

Editorial Statement

We are happy to bring to you the new issue the *Journal of South Asian Linguistics*. From our perspective, the journal has been shaping up quite nicely. We are encouraged by the healthy number of submissions and have decided to move to two issues a year. This will therefore be the first issue this year followed by a second issue in December.

The issue consists of three papers. The first paper is by Tafseer Ahmed and takes on the thorny and much-discussed topic of the unaccusative/unergative distinction and challenges a commonly assumed view according to which the unaccusative/unergative distinction corresponds to a single structural distinction. The author provides an impressive set of arguments against this received view arguing instead that the distinction should be thought of in terms of a number of independent semantic features. A detailed system is presented couched within Lexical-Functional Grammar that demonstrates how these features interact to derive the putative unaccusative/unergative asymmetries. We believe that in addition to providing a novel perspective on unaccusativity, the paper also makes an important contribution in highlighting the importance of animacy for the syntax of Urdu/Hindi.

The second paper is one by Elena Bashir on change in the negative conjugation of Brahui. We are very excited to have another contribution to our projected series of theoretically oriented descriptions of underdocumented languages. Brahui, of course, is itself very exciting being a Dravidian language spoken in Western Pakistan separated from the closest Dravidian language by considerable distance and time. The author explores how Brahui's Dravidian-style negative conjugation is changing as a result of intense language contact. The resulting article is an amazing snapshot of a linguistic system in the middle of morphosyntactic change.

An examination of the phenomenon of circumstantial control in Telugu by Youssef Haddad completes this issue. The paper takes further an exciting line of work by the author examining the until recently poorly understood phenomenon of Backward Control and looking at in the context of control into conjunctive participle clauses. These clauses are found in most South Asian languages and the author uses a particular manifestation of theirs in Telugu to argue for an extension of the set of motivations that allow for syntactic movement within the Minimalist Program. In doing so, the author gives a detailed account of the behaviour of conjunctive participles, closely related infinitival clauses in Telugu, and a similar construction in Sinhalese. Detailed analyses of shared constructions in a number of South Asian languages is likely to bring us towards a deeper explanation of these constructions and of the range of variation. We see this paper as a major first step in that direction.

The collections of papers illustrates nicely the depth of serious empirical work on South Asian languages and the diversity of theoretical approaches being explored. We have a paper within the Minimalist Framework, a paper within Lexical-Functional Grammar, and a paper that comes from the intersection of synchronic change and language contact. We feel inspired by the range of topics and languages covered and the fact that the journal is a venue for communication across parochial divides that often impede sharing of core insights and the development of adequate descriptions. We hope that you, our reader, will also be inspired and will use that inspiration to contribute to a future issue of the journal.

Finally, we would like to thank Jaouad Mousser, who helped significantly with the necessary L^AT_EX type-setting, to Anette Hautli and Melanise Seiß for further help with type-setting and editing the volume and to Sebastian Sulger for maintaining the journal website. Their labor was partly funded by the University of Konstanz as part of an on-going CSLI-Konstanz cooperation and we would like to thank the University of Konstanz for supporting our publication effort. As ever we also thank Dikran Karaguezian of CSLI Publications for his role as a continually outstanding and supportive publisher.

Rajesh Bhatt, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Miriam Butt, University of Konstanz