A word from the editors

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Welcome to the sixth issue of the Journal of Language Modelling, which is the first special issue of JLM. We, the Editors, are very happy that this first special issue is devoted to grammar engineering, which is right in the centre of the scope of JLM, as stated on its WWW page:

> Journal of Language Modelling is a free (for readers and authors alike) open-access peer-reviewed journal aiming to bridge the gap between theoretical linguistics and natural language processing. Although typical articles are concerned with linguistic generalisations – either with their application in natural language processing, or with their discovery in language corpora – possible topics range from linguistic analyses which are sufficiently precise to be implementable to mathematical models of aspects of language, and further to computational systems making non-trivial use of linguistic insights. `http://jlm.ipipan.waw.pl/`

The scope and content of this issue are described in the introduction by the Guest Editors: Denys Duchier and Yannick Parmentier. While the whole issue is devoted to high-level methodologies for grammar engineering, we envisage future "special issues" as possibly taking only a part of an issue which may also contain regular papers.

So far – apart from *Editorials* like this one and *Acknowledgements* to reviewers – only regular peer-reviewed *Articles* have been published in JLM. This issue introduces a new section type, *Tools and Resources* (see the contribution by Stefan Müller). Typical papers appearing in this section will contain descriptions of linguistic tools or resources, normally authored by their developers. Just as regular articles, such

papers will be peer-reviewed, but referees will be asked to evaluate the linguistic sophistication of the described tool or resource and its envisaged impact in theoretical, computational or mathematical linguistics, rather than just the theoretical novelty and validity. We invite submissions describing novel formal descriptions of morphological systems, linguistically rich syntactic and semantic lexica, corpora annotated with new linguistic data types, "electronic descriptions of natural language" (to use the current Guest Editors' preferred term for implemented grammars), parsers producing syntactic, semantic and pragmatic representations of utterances, etc. – this list is certainly not meant to be exhaustive.

Apart from *Tools and Resources*, three other types of sections are planned to be added in future issues, all containing peer-reviewed papers, but with different reviewing criteria. The *Overviews* section will consist of articles synthetically describing a given field or area, with emphasis on recent developments. The *Squibs and Discussion* section will contain smaller contributions making a point within the space of a few pages or briefly responding to a paper previously published in JLM. Finally, *Reviews* will contain evaluations of recently published monographs.

Let us finish this editorial on a historical note and with a plea. In the inaugural issue 1(0) we wrote:

> Launching a new journal is a high-risk business. Many people have already invested much of their time in this initiative, and returns are far from certain – the community may or may not accept it. We, the Managing Editors, are cautiously optimistic…

Now, five issues later, our optimism is less cautious: JLM has managed to attract a reasonable number of good submissions, including many from already well-established researchers, and – apart from such regular submissions – there are specific plans for two more special issues with carefully reviewed and selected papers. We also receive a lot of positive feedback from, both, authors and readers. It seems that JLM has indeed answered a need of the formal and computational linguistics community.

Despite offers from major scientific publishers, JLM remains independent, community-driven and free for all – readers and authors

alike. We, the Editors, invest our time in this enterprise and we rely on similarly voluntary help from the reviewers and other people involved in the production of the journal. Of these "other people", Copy Editors are undoubtedly most important and most skilled: a good JLM Copy Editor should not only be a native speaker of English (or perhaps a near-native graduate of English Philology) with a good command of the scientific style, but should also know some basics of LaTeX or X∃LaTeX and – preferably – have interest in theoretical or computational linguistics. So far, JLM Copy Editors have been doing an excellent job; to cite one of the authors of the current issue, the author of many papers published by more established scientific publishers: "I never got such a good copy editing in my whole scientific life...". So we would like to heartily thank our current and past Copy Editors for their devotion to the good cause: Jette Viethen, Dave Carter, Filip Skwarski, Agnieszka Patejuk, Natalia Kocyba, Alina Wróblewska and Chris M. Fournier.

However, given the increased number of JLM submissions, and in order to keep the workload of each Copy Editor reasonably small, we badly need the help of a few more Copy Editors. Hence, the plea: if you are a PhD student in Linguistics, Natural Language Processing, or a related field, and you satisfy the above description, please help us for a year or two (or longer!). Similarly, if you are a professor with PhD students, please consider encouraging them to help us – it is in the best interest of the community to keep JLM independent and free for all.