Editorial Statement

We are happy to bring to you the first, inaugural issue of the *Journal of South Asian Linguistics*. This Journal was first conceived of just over a year ago and we are extremely pleased to watch it now become a reality. The journal grew out of a conviction that we found we shared with other colleagues working on South Asian languages, namely that there should be a forum for a broad spectrum of linguistic work devoted to South Asian languages. There is a decently sized community of people working on South Asian languages, but at this point there is no journal devoted to the linguistics of these languages. In contrast, the Germanic languages, the Romance languages, the Slavic languages, and East Asian languages, to name a few, have successful high quality linguistics journals devoted to them. A related concern we had was that this new forum should be freely accessible to all scholars, in particular also scholars based on the Subcontinent, where access to published material is often a problem.

This led us to explore the idea of an on-line journal. Traditional print scholarly journals are based on an arrangement that involves the editors and authors doing all of the work and then being unable to freely disseminate their intellectual property. This arrangement has been increasingly recognized as obsolete and is being successfully challenged in a number of disciplines such as Computer Science, Physics and, more recently, Linguistics. We hope that the on-line nature of our journal will indeed be able to make work on South Asian languages more freely available to a wide community; we also hope to be able to exploit the flexibility afforded us by the online format. At the same time, with CSLI Publications standing behind the journal, we also have access to the more long-time guarantee of paper-publishing, as CSLI will publish the issues of each year in paper format and archive them in the library.

We would like to thank Dikran Karaguezian at CSLI Publications for taking on board on-line journal publication as part of the activities of CSLI and for working with us on making this journal a reality. Indeed, quite a number of people helped us along the way to this first issue. Lauri Kanerva at CSLI Publications provided us with a first version of the style sheet. Sebastian Sulger, a research assistant at the University of Konstanz, installed the Open Journal Systems which the LSA recommends for On-Line journals and which the *Journal of South Asian Linguistics* now relies on. He continues to provide computational support for the journal. Melanie Seiß, also a research assistant at Konstanz, did most of the typesetting into LATEX. And finally, there are, of course, the reviewers, without whom nothing would have been possible. We would like extend our heartfelt thanks to all of them.

This first inaugural issue consists of three papers. The first by Eystein Dahl derives the constraints on the morphosyntax of performatives in Archaic Vedic, in particular their aspectual specification, from the semantics of performativity. The second by Alice Davison points out a case constraint that distinguishes between control environments and raising environments in Hindi-Urdu and explores the implications of this constraint for various theories of control within the GB and Minimalist traditions. The final paper by Patil et al. brings experimental techniques to bear upon the interaction of focus, word order, and intonation in Hindi. Together these papers are a fine illustration of the vigor, depth, and diversity of linguistic work on South Asian languages. They bring together methodologies drawn from the various subfields of linguistics: syntax, semantics, phonology, historical linguistics, and phonetics. The papers exemplify a wide range of data sources: historical corpora, introspective judgements, and experimental techniques. The range of linguistic investigation and analysis represented by these papers is exactly what we were aiming for in founding this journal, namely, theoretically well grounded papers addressing a broad range of linguistic issues from the perspective of South Asian languages, but whose results and analyses are nevertheless crosslinguistically motivated, ensuring that the impact of each of the papers goes well beyond the analysis of the language in question.

For the continued success of this journal, we would like the help of you, our readers. Please send us your papers and if you see a paper that will be relevant, please tell us about it and the author about the journal. Many a paper on South Asian languages lies lost in the author's filing cabinet for want

of a proper venue. We hope that JSAL will provide a venue for dissemination of theoretical proposals inspired by data from the South Asian languages as well as theoretically informed descriptive work on the South Asian languages. So please look into your filing cabinets and help us get the word out!

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