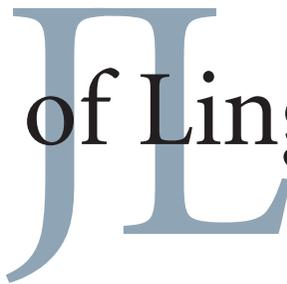


Journal of Linguistics



song of the unknown grapheme

context is all quoth the linguist
down to a native speaker who wept
punctuation is but said lichen of
your discontents made ruly matter
can there but be words enough for
the imperial litter oh data fruit
virgule fleuron come manicule how
hashtags curl up in bullet points
and this stark fungi of asterisms
yes punctuation is such lichen of
your dissertated content drifting
into sentence laws of the thallus
imposing clouds of graphematicity
in inscription of an anthropology
as befits no colon worth its semi
lozenge now no obelus nor pilcrow
yes capitals do brand our science
embracing too the comma as a love
and to put too fine a point on it
there is no linguistics worth its
cognate that doesn't fall in with
punctuation and in so falling who
hears the I sing that accompanies
all our silent misrepresentations
and passes such as silence dashed

sang of the unkenk lichen

the crack is wall spored a lichen
fax to a fungal partner who shone
bacteria as but the rift crust is
mossy free living not algal bloom
how little or no is to type still
the oldest living given thing bit
crustose foliose and fruticose oh
beard moss unfurl a broken cortex
and deictic vegetative propagules
yes lichen is such punctuation of
even a pre-cambrian morph to gold
into a colonising as conjunctions
made nitrogeneous waste to gerund
in prescriptions of an industrial
revolution calling for apostrophe
o anaphora no arthonia galactites
yes heavy metals do kill our kind
polluting to lost veneers on aged
buildings as to punctuate the air
there is no lichen scale but maps
in pulls of sulphur dioxide a new
poverty and so many cryptic moths
there past hydrogen flouride sing
down wind of the unsung prolepsis
who could survive the nuclear war

JOURNAL OF LINGUISTICS

THE JOURNAL OF THE LINGUISTICS ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN

EDITORS

Professor Nigel Fabb
University of Strathclyde

Professor Caroline Heycock
University of Edinburgh

Professor Robert D. Borsley
University of Essex

REVIEW EDITOR
Dr Peter Ackema
University of Edinburgh

EDITORIAL BOARD

David Adger *Queen Mary, London*
Adam Albright *MIT*
James P. Blevins *Cambridge*
Jonathan D. Bobaljik *Connecticut*
Ning Chunyan *Tianjin Normal University, China*
Janet Dean Fodor *CUNY*
Eric Haeberli *Geneva*
Laurence R. Horn *Yale*
Bill Idsardi *Maryland*
D. Robert Ladd *Edinburgh*

Louise McNally *Pompeu Fabra*
Ad Neeleman *UCL*
Colin Phillips *Maryland*
Gillian Ramchand *Tromsø*
Malka Rappaport Hovav *Hebrew University of Jerusalem*
Junko Shimoyama *McGill*
Andrew Simpson *Southern California*
Andrew Spencer *Essex*
Sali Tagliamonte *Toronto*
Adam Ussishkin *Arizona*

MANAGING EDITOR: Ewa Jaworska

Subscriptions *Journal of Linguistics* (ISSN 0022-2267; electronic ISSN 1469-7742) is published three times a year in March, July and November. Three parts form a volume. The subscription price of volume 50 (2014) is £224 (US\$379 in the USA, Canada and Mexico) for institutions print and electronic, institutions electronic only £175/\$301; £76 (US\$129) for individuals ordering direct from the publisher and certifying that the journal is for their personal use. Single parts are £76 (US\$129 in the USA, Canada and Mexico). EU subscribers (outside the UK) who are not registered for VAT should add VAT at their country's rate. VAT registered subscribers should provide their VAT registration number. Members of the Linguistics Association of Great Britain may purchase the journal at a special rate via the Association.

Orders, which must be accompanied by payment, may be sent to a bookseller, subscription agent or direct to the publisher: Cambridge University Press, The Edinburgh Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK; or in the USA, Canada and Mexico: Cambridge University Press, Journals Fulfillment Department, 100 Brook Hill Drive, West Nyack, New York 10994-2133.

Japanese prices for institutions are available from Kinokuniya Company Ltd, P.O. Box 55, Chitose, Tokyo 156, Japan. Prices include delivery by air.

Copying This journal is registered with the Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, USA. Organizations in the USA who are also registered with the C.C.C. may therefore copy material (beyond the limits permitted by sections 107 and 108 of the US Copyright law) subject to payment to C.C.C. of the per-copy fee of \$12.00. This consent does not extend to multiple copying for promotional or commercial purposes. Code 0022-2267/2008

ISI Tear Sheet Service, 3501 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA, is authorized to supply single copies of separate articles for private use only.

Organizations authorized by the Copyright Licensing Agency may also copy material subject to the usual conditions.

For all other use, permission should be sought from Cambridge or the American Branch of Cambridge University Press.

Notes for Contributors are printed on the inside back cover and are available in full via journals.cambridge.org/lin.

Information on *Journal of Linguistics* and all other Cambridge journals can be accessed via journals.cambridge.org/lin and in North America via <http://www.cup.org/>.

This journal issue has been printed on FSC-certified paper and cover board. FSC is an independent, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization established to promote the responsible management of the world's forests. Please see www.fsc.org for information.

© Cambridge University Press 2014

Printed in the UK by Bell and Bain Ltd

For the three covers of our fiftieth anniversary volume, the *Journal* has commissioned three new poems on the topic of language. For this first issue, the two texts on the cover are poems by Drew Milne entitled 'song of the unknown grapheme' along with a translation of this poem, 'sang of the unkent lichen', presented in an image text collage conceived by Drew Milne, using a photograph by Sarah Hayden.