

# **A Note from the Editors**

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and Elena Gavruseva**

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This volume is the capstone to a larger project, namely the 9th biennial conference on Generative Approaches to Second Language Acquisition (GASLA 9), which was held at the University of Iowa on May 18-20, 2007. Held in various universities across the United States and Canada, GASLA is the premier peer-reviewed conference on generative research in non-native language acquisition. In addition to a special session on the Fundamental Difference Hypothesis Two Decades Later, GASLA 9 had three plenary speakers: Robert Bley-Vroman (University of Hawaii), Laurent Dekydtspotter (Indiana University) and Julia Herschensohn (University of Washington). The conference included a total of 27 talks as well as 12 poster presentations, which offered a broad coverage of current issues in second language acquisition theory. Sessions addressed a variety of empirical issues, including the acquisition of article semantics, argument structure, the syntax of objects, wh-constructions, telicity, outer aspect, scope relations, specificity, L2 phonology and morphology. Apart from the fundamental difference between native and non-native acquisition, theoretical topics discussed included the initial state of L2 acquisition, the nature of grammars acquired by adults, differences and similarities between adult and heritage learners. These important research issues are fully reflected in the present volume.

Hosting GASLA 9 would not have been possible without the generous support of many individuals and organizations. We are particularly grateful to the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Education, the Graduate College, International Programs and the Vice President for Research at the University of Iowa for their generous financial support. Additionally, we wish to acknowledge and thank the following departments which provided funding: French and Italian, German, Linguistics, Spanish and Portuguese, Speech Pathology and Audiology.

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