

Editorial Statement

We are happy to present to you, our readers, the fourth volume of the Journal for South Asian Linguistics. We owe you an apology as this issue has been much delayed. We will spare you a full listing of our failings but you should know that we are very much aware of them. We promise to do better and to help us make the Journal be a more responsive operation, we have asked Tracy King to join us as co-editor of *JSAL*. Tracy has not only worked extensively on Slavic syntax, clitics, and various theoretical and computational issues within LFG, she also has published several papers on South Asian languages. She currently works in industry, where her renowned organizational prowess is much appreciated and which we are excited to benefit from along with her significant theoretical and computational expertise. Tracy has accepted our invitation and so we ask you to join us in welcoming her. She will begin tenure as a co-editor in January 2012.

In terms of this current issue, we are again happy to present what we see as a perfect illustration of the mix of theoretical, psycholinguistic, and descriptive concerns that we want *JSAL* to cover. The first paper analyzes the syntax of numerical classifiers in Bangla. The eastern Indo-Aryan languages, to which Bangla belongs to, are special within the Indo-Aryan languages in requiring classifiers with numerals. In this paper, Dustin Alfonso Chacón gives a new treatment of classifier phenomena in Bangla which argues that there is DP-internal movement of the NP to [Spec, DP] to mark definiteness and that the Numeral does not form a constituent with the classifier. He also expands the empirical database by bringing to bear upon the debate data from the ‘quantificationally approximate’ construction where the classifier precedes the numeral.

The second paper, by Sudha Arunachalam and Anubha Kothari, is an excellent illustration of the application of psycholinguistic methodologies to semantic questions. There has been a lively debate in the semantics of aspect about the links between telicity and perfectivity. For English, it is often claimed that to successfully ‘eat an apple’, one has to finish said apple. This claim has been challenged for a number of languages, including Hindi/Urdu. The authors use experimental methodologies to explore this question and conclude that the issue of completion is not completely represented in the semantics; instead a variety of factors including contextual ones are at play. They also use the results of their investigation into Hindi/Urdu to suggest a re-examination of the data assumed for English.

The final paper, by Gwendolyn Hyslop, provides a detailed discussion of mirativity in Kurtöp, a Tibeto-Burman language of Bhutan. Mirativity is the explicit grammatical marking of ‘surprise’; it is closely related to the phenomenon of evidentiality, which has been the subject of much recent discussion in the semantics and acquisition literature. Hyslop shows how mirativity interacts with aspect and is manifested throughout the verbal paradigm of Kurtöp.

Kurtöp is an under-documented language and we are happy to contribute to its documentation. In this context, we are also happy to note that this issue advances by two the number of languages that we have had papers on. One of the goals of *JSAL* is to provide a venue for work on the large number of languages spoken in South Asia, and in doing so, to go beyond the natural focus on the dominant languages and language-families of this area. The language count from preceding issues goes as follows: Hindi/Urdu (3), Telugu (2), Brahui, Malto, Persian, Sanskrit, and Tamil (1 each). This volume has a paper on Hindi/Urdu, one on Bangla, and one on Kurtöp. In the fullness of time, we would like to have a much wider coverage; the current issue is an excellent step in that direction.

Finally, we would like to thank Annette Hautli, who helped significantly with the necessary L^AT_EX type-setting and to Sebastian Sulger for maintaining the journal website. Their labor was partly funded by the University of Konstanz as part of an on-going CSLI-Konstanz cooperation and we would like to thank the University of Konstanz for supporting our publication effort. As ever we also thank Dikran Karagueuzian of CSLI Publications for his role as a continually outstanding and supportive publisher.

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