

Editors' Introduction

We are pleased to introduce the first volume of *Birkbeck Studies in Applied Linguistics* (BISAL).

There will be one regular volume a year and occasional special issues.

Volume 1 features current research of staff and students and colleagues affiliated to the Department in the following areas: Bilingualism and Second Language Acquisition, Sociolinguistics, Sociopragmatics, Discourse Analysis, and Social Psychology.

The first paper by Jenny Sia and Jean-Marc Dewaele examines the very fuzzy notion of “bilingual” in the literature and among lay people.

Fiona Johnson looks at the handling of agreement and disagreement by members of London's British West African community and British white Londoners.

Lisa J. McEntee-Atalianis raises the issue of Linguistic Human Rights with regard to the Deaf community. She argues that members of this community should be viewed as a socio-cultural minority rather than as a 'disabled' group.

Li Wei and Zhu Hua report on a study on the changing code-switching behaviour of two Chinese-speaking children who moved into an English-speaking environment.

Luis Cortés Rodríguez looks at the functions and pragmatic meaning of enumerative sequences in oral Spanish and proposes a detailed typology of these sequences.

Finally, Itesh Sachdev, Denise Y. Arnold and Juan de Dios Yapita explore the relationship between identity, language and education amongst indigenous communities in Bolivia and Canada. They argue that the education and linguistic survival of indigenous peoples must engage with self-determined categorizations in their appropriate socio-structural and temporal contexts.

We hope that BISAL will become a platform for the exchange of ideas and debates on current issues across the paradigms that constitute the wide world of applied linguistics. We welcome empirical papers as well as position papers.

María Elena Placencia

Jean-Marc Dewaele

Malcolm Edwards