



EDITORIAL PREFACE

The present issue is primarily composed of articles based on data from European languages, including Germanic and Romance languages, as well as minority languages, national varieties, dialects, and regional vernaculars. In addition, the volume features two contributions devoted to Asian languages, namely Chinese and Yakut.

The range of topics addressed in this issue is broad and encompasses areal linguistics from a sociolinguistic perspective, ethnolinguistics, language policy, pragmalinguistics, and related fields. One of the central themes of the volume is the phenomenon of language islands – geographically limited linguistic enclaves surrounded by the territory of another language. Language islands differ considerably in their historical development, represent typologically diverse linguistic areas, and receive varying degrees of support through language legislation. In the New World, language islands have assumed particularly distinctive forms; this issue includes little-known material on Paraguayan German Mennonite communities.

The volume also examines a number of pressing issues affecting contemporary languages in connection with language policy and ongoing linguistic change, the status of which often remains contested. Among these are questions related to gender-neutral language and comparative aspects of political discourse, analyzed through data from Russian and American English. Linguistic variation is further reflected in the cultural and linguistic traditions of European national language varieties, as exemplified by Swiss German.

The articles included in this issue pay particular attention to the variation of linguistic structures in relation to the sociolinguistic stratification of language. Topics explored include the use of tense and mood, comparative perspectives on punctuation, and the sociolinguistic characteristics of phonetic accents.

The contributions devoted to Asian languages are likewise distinguished by their original methodological approaches and innovative perspectives.

We hope that the articles published in this issue will be of interest to a wide readership.

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