

Editorial

I am pleased and honoured to have been appointed as the new editor of this *Journal*. I am also delighted that Katherine Demuth and Ann Peters have decided to join the editorial team and that Brian Richards is continuing. I would like to pay tribute to the skill, balanced judgement and sheer hard work put in by Katharine Perera, Glyn Collis and Brian over the past years. They have maintained a very high standard in the papers accepted for publication as is evidenced by the quality of this issue and have also widened the range of topics covered, most notably, in my view, by increasing the crosslinguistic and non-English scope of the *Journal*.

There will be no major changes in editorial policy. The *Journal* will continue to act as the lead journal in the field of child language and to publish papers in accordance with the editorial policy printed on the inside of the front cover. However there are a few points I would like to make as I take over the editorship. First, I think there needs to be somewhat more theoretical discussion in the *Journal*, and to this end I have in mind publishing from time to time either extended reviews of major books in the field, perhaps with a reply, or the occasional position paper with some commentaries. Second, I am hoping that, with the increased use of e-mail, keywords and the submission of papers on disc, we may be able to cut the turn-around time substantially and my editorial assistant, Jo Lewis, and I are already working towards this.

Finally I should point out that the new editorial team are all active researchers who have published in the *Journal* relatively frequently. We have discussed possible future publications and have agreed that we do not wish to entirely prohibit ourselves from submitting articles. We have agreed that where this happens the article would be handled in strict confidence by two other members of the editorial team and would go through exactly the same blind reviewing process as all others do. I should perhaps also emphasize that whatever the theoretical or methodological persuasions of the members of the editorial team, we are totally committed to maintaining, and perhaps even increasing, the pluralism of approaches which is one of the *Journal's* defining characteristics.

ELENA LIEVEN