

Introduction

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The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa was privileged to host the 31st annual Second Language Research Forum (SLRF) in Honolulu, Hawai'i on October 17-19, 2008. This was an especially meaningful occasion as it marked the third time in twenty years that we received this honor, having hosted SLRF in 1988 and 1998. To mark this anniversary as a time for celebration, reflection, and dialogue, our conference theme was "Exploring SLA: Perspectives, Positions, and Practices." The progress of second language research is evidence of what can be achieved when theory and practice are investigated with vigor and research is discussed and disseminated. For over three decades, SLRF has acted as a catalyst for language research, providing a respected venue for both novice and established scholars to present research on a wide range of theoretical and empirical issues.

Reflecting the diversity within second language research, the conference program featured 138 paper and 32 poster presentations from 20 countries, which were chosen from 476 high-quality proposal abstracts. This, of course, would not have been possible without our international panel of expert reviewers, who had the important job of making the selection decisions. In addition to the many excellent presentations, the conference featured four exciting plenary sessions from well-respected figures in the field: Richard Schmidt (*The 'noticing hypothesis' twenty years out*); Alan Firth (*The public and private lives of additional language competence: Implications for a reconceptualized SLA*); Carmen Muñoz (*When context matters: Age effects on second language learning*); and Harald Clahsen (*Morphological structure in native and non-native language comprehension*). We were also very happy to have two invited colloquia that expanded discussions on the stimulating topics of: *Comparing child L2 and SLI: Crosslinguistic perspectives* (Theres Grüter, organizer) and *Language learning in and out of the classroom: Connecting contexts of language use with learning and teaching practices* (Christina Higgins, organizer).

The 18 peer-reviewed papers included in this volume, *Selected Proceedings of the 2008 Second Language Research Forum: Exploring SLA Perspectives, Positions, and Practices*, were selected with the assistance of our panel of reviewers. These papers are broadly organized into five sections. The first section features several papers dealing with matters relating to *Methodology* (MacIntyre, Noels, & Moore), *Measurement* (Doughty, Campbell, Mislevy, Bunting, Bowles, & Koeth; Iwashita; Hendrickson, Aitken, McGhee, & Johnson; Graham, McGhee, & Millard), and *Assessment* (Tremblay & Garrison; Peng). Four papers on *L2 Processing* (Dekydtspotter, Miller, Schaefer, Chang, & Kim; Mitsugi, MacWhinney, & Shirai; Rah & Adone; Liu & Nicol) make up Section Two. The third section consists of three papers dealing with *L2 Phonology* (Halicki; Rose; Nasukawa). Younger learners are the focus of Section Four with two papers on *Child SLA* (Sopata) and *Child Bilingualism* (Takemoto). Section Five completes the volume with two papers dealing with *Language Ideology* (Lee) and *Language Policy* (Filipović, Vučo, & Djurić). We hope you will find these papers informative and representative of the diversity of our 2008 program.

Of course, this project would not have been possible without the help of a great many people and organizations. First, we would like to thank the Cascadilla Proceedings Project for the opportunity to publish this volume as the *Selected Proceedings of the 2008 Second Language Research Forum*. We also wish to express our appreciation to the volume authors for their hard work and willingness to share their research with the SLRF community. We are also deeply grateful to the National Foreign Language Resource Center (NFLRC) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa for all its support in putting this volume together. In addition, without the following sponsors, the conference would not have been possible:

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Finally, it is our hope that this volume may contribute to the ongoing process of reflection, growth, and improved practice for our community of scholars. We hope you will enjoy the papers, and we look forward to seeing you at future SLRF conferences.

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