

Preface

Linguistic theories since the Chomskyan and through the stimulating years of cognitive revolution have remained a source of intellectual inspiration to scholars in several other fields such as Cognitive Psychology, Anthropology, Cognitive Science and Speech-Language Pathology just to name a few among many others. This has forged interdisciplinary collaborations and also allowed research productivity in many diverse areas that were not the core concern of linguists till very recently. It is but natural to believe that language fuels cognitive processing in humans and any one who wants to understand the workings of the human mind cannot do so without considering the mechanisms of language as it interacts or even affects other important mental processes such as memory, attention and perception. *Indian Journal of Applied Linguistics* has been a platform for disseminating research in several areas of theoretical interests in language and linguistics, from empirical works on language teaching, sociolinguistics and other traditional areas of applied linguistics like psycholinguistics and neurolinguistics for the past three decades. Recently there has been a substantial growth in articles submitted on experimental psycholinguistics, cognitive science, language and computation, clinical linguistics, clinical linguistics as well as on emerging fields like cognitive neuroscience of language to this journal. This obviously indicates a dominant shift in research paradigm and research attention to interface areas where formal linguistic theories have provoked research in understanding fundamental cognitive processes of the mind and the role language plays in it. In this context, it was felt that a special issue be brought out on these areas where representative, theoretical and empirical works will be showcased in a single issue so that one gets a flavor of the kind of multidisciplinary research that scholars are carrying out in different parts of the world, where language and linguistics is a core concern in understanding mental processes. With these theoretical concerns, it's a pleasure to briefly introduce each author's work and their dominant theoretical positions in this preface.

Coll-Florit and colleagues explore aspects of cognitive processing cost for dynamic and non-dynamic situations in Spanish from a psycholinguistics perspective. In this self-paced reading study they

demonstrate that aspectual different meanings of a polysemic verb (i.e. senses) influence processing time. Semantic and grammatical nature of verbs now form a major research area where it is aimed to explore the psycholinguistic variables that differently affect processing. Formalization of linguistic processes and the various traditional levels of processing i.e. phonology, syntax etc have been a major theoretical concern recently in cognitive science and mathematical modeling of cognitive processes. Narayanan in his contribution on the dynamic aspects of language processing challenges the traditional analysis of linguistic levels as static modules and offers a formal theory to understand the dynamicity of language and cognitive processes. Such a work opens up a new frontier of research where current theories of cognitive processing in terms of temporal modeling of events allow us to look into language as very dynamic phenomena.

Linguistics has always played an important role in explaining the functional deficits observed in different types of aphasia. Hedge and Bhat explore the nature of paraphasia in a single subject with conduction aphasia. It is an important contribution as the linguistic study of conduction aphasia has largely been neglected, more so in the Indian context. Another representation from clinical linguistics is the work on linguistic preservations observed in different clinical conditions by Rao. The role of cerebellum in speech motor control as well as in higher level cognitive processing is now being pursued seriously. Vandana's contribution aims at exploring speech motor control abilities in Subjects with lesions in different cerebellar loci. These works from clinical linguistics and speech pathology are a clear indication of the fruitful collaboration of linguistic theories and methods of speech – language pathology in understanding the linguistic behavior of subjects with different lesions.

Application of cognitive theories in second language learning and particularly strategies of information retrieval is the focus of the paper by Mowlaie in Iranian learners. Contributions such as this strengthen the cross-linguistic as well as the cross-cultural aspects of research on language processing. This paper is an empirical demonstration of Sokolov's match/mismatch theory on Iranian learners' retrieval. The author proposes that violation of expectation can arouse attention, which in turn can lead to longer retrieval of the material. Jalali examines the dynamics of second language learning in his work on the psychological factors that affect learner's autonomy in second language learning. The author carefully focuses on different ways learner's autonomy can be improved.

Language specific factors affecting speed and accuracy of cognitive processing has attracted research attention recently. Hence, my own paper, explores how spatial premises are integrated in Hindi following the tradition of mental model framework. The paper argues for the cross-linguistic importance of research on the interaction of fundamental structural aspects of language in premise integration and in cognitive processing. Som's paper on conceptual structures and lexical retrieval following a framework of Jackendoff is important as it is the first such work on the highly endangered Great Andamanese language from a cognitive linguistic perspective. It definitely links language with cultural cognition that is an emerging issue in cognitive science. Understanding the early processes of literacy acquisition has been an important research concern in Indian context. India's extensive multilingual situation offers fresh challenge for understanding the dynamicity of the cognitive-linguistic underpinnings of literacy for researchers. Silva and Padakannaya examine the factors that are important predictors of early literacy development of children in their kindergarten years.

It is expected that the multidisciplinary nature of scholarship in language and cognition will increase manifold in years ahead and *Indian Journal of Applied Linguistics* continue to remain an important platform of research dissemination and creative outlet in these domains.

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