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Front Matter

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Proceedings of the North East Linguistic Society 28

University of Toronto

Volume One:

Papers from the Main Sessions

Edited by

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Preface

The twenty-eighth meeting of the North East Linguistic Society took place at the University of Toronto on October 24-26, 1997. The organizers would like to acknowledge generous contributions from the Department of Linguistics, the School of Graduate Studies, the Faculty of Arts and Science, Victoria College, and the Linguistics Graduate Course Union at the University of Toronto.

Over 200 abstracts of high quality were submitted to NELS 28. The programme committee would like to thank the following linguists for their valuable contribution in evaluating abstracts:

Joseph Aoun	Mark Hale	David Pesetsky
Peter Avery	Michael Hammond	Glynne Piggott
Julie Auger	Irene Heim	Jean-Francois Prunet
Marc Authier	Randall Hendrick	Lisa Reed
Mark Baker	James Huang	Charlotte Reinholtz
Jill Beckman	Nina Hyams	Keren Rice
Laura Benua	Sabine Iatridou	Yves Roberge
Jonathan Bobaljik	Bill Idsardi	Anne Rochette
Phil Branigan	Alana Johns	Tom Roeper
Ellen Broselow	Kyle Johnson	Sharon Rose
Gene Buckley	Ellen Kaisse	Ken Safir
Andrew Carnie	Michael Kenstowicz	Leslie Saxon
Vicki Carstens	John Kingston	Barry Schein
Sandra Chung	Yoshihisa Kitagawa	Carson Schutze
Heles Contreras	Hisatsugu Kitahara	Patricia Shaw
Elizabeth Cowper	Anne Lobeck	Ron Smyth
Peter Culicover	Linda Lombardi	Tim Stowell
Anna-Maria Di Sciullo	Anoop Mahajan	Christine Tellier
Naoki Fukui	Diane Massam	Lisa Travis
Jila Ghomeshi	Jim McCloskey	Moira Yip
Heather Goad	Regina Moorcroft	Karen Zagana
Helen Goodluck	Carole Paradis	Cheryl Zoll
Janet Grijzenhout	Barbara Partee	Arnold Zwicky

Because so many of the abstracts submitted were deemed of high quality by the reviewers, poster sessions were introduced to the twenty-eighth meeting of the North East Linguistic Society. Papers from these sessions also appear in this proceedings in the second volume alongside papers given in the regular sessions in the first volume.

The editors would like to thank the authors for their timely submissions. We are also grateful to Paul de Lacy, Mike Dickey, and Norvin Richards for their editorial assistance.

Pius N. Tamanji and Kiyomi Kusumoto
Amherst, June 1998

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 28	(1997)	University of Toronto

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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