

## Note from the Editor: We can have a journal

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This issue of the newsletter will appear odd, in that contains 9 articles; in fact it is starting to look more like a journal. Therefore, an explanation is necessary to justify such a choice. Two are the reasons: a practical one and a strategic one.

The practical reason: I expected the election to be held at the Gothenburg congress; therefore the Summer issue 2010 of the newsletter was already planned well ahead, when the news of election were spread. This issue joins together two special issues: "Hegemonies in Classification Processes" edit by Gianluca Miscione e Daniela Landert, and "Code switching and crosstalk in globalizing societies" edit by James McLellan, , Maya David and Amado Alarcón and Svetlana Harnish; that was planned for the following edition of the newsletter. In fact we could have left the code switching material for the new editor to publish; but this did not seem right. The new editor, together with the editorial board, should feel free to re-organize the newsletter as they wish and to have left over jobs did not seem a good start.

The strategic reason: Many of the contributors to the newsletter have solicited the newsletter to be upgraded to a peer reviewed journal, as a condition to keep publishing in it, for obvious institutional reasons. Since last year we have been discussing this possibility among members of the editorial board, together with the idea of developing an on-line journal. This overcrowded issue of the newsletter seemed the right occasion to show that developing an on-line journal would not be that difficult after all. Upgrading the newsletter, in fact, does not seem a good option. The newsletters are a specific feature of RCs in the ISA organization, they are mainly aimed to share news about the activities of the committees, transforming it into a journal will distort its main function. Here some ideas on how to develop a journal.

The journal could be a free space in which to cooperate, build partnerships and joint projects. It'll be a journal in the broad area of language and society; including discursive approaches in sociology, sociolinguistic studies, multimodality. The journal will be on-line, open access, peer reviewed, multilingual, international. In brief its main features:

**On-line:** in a printable format

**Open access:** copy rights will not be owned by the journal

**Peer reviewed:** the editorial board and the reviewing process could be organized in

groups according to broad thematic areas (cross talk and codeswitching etc.) or disciplinary areas (discourse analysis etc.). Each editorial group should be international and multilingual, including at least a native speaker of English. The editors of the Cross Talk and Codeswitching section of the newsletter, in this issue, represents a good example of the type of editorial group composition I mean.

**Multilingual:** 50% in English; 50% other languages: Spanish, Portuguese, French etc. with long abstracts in English. Preserving language variety at a disciplinary level is fruitful and worth the effects, since languages represent different ways of constructing realities, losing languages will imply cultural impoverishment.

**International:** including Western and non Western countries, this is in the most interesting characteristic of ISA, making an effort to include scholars from all countries in the World. In fact, aim of the journal, among others, would be to bring work, that is done at a national level, to international attention.

**Mission:** cooperating and helping each other towards excellence in research in the field of language and society.

Since the 60s a very fruitful coalition started among scholars in linguistics interested with the influence of social phenomena on language and sociologists and social scientists becoming increasingly aware of the centrality of language in any social and cultural phenomena (Giglioli, 1972; Gumperz and Himes, 1972; Pride & Holmes, 1972). In 1972 Giglioli (pag.7-8) writes: "Some linguists have become concerned with socially conditioned linguistic phenomena, and some social scientists have become more aware of the social nature of language. The term sociolinguistics refers to this mutual convergence." I hope our committee can continue and develop this tradition. The recent change of name of our committee from "Sociolinguistics" to "Language and Society" was a good move, since "sociolinguistics" has been losing this sense of cover term for this broad interdisciplinary area. Beyond the name, the relevant issue is maintaining this fruitful terrain of exchange. Scholars mainly in sociology and linguistics, but also in anthropology, philosophy etc. have developed a great variety of lines of research in studying the links between language and society. It is precisely the collaboration and dialog at the disciplinary boundaries that has proved to be so fertile (Bulcholz & Hall, 2008); moreover a concern with social justice was central to many of those studies from the beginning and this social commitment it is also worth preserving (Gumperz and Cook-Gumperz, 2008). Our committee should create the space for this legacy to grow and strengthen.

This is the last newsletter I am editing, reflecting on these past years it has been a very exciting and rewarding learning experience. I thank the association for this opportunity and I wish all the best to the future editor and the editorial board.

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