

Introduction

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The articles contained in this volume were presented at 13th Generative Approaches to Second Language Acquisition Conference (GASLA 2015), which was hosted by the Department of Second Language Studies at Indiana University Bloomington, March 4-6, 2015. The keynote address was given by Rex Sprouse (Indiana University), who reviewed the empirical and conceptual foundations of generative linguistics and second language acquisition, before exploring whether universal phonological principles might guide the acquisition of Turkish vowel harmony. The three invited speakers were Alison Gabriele (University of Kansas), who discussed linguistic and cognitive factors that facilitate language processing, drawing on recent ERP research; Philippe Prévost (University of Tours), who presented on the development of new diagnostic tools for Specific Language Impairment (SLI) in bilingual children; and Tania Ionin (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), who examined L2 syntax-semantics mappings in the nominal domain. The conference included a special session on the role of parsing in the development of grammatical knowledge, as well as presentations on a wide range of topics.

GASLA 2015 provided an exciting showcase for current, innovative research on the nature of linguistic knowledge in the minds of bilingual or multilingual children and adults. The papers selected for the current volume include the keynote address, and involve research in areas such as adjectives (Endo, Shibuya, & Hirakawa); argument structure (Stabile, Liu, Chen, & Deen); aspect (Kim); bilingual syntactic processing (Rankin, Grosso, & Reiterer); ellipsis (Koyama); Feature Reassembly (Lee & Lardiere); generics (Park & Gil; Snape, Umeda, Wiltshier, & Yusa); learnability theory (Albin & Gershkoff-Stowe); movement (Do, Kaiser, & Zubizarreta; Leal, Slabakova, Ivanov, & Tryzna); phonology (Özçelik; Pratt); quantification (Cheng & Tang); Specific Language Impairment and bilingualism (Lein, Hamann, Rothweiler, Abed Ibrahim, Chilla, & San); and the syntax of subjects and objects (van Koert, Koenenman, Hulk, & Weerman; Miyao & Schwartz; Nediger, Pires, & Guijarro-Fuentes), with inevitable overlap in domains of investigation.

The conference and the volume would not have been possible without the involvement of many people. The organizing committee included Kathleen Bardovi-Harlig, Laurent Dekydtspotter, Jordan Garrett, Becky Halloran, Tania Leal, Sabrina Mossman, Paul Richards, and David Stringer. Sincere thanks are due for generous grants made possible by the College of Arts and Humanities Institute (CAHI) and the Ostrom Grants Program. Supporting the Department of Second Language Studies as major co-sponsors were the Department of French and Italian, which also provided invaluable help with the website; the Humanities Division of the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Global and International Studies, and the Center for Languages of the Central Asian Region. Many other departments and units of Indiana University Bloomington contributed financially to the success of the conference: the Center for Language Excellence, the Chinese Flagship Center, the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, the Department of Germanic Studies, the Department of Linguistics, and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

We are also very grateful to our colleagues from the wider academic community who reviewed abstracts for the conference, ensuring the high quality of presentations: Joyce Bruhn de Garavito, Laurent Dekydtspotter, Alison Gabriele, María del Pilar García Mayo, Heather Goad, Theres Grüter, Pedro Guijarro-Fuentes, Ayşe Gürel, Julia Herschensohn, Makiko Hirakawa, Holger Hopp, Tania Ionin, Usha Lakshmanan, Donna Lardiere, Ana Teresa Perez-Leroux, Juana Licerias, Theo Marinis, Heather Marsden, Kate Miller, Silvina Montrul, Öner Özçelik, Philippe Prévost, Claire Renaud, Jason Rothman, Bonnie D. Schwartz, Roumyana Slabakova, Neal Snape, Antonella Sorace, Patti Spinner,

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David Stringer, Darren Tanner, Annie Tremblay, Ianthi Tsimpli, Elena Valenzuela, Lydia White, Melinda Whong, and Martha Young-Scholten.

The following student volunteers provided invaluable help in the running of the conference itself: Will Allendorfer, Tzu-I Chiang, Charlene Gilbert, Yilmaz Koylu, Senyung Lee, Zach Meyer, Elizabeth Myers, John Rothgerber, Hyun Kyoung Seo, Yunwen Su, and Cyntia Vernhet.

On a final note, while GASLA has no permanent management structure, this gathering was the latest instantiation of a very successful biennial tradition, which has become one of the most important international conferences for linguistic approaches to second language research. Every two years, a different center of research takes on the responsibility of organizing, funding, and hosting the conference. The decentralized nature of the conference promotes a pluricentric perspective in the field, yet serves as a common platform for the dissemination of research, the germination of new ideas, and the development of co-operative projects. We were delighted and honored to accept the challenge of mounting a successful conference in 2015, and we sincerely thank all who participated. The next iteration of GASLA will be held at the University of Southampton (UK) in 2017. We look forward to the continuation of this vibrant and intellectually valuable tradition.

Proceedings of the 13th Generative Approaches to Second Language Acquisition Conference (GASLA 2015)

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Cascadilla Proceedings Project Somerville, MA 2016

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ISBN 978-1-57473-470-6 library binding

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This paper can be cited as:

Stringer, David. 2016. Introduction. In *Proceedings of the 13th Generative Approaches to Second Language Acquisition Conference (GASLA 2015)*, ed. David Stringer et al., v-vi. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project. www.lingref.com, document #3270.