On the History of LSA Publications: Stability and Change

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Introduction

- *Language*: the mainstay of the LSA’s publications
- relatively unchanged throughout its nearly ninety years of existence
- especially within the academic lifetime of most current LSA members
Stability in:

- contents (articles, book reviews, lists of books Received)
- frequency (4 issues per year)
- look (the layout of the pages, the lettering)
- even its cover
LANGUAGE

JOURNAL OF THE LINGUISTIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA

EDITED BY
GEORGE MELVILLE BOLLING
Ohio State University

AURELIO M. ESPINOSA
Stanford University

EDWARD SAPIR
University of Chicago

VOLUME I
1925

WAVERLY PRESS, Inc.
Baltimore, MD

AND

The Collegiate Press
GEORGE BANTA PUBLISHING COMPANY
MENASHA, WISCONSIN

Vol. 1 front matter, 1925
Recent Change

- the naming of an Executive Editor to support the Editor
- shift to an electronic version of *Language* with new sections of the journal (*Historical Syntax, Language and Public Policy, Perspectives, Phonological Analysis, Teaching Linguistics*)
A closer look

• history of LSA publications
• reveals an ongoing interplay of stability and change
• current changes simply the most recent chapter in the story
Two areas of investigation

- the history of the leadership of the publications
- the publications themselves
Leadership

• seven Editors of *Language* over 90-year history


Mark Aronoff (1995-2001)

Brian D. Joseph (2002-2008)

Gregory N. Carlson (2009-...)
Leadership

• But more to journal’s governance over the years
  – EARLY DAYS: founding of the journal and into Bloch’s term; some features continue into (but not through) Bright’s term
  – TRANSITIONAL PERIOD: part of Bloch’s term and into Bright’s term
  – MODERN ERA: part way through Bright’s term (1977) to the present aday
Early Days

• Journal run by a Committee on Publications (CoP)
• first LSA Constitution (from *Lg* 1.1.24–25, 1925) :

‘Article V. Publications

1. The Committee on Publications shall have charge of all publications of the Society, and shall have power to order their publication upon certification of the Treasurer that sufficient money is available.’
Early Days

• Proceedings of LSA’s first business meeting (Lg. 1.1.8–13, 1925):

‘It was moved by Professor [Franklin] Edgerton that the Society should undertake a regular independent publication, either quarterly or annually, as might seem best. After discussion, the motion was carried.’ (11)

Committee on Nominations proposed Bolling, Edward Sapir, and Aurelio Espinosa as members of CoP.
Early Days

‘With the approval of the Executive Committee, the Secretary drew lots to determine the terms of office, and assigned the Chairmanship for 1925 to the one who drew the three year term. This resulted in the following arrangement:
Term expiring 1927: Professor Bolling, Chairman for 1925.
Term expiring 1926, Dr. Sapir.
Term expiring 1925: Professor Espinosa.’
(Lg. 1.1.11–12, 1925)
Early Days

• On the identification of AN editor

First LSA Constitution (from *Lg* 1.1.24–25, 1925):

‘Article III. Officers

...  
3. There shall be a Committee on Publications, which shall consist of four members of the Society. One of these, to be designated Chairman of the Committee and Editor of the Publications of the Society, shall be elected annually by the Society.’
Early Days

• On the identification of an editor

1926 ‘Committee on Publications:
Editor and Chairman: Professor George Melville Bolling, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
To serve through 1926: Professor Samuel Moore
To serve through 1927: Professor Daniel
To serve through 1928: Professor Aurelio M. Espinosa’

• Apparent official clarification of Bolling’s role as editor between first and second year of Language

• Also a correction regarding the number of members on the committee (was supposed to be 4 all along)
Vol. 2 front matter, 1926 (updated CoP)
Early Days

• Some stirrings of change: 1938 LSA meeting, report of Exec. Comm. deals with proposed amendments to the Constitution re (among other things) size of CoP
• Exec. Comm. sets up Committee to consider issues
Transitional Period

• Bloch as Editor
• Role of the CoP clarified by Bloch in 1945 Editor’s report:

‘The function of this Committee, as I understand it, is to act as an advisory board ... I have asked the [CoP] to decide, from time to time, what course I should follow in accepting or declining a particular contribution—especially if the author has expressed himself as dissatisfied with a previous decision. But though a number of articles and reviews have thus been submitted to the Committee for an opinion, I have considered its chief function to be that of an advisory board on matters of policy ...’
Transitional Period

• Slight change in 1948 Editor’s report:

‘By vote of the [CoP], I have been authorized to delegate a small part of my editorial responsibilities to Robert A. Hall, Jr., a member of this Committee. Mr. Hall has generously undertaken to prepare for the press all book-length publications of the Society..., thus relieving me of an onerous and time-consuming labor. He acts in this matter as my deputy; and his actions, by mutual understanding, are subject to my approval as the Society’s Editor’ (Lg. 24., Bulletin No. 21, pg. 14)
Transitional Period

• Changes with Bright, 1967:

Exec. Comm. report on summer meeting in 1967: the EC ‘Discussed at length the membership of the Publications Committee, in view of the Editor’s wish to make that committee a more active body in editing the journal. As a result the Committee voted to present an amendment to the Society ... [that] would provide for the election of two members of the Publications Committee, rather than one, each year; all members would serve for three years’ (Lg. 44.2, Bulletin No. 41, 1968, pg. 18); amendment to Constitution passes at December LSA meeting.
Modern Era

• 1977 (Lg 53): Bright begins practice of clearly differentiating between Editor and a board of Associate Editors
• Associate Editors replace the LSA Committee on Publications
Modern Era

• fixed term of seven years for the editor is established (post-Bright; deriving from Thomason’s insistence on it; now part of LSA Constitution)

• creation of a Review Editor position (under Mark Aronoff, and continued under Joseph and Carlson)
(Post-)Modern Era?

• 2013: appointment of Executive Editor (Stanley Dubinsky)

• shift in the role of Editor (Gregory Carlson) to overseeing all publications (electronic etc.)

• But Bolling was Chairman of Committee on Publications, so things have come full circle, in a way.
PUBLICATIONS

• Language from the beginning

‘LANGUAGE, the official organ of the LINGUISTIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA, will appear quarterly, and will be sent to all members of the Society. Its size will be increased as rapidly as the finances of the Society warrant ...

The second number of this journal, to appear in June, will contain scholarly papers of more than usual general interest. Members are urged to submit to the Chairman of the Committee on Publications, Professor George Melville Bolling ... the typewritten copy of articles on linguistic subjects, for consideration for the third and fourth issues.’ (Lg. 1.1.21, 1925)
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Contents of Vol. 1, 1925:
articles, obituaries, books received, etc.
SOUND PATTERNS IN LANGUAGE

Edward Sapir

Victoria Museum, Ottawa

There used to be and to some extent still is a feeling among linguists that the psychology of a language is more particularly concerned with its grammatical features, but that its sounds and its phonetic processes belong to a grosser physiological substratum. Thus, we sometimes hear it said that such phonetic processes as the palatalizing of a vowel by a following i or other front vowel (“umlaut”) or the series of shifts in the manner of articulating the old Indo-European stopped consonants which have become celebrated under the name of “Grimm’s Law” are merely mechanical processes, consummated by the organs of speech and by the nerves that control them as a set of shifts in relatively simple sensorimotor habits. It is my purpose in this paper, as briefly as may be, to indicate that the sounds and sound processes of speech cannot be properly understood in such simple, mechanical terms.
Book Reviews

• ‘LANGUAGE plans to establish a department of reviews of works of linguistic nature, and invites publishers and authors to send their volumes for this purpose, to Professor George Melville Bolling, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. Naturally, the field must be limited to works bearing on language, not including those of a definitely literary character to the exclusion of the linguistic side.’ (Lg. 1.2.58-60, 1925)

• ‘In the next number of LANGUAGE it is planned to begin the publication of book reviews. The editor will be pleased to hear from any member who wishes to share in this undertaking. Copies of the works listed under 'Books Received' can be furnished for the purpose.’ (Lg. 2.1.62, 1926)
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### III
BOOK REVIEWS


Criticism of this undertaking is peculiarly difficult. It is not a Thesaurus Linguae Graecae, and must therefore not be judged by the standards appropriate to such a work; but it is destined to be for decades the main lexicographical tool of Greek studies, and it is therefore pertinent to inquire how well-fitted it is to that responsibility. The revision sprang from a wish to incorporate ‘the rapidly growing material supplied by newly discovered texts on stone and papyrus’; but to this it was decided to add citations from technical writings and later works down to the year A.D. 600. In accordance with this plan a large number of facts have been collected and recorded. From the high reputation of the contributors named in the preface it is to be expected that the work has been well done. To scrutinize it in detail is not the purpose of the present review; its intention is merely to notice one broader feature of the revision.
CLASSIFICATION OF AMERICAN INDIAN LANGUAGES

FRANZ BOAS
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

[The author points out cases in which contiguous languages, though different in structure and vocabulary, exhibit in common striking morphologic peculiarities that must have spread by borrowing from language to language. A simple genealogical classification cannot therefore adequately represent the development, but 'hybridization' must also be taken into account.]

In a paper published in 1920¹ I discussed the problem of the interrelation of American Indian languages. I pointed out that morphological types are distributed over large areas and that in these morphological groups differences representing the character of the vocabulary occur which make it difficult to assume that the languages, as now spoken, are derived from the same 'Ursprache'. I pointed out that in the small linguistic units of early times, the conditions of mixture were quite different from those found in languages spoken over large areas and by many individuals. A further consideration of the problem led to the conclusion that an answer to the fundamental question must be sought through an investigation of mutual influences and the extent to which they may modify languages; particularly, in how far one linguistic type may influence the morphology of another.

I believe much也可以 write that well-marked long-endurance

¹ibliographic
PUBLICATIONS

• Other *Language* publications: Monographs

‘At the Foundation Meeting, there was a difference of opinion as to the kind of publication that should be undertaken by the Society: whether it should be a journal with short articles, or longer monographs only. The situation has been met by doing both; for a series of monographs, with the title LANGUAGE MONOGRAPHS, has been started.’ (Kent’s report, 2\textsuperscript{nd} annual LSA mtg, *Lg.* 2.1, 1926)
PUBLICATIONS

• Monographs

‘The series of monographs which the Society plans to issue, begins to approach reality. The monographs will be in general longer than is practicable for journal articles, and will appear separately, though several successive monographs will be numbered as successive parts of a volume. ... In many instances, it is expected, a larger or smaller subvention will be secured from the author of the monograph or from his institution ... in all instances the typescript of the monograph must be submitted to the Committee on Publications, who must approve it both for subject matter and for presentation before it can be entitled to appear in the series.’ (Lg. 1.2.58-60, 1925)
One of the early monographs (and a typical example; most were single-authored works)
Some monographs, however, were edited volumes, such as this.
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PUBLICATIONS

• Monographs

  No. 1: *A technique for the experimental investigation of associative interference in artificial linguistic material*. By Erwin Allen Esper. (November, 1925)

  ...

  No. 27: *Predication-typing: A pilot study in semantic analysis*. By P. Garvin, J. Brewer, & M. Mathiot. (1967) (last to be published in this series)
PUBLICATIONS

• Other *Language* publications: Dissertations

‘The Executive Committee would be pleased ... to see the establishment of a series of *Language Dissertations*; and to authorize additional *Bulletins* on suitable subjects.’ (Kent’s report, 3rd annual LSA mtg, *Lg. 3.1*, 1927)
One of the early dissertations.
PUBLICATIONS

• Dissertations

‘The Linguistic Society of America issues in this series dissertations which have been accepted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at American Universities; provided that, in the opinion of the Society's representatives, the dissertations are upon linguistic topics. The Society does not pass upon the scholarly merit nor upon the validity of the theses propounded in the dissertations.’
• Dissertations

No. 1: *The Vedic declension of the type *vrkis, a contribution to the study of the feminine noun-declension in Indo-European*. By Ruth Norton Albright. (1927)

…

No. 57: *Navaho syntax*. By H. J. Landar. (1963) (last to be published in this series)

Both the monographs and the dissertations ended in the 1960s, a time of great expansion in the field and in the journal itself (page numbers per volume hits 900-1000 in this decade).
PUBLICATIONS

• Other *Language* publications: *LSA Bulletin*
  – originally a ‘Supplement to *Language*’, with No. 1 in 1927(?), No. 2 in 1928, etc.
  – all LSA Proceedings, lists of members, etc. moved to *Bulletin* in 1936
  – last print one in 2005, electronic versions continued until summer 2009
  – replaced by e-mail *LSA Update*, 2010
The earliest bulletins were specifically used for information about the Summer Institutes.
PUBLICATIONS

• Other *Language* publications: Index
  – usually as special numbers (every 5 years)
  – once as 4th issue of year (1935, Vols. 6-10)
  – now yearly in issue 4, updated online 21st. cent.
INDEX TO LANGUAGE I–V (1925–1929)

PREPARED BY

MARIA WILKINS SMITH
Temple University

This Index is distributed to subscribers to Language VII; it may be secured by others for the sum of $1.25, postpaid.

WAVERLY PRESS, INC.
Baltimore, U. S. A.
The first index: all of the early indices were broken down into several sections. The searchability of modern digital versions makes less necessary.
INDEX TO VOLUME 89 (2013)

ACKERMAN, FARRELL, and R. MALOUE. Morphological organization: The low conditional entropy conjecture. 89.3.429–64 (2013).


ARANOVICH, RAUL. Transitivity and polysynthesis in Fijian. 89.3.465–500 (2013).


BACH, EMMON, and E. BACH. Rev. of Kornai, Mathematical linguistics. 89.4.970–73 (2013).

BACH, ERIC, and E. BACH. Rev. of Kornai, Mathematical linguistics. 89.4.970–73 (2013).

BAKER, PETER. Rev. of McWhorter and Good, A grammar of Saramaccan Creole. 89.4.973–76 (2013).

BEAVER, DAVID I., and E. DESTREL. Rev. of Krifka and Musan (eds.), The expression of information structure. 89.3.647–53 (2013).

BEAVER, DAVID I.; J. TONHAUSER; C. ROBERTS; and M. SIMONS. Toward a taxonomy of projective content. 89.1.66–109 (2013).

BENTLEY, DELIA. Subject canonicality and definiteness effects in Romance there-sentences. 89.4.675–712 (2013).


BERLAGE, EVA; J. PAYNE; G. K. PULLUM; and B. C. SCHOLZ. Anaphoric one and its implications. 89.4.794–829 (2013).


BOECKX, CEDRIC. Language in cognition: Uncovering mental structures and the rules behind them. Rev. by C. P. Otero. 89.3.641–43 (2013).

BOWERS, JOHN. Arguments as relations. Rev. by D. Massam. 89.2.354–57 (2013).


BROWN, CECIL H.; E. W. HOLMAN; and S. WICHMANN. Sound correspondences in the world’s languages. 89.1.4–29 (2013).
INDEX TO LANGUAGE 2001–2013

AARTS, BAS; D. DENISON; E. KEIZER; and G. POPOVA (eds.) Fuzzy grammar: A reader. BN by K. K. Grohmann.
AASMAÉ, NIINA; I. LEHISTE; E. MEISTER; K. PAJUSALU; P. TERAS; and T.-R. VIITSO. Erzya prosody. BN by D. Stifter. 82.4.955 (2006).
ABBANI, ANVITA. A manual of linguistic field work and structure of Indian languages. BN by G. van Driem. 82.2.450 (2006).
ABBOTT, BARBARA; G. WARD; B. J. BIRNER; L. R. HORN; P. JACOBSON; and J. M. SADOCK. Obituary of Ellen F. Prince. 87.4.866–72 (2011).
ABEILLÉ, ANNE, and D. GODARD. The syntactic structure of French auxiliaries. 78.3.404–52 (2002).

21st-century index, through 2013
(now at 234 pages)
PUBLICATIONS

• Other *Language* publications: Special Publications
  – e.g. the William Dwight Whitney Series
  – *Vedic Variants*
  – supplemented by or joint publications with other institutions
THE PRONUNCIATION
OF
GREEK AND LATIN

BY
EDGAR H. STURTEVANT
Professor of Linguistics in Yale University

SECOND EDITION

PUBLISHED FOR
YALE UNIVERSITY
BY THE
LINGUISTIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS OF THE LINGUISTIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA

EDITED BY
BERNARD BLOCH
Yale University

ALBERT C. BAUGH University of Pennsylvania

M. B. EMENEAU
University of California

ROBERT A. HALL JR.
Brown University

THE ATHETIZED LINES OF THE ILIAD

BY GEORGE MELVILLE BOLLING

Emeritus Professor of Greek in the Ohio State University

Published by LINGUISTIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA AT THE WAVERLY PRESS, INC. Mount Royal and Guilford Avenues Baltimore, Md. 1944
Other LSA Publications Now

• *eLanguage*: conference proceedings
• Book Notices
• extended abstracts for annual meeting
• *Semantics and Pragmatics*
• [http://www.linguisticsociety.org/lsa-publications](http://www.linguisticsociety.org/lsa-publications)
Language in 2013

- new online-only sections
- new open-access online article supplements
- changes to editorial boards
- now the ‘flagship’ but no longer the sole journal of the LSA
Language front matter, 2013: ‘A’ added; associate editors listed for new online-only sections
Language in 2013

- online-only journal sections allow for more content to be published
- allow for more specificity in content (e.g. ‘Teaching Linguistics’, ‘Historical Syntax’)
- different types of content (e.g. ‘Perspectives’)

Language in 2013

• new open-access online article supplements
• data hosting
• further technical explanation
• media
• hosted on Project Muse
Addendum to ‘The semantics of possessives’: Barker on quantified possessives

Stanley Peters
Stanford University
Dag Westerståhl
Stockholm University and University of Gothenburg

As far as we know, the phenomenon of narrowing for possessives was discussed for the first time in Barker (1995), with examples such as 1.

(1) a. Most planets’ rings are made of ice.
    b. Not every school’s linguistics program is as good as that one.

Barker also proposed a general scheme for semantic interpretation of quantifiers (non-expanded) prenominal possessor DPs. His idea was to use a generalizing quantifier that simultaneously binds two variables; one variable for possessor and one for possessions. Variable-binding was effected with the mechanism of unselective binding from Lewis (1975). The semantics enforces narrow scope. How does it relate to our semantics with Poss and two separate quantifiers over possessors and possessions, respectively? In this note we make a brief comparison between his treatment and the one in Peters and Westerståhl (2004).

‘Tonal alignment is contrastive in falling contours in Dinka’, by Bert Remijsen, 89.2

**Example 2, p. 299**

(2) a. ráaa ə-łeː ə person DECL.SG-isolate.2SG
    ‘You are isolating a person.’

b. ráaa ə-łeːl ə person DECL.SG-isolate.3SG
    ‘He is isolating a person.’

c. ráaa ə-łeːel ə person DECL.SG-provoke.3SG
    ‘He is provoking a person.’

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‘Neurophysiological evidence for morpho-logical underspecification in German strong adjective inflection’, by Andreas Opitz, Stefanie Regel, Gereon Müller, & Angela D. Friederici, 89.2; Figure 2
Change, but stability

• ‘Why a Linguistic Society?’, by Leonard Bloomfield

‘This position of linguistic science appears at the very outset in its methods of observation. The work of directly observing and recording human speech is much like the work of the ethnologist; indeed, in our country, where such field-work has been best done, it has been performed chiefly by the ethnologic-linguistic school. But, linguistics demands, to mention a difference, the recording of speech-movements or of the resultant sound-waves. For this purpose a kind of simplified physiology of speech has hitherto been used; as it is in many ways unsatisfactory, methods of mechanical observation, both physiologic and acoustic, are being developed.’ (Lg 1.1.1-2, 1925)
‘Open access’ in early days

• ‘But while the exchanges and the library subscriptions may serve in part to spread the knowledge of the Society's existence and activity, and to establish its position, it is desirable that our publications should be accessible to scholars as widely as is compatible with not closing the sources of revenue. ... very few foreign scholars ... are financially able to subscribe to our publications. ... the Secretary-and-Treasurer has placed on the complimentary list of the Society, for a limited period of time, a considerable number of foreign scholars ... asking them in return to give to the Society and to its publications such publicity as may conveniently be within their power. ... These free copies, which cost little but the postage, should pay rich dividends to the Society in publicity and prestige.’ (Kent’s report, 2nd annual LSA mtg, Lg. 2.1, 1926)
Change, but stability

• *Language* (and the other publications of the LSA) continues to adapt to changes in the field, new possibilities, new needs, new opportunities.

• The mission remains the same.