Preface

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This volume contains 26 selected papers from the 12th Hispanic Linguistics Symposium (HLS), which took place on the campus of Laval University, Quebec City, Canada, from 23 to 26 October 2008. As has become usual for HLS, the conference reflected the wide interests and perspectives of linguists working on Spanish and Portuguese.

Several papers explore Spanish from a formal perspective: Andueza and Gutiérrez Rexach, Colina, Cuervo, Juárez-Daussa, Laca, MacDonald and Huidobro, and Ortega Santos investigate semantic, pragmatic, phonological and syntactic issues from a formal, generative perspective. Six articles explore Spanish and Portuguese from a sociolinguistic or a variationist perspective (Andrade, Aponte Alequín and Ortiz-López, Barnes, Mack, Obediente Sosa, and Suárez Budenbender). Finally, a sizable number of papers focus on the acquisition of Spanish as a first or second language, some of them from a formal perspective (Ausín and Sutton, Cabrera, Filiaci, Liceras et al., Ortiz-López, and Pérez Leroux et al.), some from a pedagogical point of view (Geeslin et al. and Rodríguez Prieto), and some that combine perspectives (Goodall, and Gudmestad and Geeslin). In two cases, the second language (L2) being acquired is English and Spanish is the first language (L1) (Ayre et al. and De Luna Villalón) and in one case, the L1 is Náhuatl and the L2 Spanish (Ramírez-Trujillo). Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to two of our plenary speakers, Brenda Laca and Enrique Obediente Sosa, for accepting to include their talks in the proceedings.


Finally, we extend our thanks to the graduate students who contributed to the smooth running of the conference (José Cepero Pulido, Bruno Guedes Pereira, Nahed Noureddine, Étienne Pomerleau, José Ramírez, Valérie Tremblay, and Amal Zgati) and to the secretaries of the Department of Languages, Linguistics and Translation (DLLT) at Laval University, Françoise Gil, Nathalie Hupé and Monique Rhéaume, for their help on all fronts. We wish to thank the generous financial backing provided by Laval University, via the DLLT, the Faculty of Humanities, the Research Vice-Rectorate, and the Language School. Financial support has also been received from several publishers: University Laval Press, John Benjamins, Georgetown University Press, and Iberoamericana Editorial Vervuert. Finally, the Réseau des transports en commun in Quebec City deserves our special gratitude for the donation of much appreciated bus passes to all Conference participants.
