

Editorial

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1976

Beginning with the present number the Journal of Child Language will appear three times a year, in February, June and October. The increase in the number of pages that this provides is welcome. It will permit a greater editorial flexibility in arriving at issues that give a balanced coverage of the field, and goes a long way towards off-setting the price-increase which 1976 inevitably brought, with the rising cost of printing, paper and postage. This therefore provides an opportune moment to report briefly on the Journal's development to date.

Circulation is a little over 1200 at present – an extremely satisfactory level after only two volumes, and one which more than justifies our original feeling that there was a need for a forum of discussion for work in this area. There has been no shortage of papers submitted for publication: about half submitted have been accepted, though often in modified form – this reflecting our policy not to reject papers without discussing possible bases for revision with the authors. The size of the review section varies, and is very much a reflection of book production in this area. On the whole, we have received relatively few books for review, and hardly any on child language studies published in languages other than English. We welcome suggestions for reviews in this area. We also welcome material for our occasional features. On the whole, we have received relatively little scholarly discussion of papers previously published in this journal. We are also ready to print reports on ongoing major projects, and 'observations' (short accounts of fragments of data with a comment on their theoretical import): here too there have been relatively few submissions. And lastly, we would welcome suggestions from readers as to features which they would like to see included in future numbers.

1976 also sees the first year of formal establishment of the International Association for the Study of Child Language, and the following points are taken from the official minutes of the Business Meeting of the Association, held at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London on 5 September 1975, under the chairmanship of the interim President, Professor Charles R. Ferguson. The relationship between the Association and the Journal was defined in these terms:

The Journal of Child Language took form at the International Symposium of First Language Acquisition in Florence, 1972, and its editor and general editorial policy was endorsed by the International Association for the Study of Child Language, which was being organised. The Journal is independent organisationally and financially, but it serves as the organ of the Association for the publication of official notices of its activities. The Secretary of the Association is *ex officio* a member of the Advisory Board of the Journal, and the Editor of the Journal is *ex officio* a member of the Executive Committee of the Association.

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The officers of the Association were elected as follows:

President: Professor Els Oksaar (Hamburg)

Vice-President: Professor Walburga von Raffler-Engel (Nashville)

Secretary: Dr Fred Peng (Tokyo)

Treasurer: Dr Terry Myers (Edinburgh)

The address of the secretary, from whom further information about the Association can be obtained, is: Department of Linguistics, International Christian University, Osawa, Mitaka, Tokyo, Japan.

In addition, an Executive Committee was elected, namely Professors Antinucci, Bullowa, Cromer, Delack, Ferguson, Lebrun, Pačesova, Rūķe-Draviņa, Savić, Sinclair, Slama-Cazacu, Slobin, Stemmer, and Waterson.

Finally, it is appropriate at this point to acknowledge our debt to Professor Eric Lenneberg, a member of the Advisory Board of this Journal since its inception, who died on 31 May 1975. We hope to publish in due course a fuller appreciation of this fine scholar's massive contribution to child language studies.

DAVID CRYSTAL