital part of the School of English, Media Studies and Art History at the University of Queensland. Over the years the continuously growing linguistic community within the school has undertaken studies in virtually all subdisciplines of linguistics. So far there has not been a platform specifically designed for UQ linguists to showcase the depth and breadth of their research. For this reason we felt that it was time to initiate a series of Working Papers. This will give UQ researchers the opportunity to publish their results as early as possible and it provides insight into the ongoing research activities at UQ. The articles in this first volume of *University of Queensland Working Papers in Linguistics* cover a number of topics ranging from syntactic theory to second language acquisition and they are representative of the broad spectrum of research that is carried out at the University of Queensland.

The papers by Harrington, Hashimoto, Matoba and Rahimpour represent an important segment of linguistic research at UQ, namely second language acquisition. Harrington's paper investigates the theoretical significance of measuring reaction time to lexical stimuli for second language acquisition through an experimental study. Hashimoto studies processing difficulties with object-extracted relative clauses from a SLA perspective, observing Japanese learners of English and their specific difficulties, thereby confirming theoretical claims previously made about first language complexity and processing. Matoba presents a study of the acquisition of the English article system by speakers of Japanese, a language without articles, describing the necessity of a match of underlying functional prerequisites and their surface manifestations, as exemplified by definiteness and articles. Rahimpour provides statistical evidence for the previously hypothesized systematic variation of performance observed in ESL speakers in relation to the linguistic task given to them.

The papers by Denniss and Pensalfini study grammatical topics in two indigenous languages of Australia, thereby representing another major research focus of linguistics at UQ. While Denniss discusses the syntax and semantics of the antipassive clause in Yukulta, arguing against a derivational relationship between antipassive and transitive clauses, Pensalfini investigates the use of tense markers to indicate spatial deixis in Jingulu, exploring possible historical explanations for this unusual phenomenon.

Guillemin's papers look at grammaticalisation from a minimalist perspective and provides an account of the historical development of Mauritian Creole determiners in terms of language economy as a universal principle. Koh analyses the syntax of causatives in Japanese, thereby pointing out some theoretical shortcomings of minimalist assumptions. Finally Jäger presents a cross-linguistic survey of indirect reported speech and discusses parallels observed in the morphosyntactic expression of this function.

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