

## Editorial

### New Directions

*Issues in Applied Linguistics* began five years ago in response to the need for graduate students and faculty in applied linguistics to publish and share their work with their colleagues and friends, as well as the necessity to define and re-define our field, which grew as our discipline seemed to broaden and diversify. Now, as we enter our fifth successful year, we are able to rest somewhat on the foundations laid by our predecessors, while keeping a watchful eye on the future. No longer do we sense the urgency to define ourselves or our research; and, thanks to our faithful subscribers, we no longer question the stability of our readership or supporters. This fifth anniversary issue marks a shift from less certain times to a more confident future, providing us with the opportunity to re-invoke some of the ideas that started the journal--just as the founders of *IAL* did, we continue to see *IAL* as a forum for expressing the diversity of research on all aspects of language as well as a showcase for such research for applied linguistics students and faculty across disciplines.

We believe these goals are brought forth in the current issue, through not only the numerous student contributions (articles and book reviews, as well as editorial and production assistance) but also the broad representation of the field of applied linguistics. All book reviews in this issue are student-authored and topics include conversation analysis (Gonzales), traditional linguistics (Lagunoff) and ESL interactive video (Henschel). Full length articles cover topics ranging from classroom discourse (Poole and Patthey-Chavez) to ESL specific research (Leech; Jacobs; Davies; Osburne & Mulling) to quantitative language analysis (Williams). The current issue also features a response by Foong-Ha Yap and Yasuhiro Shirai in their long running dialogue with Cheryl Fantuzzi. While this debate will most likely continue, we have decided to open

up the Exchange Section to other contributors on other topics, and this article will, therefore, be the last of this particular public dialogue in *IAL* for some time.

The quality and diversity represented in this issue are due in great part to our reviewers. During the past five years, *IAL* has established a substantial list of well respected referees in the field and we continue to add to our list with each issue, ensuring an equitable evaluation of submissions and enhancing the quality and reputation of the journal. In addition, we have received a great deal of help from faculty and past editors. This issue would not have been possible without the support and advice of the previous editors, Sally Jacoby, Patrick Gonzales, and Joseph R. Plummer. Also, *IAL* is fortunate to have received the day to day support of Prof. John Schumann and the *IAL* computer, a generous contribution from Prof. Elinor Ochs.

As new editors we also have brought some changes to *Issues in Applied Linguistics*, one of which is the sharing of editorial responsibilities through co-editorship. We are proud to say, too, that many graduate students within the department have contributed substantially to the production of the journal. All this collaboration has allowed us to maintain the enthusiasm and energy to pursue new ideas as the field of applied linguistics expands.

In recent years, the social sciences have begun to shift their focus to linguistic issues and we foresee an ever greater variety of interdisciplinary research emerging in *IAL*. The upcoming special thematic issues, *Applied Linguistics from an East Asian Perspective* (5.2) and *Sociolinguistics and Language Minorities* (6.1) are being compiled with just this new academic perspective in mind. With continued enthusiasm and support from applied linguistics graduate students and faculty, we hope to foster increased recognition in our field and beyond.

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Betsy Kreuter and Susan Strauss