

FOREWORD

The present volume is a selection of 53 papers presented at the 21st International Symposium on Theoretical and Applied Linguistics (ISTAL21) that took place in Thessaloniki, 5-7 April, 2013. The Symposium is a biennial event that the Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, School of English, has been organising since 1987, initially annually and more recently biennially as the Symposium evolved into an international forum for presenting research results and work-in-progress. Over the years the Symposium has been established as one of the leading conferences in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics organised in Greece. It has offered the opportunity to international and national delegates to discuss state-of-the art developments in the field, to interact, to establish new collaborations and to enjoy a welcoming and stimulating environment for the exchange and elaboration of new ideas and the promotion of new avenues in research.

The 21st ISTAL attracted academics from over 15 countries from all continents. It was attended by well over 500 participants and provided an excellent opportunity for sharing and disseminating research ideas and views. In total, there were 127 paper presentations, including one thematic workshop and four plenary sessions. We would like to thank Prof. Angeliki Athanassiadou who organised the workshop on Cognitive Linguistics and our invited speakers who happily accepted our invitation to deliver plenary presentations based on their recent research in their field: Prof. Christiane Bongartz, Prof. Valerie Hazan, Prof. Theodore Marinis, and Prof. Joanna Nijakowska. The variety of topics presented reflects the department's range of research interests in both theoretical and applied linguistics.

The papers in this volume are organised into three parts:

Part I contains the two plenary papers that were submitted for publication. Prof. Joanna Nijakowska discusses the nature of dyslexia and the challenges learners with dyslexia present to teachers of English as a foreign language. Prof. Christiane Bongartz examines the role of literacy in bilingual and second language development; she presents a research design that aims to take into account the socio-cultural and psycholinguistic contexts of bilingual and L2 acquisition.

Part II contains 28 papers on Theoretical Linguistics and Part III contains 22 papers on Applied Linguistics.

The publication of this volume would not have been possible without the assistance of academics who were involved in the reviewing process of abstracts and papers. We are deeply grateful to all our reviewers, internal and external, for providing their time and expertise. On behalf of the Organising Committee, we would like to thank all our colleagues at the Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics and the School of English for their assistance and support. Special thanks are due to Tasos Paschalis for technical support and Maria Moutzi for secretarial assistance and, in particular, for her significant contribution to the editing of this volume. We are also grateful to all our sponsors for their financial support and to the team of students of the School of English who helped with the organisation of the symposium. Finally we would like to thank all the contributors to this volume for their hard work, cooperation and patience.

The present volume is the first volume of *ISTAL Selected Papers* published by *Prothiki*, the university online environment which hosts publications edited and published under the aegis of the University. We hope that this will be the first of a series of *ISTAL* volumes published electronically by *Prothiki* as we believe that this online environment will increase the dissemination of research published in these volumes.

The publication of this volume contains the contributions of two distinguished colleagues who have passed away since *ISTAL 21*. It includes the last contribution of an eminent linguistic, Prof. G. Drachman. It is also privileged to include a co-authored paper by Prof. S. Chatzisavvidis. Together with their previous work, we hope that these papers will provide inspiration and stimulate new research in the field which will build on the significant contribution of these distinguished linguists.

The editors

Marina Mattheoudakis and Katerina Nicolaidis

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Organising committee:

Marina Mattheoudakis, Katerina Nicolaidis, Eleni Agathopoulou, Thomai Alexiou