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**Proceedings of the North East
Linguistic Society 27**

McGill University

**Edited by
Kiyomi Kusumoto**

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Preface

The twenty-seventh meeting of the North East Linguistic Society was made possible by funds from the Department of Linguistics of McGill University, the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research as well as contributors from individual and anonymous donors.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to select from among the high quality abstracts submitted and therefore the organizers would like to thank the following linguists for their valuable contribution in evaluating the abstracts:

Stephen Anderson	Hajime Hoji	Lisa Reed
Joseph Aoun	Elizabeth Hume	Karen Rice
Diana Archangeli	Sabine Iatridou	Sharon Rose
J-Marc Authier	Junko Itô	Ken Safir
Mark Baltin	Kyle Johnson	Peter Sells
Robert Berwick	Ellen Kaisse	Margaret Speas
Hagit Borer	Michael Kenstowicz	Tim Stowell
Christopher Collins	John Kingston	Donca Steriade
Heles Contreras	Yoshihisa Kitagawa	Lisa Travis
Elizabeth Cowper	Richard Larson	Juan Uriagereka
Stuart Davis	David Lightfoot	Daniel Valois
Molly Diesing	Anne Lobeck	Gert Webelhuth
Sam Epstein	Linda Lombardi	Amy Weinberg
Naoki Fukui	Anoop Mahajan	Lydia White
Brendon Gillon	Diane Massam	Moira Yip
Helen Goodluck	Robert May	Karen Zagana
Irene Heim	James McClosky	
Randall Henderick	David Pesetsky	

This edition of the proceedings of the North East Linguistic Society contains the papers presented at the 27th Annual Meeting, held at McGill University (October 1996).

Many thanks to the authors for submitting their work for publication in a timely manner. I am also grateful for Isadora Cohen for editorial assistance.

The following authors did not submit papers for publication:

Andrew Carnie
Réjean Canac Marquis
Sabine Iatridou
Tarald Taraldsen

Kiyomi Kusumoto
Editor
Amherst, June 1997

A Brief History of NELS

by John Jensen and Lisa Reed

The North East Linguistic Society, originally known as the New England Linguistic Society, held its first meeting at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) on November 7th, 8th, and 9th, 1970. The original meeting of NELS attracted not only the expected audience from the northeastern United States, but also an unexpectedly large number of participants from eastern Canada. For this reason, at the business meeting of NELS 1, Professor David Lightfoot (at that time a professor of linguistics at McGill University) made the proposal that the conference expand the geographical range of hosting institutions to include eastern Canada. This proposal was immediately accepted and accounts for the change in title of the conference. Since NELS 1 in 1970, NELS has further expanded the geographical pool of its participants, although the traditional geographical base for hosting institutions has remained unchanged. NELS now annually draws speakers and participants from the entire United States, Canada, and Europe. It has been hosted by the following institutions, listed in chronological order:

NELS 1	(1970)	MIT
NELS 2	(1971)	McGill University
NELS 3	(1972)	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
NELS 4	(1973)	Brown University
NELS 5	(1974)	Harvard University
NELS 6	(1975)	Université du Québec à Montréal
NELS 7	(1976)	MIT
NELS 8	(1977)	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
NELS 9	(1978)	City University of New York
NELS 10	(1979)	University of Ottawa
NELS 11	(1980)	Cornell University
NELS 12	(1981)	MIT
NELS 13	(1982)	Université du Québec à Montréal
NELS 14	(1983)	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
NELS 15	(1984)	Brown University
NELS 16	(1985)	McGill University
NELS 17	(1986)	MIT
NELS 18	(1987)	University of Toronto
NELS 19	(1988)	Cornell University
NELS 20	(1989)	University of Pittsburgh
NELS 21	(1990)	Université du Québec à Montréal
NELS 22	(1991)	University of Delaware
NELS 23	(1992)	University of Ottawa
NELS 24	(1993)	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
NELS 25	(1994)	University of Pennsylvania
NELS 26	(1995)	Harvard University and MIT
NELS 27	(1996)	McGill University

NELS has always been and remains the most prestigious conference in theoretical linguistics hosted in its geographical area and it is among the most highly respected in the field at large. (Conferences in theoretical linguistics of comparable quality, hosted in different geographical areas, include the Chicago Linguistics Society, the West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL), and the Generative Linguists of the Old World (GLOW).) The papers presented at NELS are of a consistently high calibre, not only because of the large number of abstracts received (generally over 200, from which only 15% are selected), but also because of the anonymous reviewing procedure employed (leading figures in the field are asked to conduct the reviewing process). The papers presented at NELS have appeared in published form since NELS 5, and are frequently cited in refereed journals of the field. Since NELS 11, the proceedings have been published by the Graduate Linguistic Student Association at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

From its beginning, NELS has been organized by the Linguistic graduate students association of the hosting institution, although one or two faculty members from the department frequently lend assistance. As a result, every effort is made by the organizing committee to insure that a significant number of speakers are graduate students. This tradition has been maintained principally because it provides graduate students who are relatively new in the field with a unique opportunity to meet and discuss their work with established researchers from other universities.

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