

Editorial: Let the discussion begin

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The first issue of *Language Under Discussion* is now out, and with it, our journal has now been officially launched. *Language Under Discussion* is an open-access, peer-reviewed journal devoted to promoting open-minded debate on central questions in the study of language, from all relevant disciplinary and theoretical perspectives. Moreover, we seek to provoke a kind of discussion that is rarely seen on the pages of academic publications nowadays—a discussion that moves its participants outside their theoretical comfort zones, into a space where familiar assumptions can be questioned and fundamental questions can be raised. Our journal seeks, unapologetically, to promote scholarly discussion of the “big” questions about language—such questions as: What kind of a thing is language? What is the nature of linguistic meaning? How to best conceptualize structure and regularity in human languages? What is the role language plays in culture and how do cultural phenomena reflect on language? What are the roles of cognition and communication in language?

To be sure, the journal’s pages are not reserved solely for pure theoretical discussions. After all, theoretical discussions are only truly valuable when grounded in empirical research, but then too, specialized and applied studies are at their best when they are informed by a vision or model of language in general and reflect back on it, and it is this kind of reflection, in all forms, that *Language Under Discussion* is hosting on its pages.

In addition to high-quality regular submissions that correspond to the journal’s mission, outlined above, *Language Under Discussion* will occasionally publish invited papers, in which scholars of notice from different fields and theoretical approaches discuss the implications their work has for our understanding of language as such. The journal will not have a fixed schedule, but we do aim for publishing at least three or four (and no more than twelve) issues a year.

What makes this journal unique is not only its integration of data and theory but also its before-and-after peer review and its means of encouraging debate on its pages. As with any peer-reviewed journal, articles are reviewed prior to publication. *Language Under Discussion* also provides opportunities for public peer review of articles after publication, thus integrating both discussion and review. The post-publication peer review can take the simple form of web-

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page comments, but on top of that, authors are encouraged to add more substantial comments in the form of discussion notes. These notes will be peer-reviewed and published in the same issue with the article to which they respond. A year after the original publication of the issue, the author(s) of the focus paper will be invited to pen a response to the published discussion notes, after which the issue will be closed to further changes (but still open to comments on the web).

The editors of *Language Under Discussion* invite your feedback as this journal sets off on its way. Let us know what scholars you would like to see write invited articles. Inform us about what would be most helpful to you as readers, scholars, or educators. Contact us with any other queries and comments you may have regarding the journal. Sign up to be a reviewer and join the discussion also before articles are published.

Finally, we encourage you to join the Language Under Discussion Society (ludsociety.org), which publishes *Language Under Discussion* and shall hold annual online conferences on themes that allow language scholars of all kinds to come together to discuss their work. Selected papers and round-table discussions from these conferences will also be published in the journal. The society will also be organizing occasional online symposia around papers published in the journal, where the authors of published articles will present their work and other scholars will be given the opportunity to respond.

With this first issue of *Language Under Discussion*, we are setting out on a way that—we believe—will truly benefit scholarship, connect and mutually fertilize different perspectives on language, and, over time, contribute to an advance in our understanding of it. Let the discussion begin!