

Meeting of the Committee of Editors of Linguistics Journals  
January 10, 2016  
Washington, DC

Present: Eric Baković, Greg Carlson, Abby Cohn, Elizabeth Cowper, Kai von Fintel, Brian Joseph, Tom Purnell, Johan Rooryck (via Skype)

### 1. Unified Stylesheet v2.0

Kai von Fintel discussed his involvement in a working group aiming to “update, revise, amend, precisify” the existing Unified Stylesheet for Linguistics Journals. An email from von Fintel on this topic sent to the editors’ mailing list shortly after our meeting is copied at the end of these minutes. Abby Cohn noted that *Laboratory Phonology* will continue to use APA style given its close contact with relevant fields that use also this style. It was also noted and agreed that authors should be encouraged to ensure the stability of online works for citation purposes.

### 2. LingOA

Johan Rooryck reported on the very recent transition of subscription *Lingua* (Elsevier) to open access *Glossa* (Ubiquity Press), and addressed questions about a document he sent to the editors’ mailing list in November (also appended at the end of these minutes). The document invites the editorial teams of other subscription journals in linguistics and related fields to make the move to fair open access, as defined by LingOA (<http://lingoa.eu>), to join *Glossa* as well as *Laboratory Phonology* and *Journal of Portuguese Linguistics*. On January 9, David Barner (Psychology & Linguistics, UC San Diego) and Jesse Snedeker (Psychology, Harvard) called for fair open access at *Cognition*, another Elsevier journal. (See <http://meaningseeds.com/2016/01/09/fair-open-access-at-cognition/>.)

The transition of *Lingua* to *Glossa* has apparently gone even smoother than expected. A concern was raised about the impact factor (IF) of the new incarnation of the journal, given the greater need for such measures for our colleagues in Europe; Rooryck explained that IF matters much less for the Humanities in Europe, and noted that the European Reference Index for the Humanities and the Social Sciences (ERIH-PLUS) has agreed to rank *Glossa* immediately after the publication of the first issue (instead of waiting the usual 2 years). A bigger concern is inclusion in Thomson Reuters journal citation reports, which particularly affects scholars in Asia. Rooryck thinks that Thomson Reuters could be pressured by a larger number of journals under the umbrella of LingOA.

A concern was also raised about the sustainability of the funding model for LingOA, currently supported by a 5-year grant of 0.5 million euros. After those 5 years, the *Open Library of Humanities* (OLH; <http://www.openlibhums.org>) will take over payment of article processing charges with their support from an international consortium of contributing libraries. Rooryck expressed his utmost confidence in the long-term sustainability of this funding model.

Rooryck also addressed questions about the for-profit model of Ubiquity Press (there is value in their expertise in the technical aspects of publication, and the model is completely transparent) and about the intended scope of the LingOA project (ideally all linguistics journals, but starting with the journals owned by the biggest for-profit publishers). A key aim should be to at least

negotiate shared ownership of the journal between the publisher and the editorial board, if not full ownership by the editorial board. It was noted that such ownership may require incorporation of the editorial board or some such legal move.

### 3. UC Libraries to cancel *Lingua* subscription

Eric Baković reported on an imminent announcement from the University of California system that the libraries will cancel their subscription to *Lingua* effective in 2016. This move is explicitly to support the editorial team's move to fair open access *Glossa*, and will be accompanied by a version of the UW Milwaukee Linguistics' Statement of Support for *Glossa* (<https://uwm.edu/linguistics/statement-of-support-for-glossa/>) to be signed by linguistics faculty across the University of California system.

From: Kai von Fintel  
To: [journaleditors@lists.osu.edu](mailto:journaleditors@lists.osu.edu)  
Cc: Guido Vanden Wyngaerd <[Guido.VandenWyngaerd@arts.kuleuven.be](mailto:Guido.VandenWyngaerd@arts.kuleuven.be)>, Sebastian Nordhoff <[sebastian.nordhoff@langsci-press.org](mailto:sebastian.nordhoff@langsci-press.org)>, Timm Lichte <[lichte@phil.hhu.de](mailto:lichte@phil.hhu.de)>, Kenneth Hanson <[khanson679@gmail.com](mailto:khanson679@gmail.com)>, S&P Editors <[all-editors@semprag.org](mailto:all-editors@semprag.org)>, Adam Liter <[literada@msu.edu](mailto:literada@msu.edu)>, Martin Haspelmath <[haspelmath@shh.mpg.de](mailto:haspelmath@shh.mpg.de)>, Stefan Müller <[stefan.mueller@fu-berlin.de](mailto:stefan.mueller@fu-berlin.de)>  
Subject: [Journaleditors] Unified Stylesheet v2.0

Dear colleagues,

I announced this at today's meeting of the Committee of Editors of Linguistics Journals (CELxJ) at the LSA Annual Meeting. There's a new working group looking to update, revise, amend, precisify the Unified Stylesheet for Linguistics Journals, as it was approved by the committee in 2007 (<http://celxj.org/downloads/UnifiedStyleSheet.pdf>).

As you may know, there is a standard BibTeX implementation, called unified.bst (<http://celxj.org/downloads/unified.bst>), which was developed by Bridget Samuels, based on work done for the house-style (sp.bst) of Semantics and Pragmatics (S&P). S&P has since moved to a biblatex implementation of the stylesheet, hosted on github as biblatex-sp-unified (<https://github.com/semprag/biblatex-sp-unified>).

Using the stylesheet in the production of articles for S&P has revealed several issues that the new version will hope to address. Other stakeholders are also involved in the revision. Some modifications to be discussed were proposed by Martin Haspelmath in the Generic Style Rules for Linguistics (<http://www.eva.mpg.de/linguistics/past-research-resources/resources/generic-style-rules.html>). Others arose in the work on biblatex-sp-unified. Yet more will arise as we work on the new version.

The main work of the working group will occur in the open on a Github site: <https://github.com/lx-unified-v2/lx-unified-v2>. We will use the github "issues" functionality to organize the discussion: <https://github.com/lx-unified-v2/lx-unified-v2/issues>.

The outcome will be a revised version 2 stylesheet to be used in various contexts and hopefully to be adopted by other publishers.

We invite everyone interested in this project to follow along and/or contribute through the github site.

All the best,

Kai von Fintel  
Founding Co-Editor  
Semantics and Pragmatics  
<http://semprag.org>

## Moving to Open Access in Linguistics

Open Access publishing is often said to be the future of academic journals, but the actual move from a subscription model to an Open Access model is not easily achieved. In the meanwhile, researchers and libraries remain hostages of big publishers such as Elsevier, Wiley, Taylor & Francis, or Springer, who make profits in excess of 35% on the public money most libraries use to pay for published research. Articles behind paywalls remain inaccessible not only for the taxpayers who have paid for the research published in those articles, but also for scholars in developing countries who cannot afford unsustainably expensive subscriptions.

*Linguistics in Open Access* (LingOA, <http://www.lingoa.eu>) is a Dutch charitable foundation whose mission is to help 'flip' linguistics journals from subscription to Open Access. The journals *Laboratory Phonology*, *Journal of Portuguese Linguistics*, and *Lingua* have now left their traditional publishers to work under the conditions of Fair Open Access set out by LingOA.

Any reputed linguistics journal can join LingOA if their publisher agrees to comply with the following conditions:

- The editorial board or a learned society owns the title of the journals.
- The author owns the copyright of his articles, and a CC-BY license applies.
- All articles are published in Full Open Access (no subscriptions, no 'hybrid model of both subscriptions and APCs a.k.a. 'double dipping').
- Article processing charges (APCs) are low (around 400 euros), transparent, and in proportion to the work carried out by the publisher.

As of 1 January 2016, *Laboratory Phonology*, *Journal of Portuguese Linguistics*, and *Glossa* (the journal formerly known under its Latin name) will be published by Ubiquity Press, a publication services provider who subscribes to these four conditions. However, LingOA welcomes any publisher of linguistics journals who is willing to work under these conditions.

LingOA primarily welcomes journals whose editorial policy and quality management will remain unaffected by the move to Open Access. This allows journals to claim that they are the continuation of their previous incarnation in a different guise. However, we are also open to journals that intend to change editorial policies set by their current publisher, or subsets of editorial boards who want to move to Open Access.

### **Fair Open Access: who pays for the APCs?**

The *Association of Dutch Universities* (VSNU) and the *Dutch organization for Scientific Research* (NWO) have provided LingOA with a 5-year grant in the amount of 0.5m euros to pay for the Article Processing Charges (APCs) of linguistics journals that move to Open Access. This means that authors submitting articles to journals who are members of LingOA do not pay themselves for any APCs. The fund is administered by LingOA, and all participating journals have a seat on its board. After the initial five years, the APCs of participating journals will be taken over by the *Open Library of Humanities* (OLH) (<http://www.openlibhums.org>). OLH is a charitable organisation dedicated to publishing open access scholarship with no author-facing article processing charges (APCs). OLH is funded by an international consortium of 120+ prestigious libraries who make a contribution that goes towards paying for the APCs. Once again, this means that *no linguist ever pays for APCs* when they publish an article in a journal participating in LingOA. In short, long term sustainable Fair Open Access will be achieved for all linguistics journals participating in LingOA.

### **Legal advice**

LingOA also provides and pays for legal help via [iRights](#). iRights helps participating journals negotiate with their current publishers and, if necessary, to leave them in order to make the transition from a subscription-based model to Open Access. The iRights team successfully advised the *Lingua* editors in their negotiations with and ultimate resignation from Elsevier. They also ensured that *Laboratory Phonology* was able to keep the name of the journal and its ISSN number. The recent move from *Lingua* to *Glossa* also provided LingOA with a detailed roadmap for negotiations and exit strategies that can be followed by journals willing to follow the trail blazed by the first three journals.

### **Editorial assistance**

The Radboud University Library has agreed to contribute to LingOA by providing an editorial assistant for the participating journals. The journal manager will chase reviewers, monitor submissions, advise editors and the like.

### **Further support**

LingOA has also established excellent contacts with officials from the Directorate General CONNECT of the European Community in Brussels, who follow our efforts with great interest and have expressed an interest in supporting it. The LingOA initiative is also backed by the *Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences* (KNAW).

The highly publicized resignation of the entire editorial team of *Lingua* (see *Inside Higher Ed*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *WIRED!*, *Financial Times*, *Le Monde*, *Der Spiegel*, *The Independent*), and their move to the new journal *Glossa*, has attracted public support from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), the American Council on Education (ACE), the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL), the Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR), Educause, and the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC)

(see: <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2015/11/13/more-higher-ed-library-groups-speak-out-support-lingua-editors>).

The move from *Lingua* to *Glossa* has also been enthusiastically received on social media: the new Facebook page for *Glossa* reached 12.000 people in the 48 hours after its inception.

### **Monitoring impact**

The *Laboratory Phonology* and *Journal of Portuguese Linguistics* continue under their old names and therefore keep their current impact and visibility. Although *Glossa* will be led by the old team from *Lingua*, its visibility and impact will have to be built up anew. However, LingOA is negotiating with a number of organizations that enhance the visibility of quality research in the humanities. The prestigious *European Reference Index for the Humanities* ([ERIH-PLUS](#)), has already agreed to include *Glossa* in its rankings as soon as the first issue is published. The normal waiting period for new journals at ERIH-PLUS is two years. This shows that international organizations monitoring and publicizing the quality control of international journals are willing to recognize the exceptional circumstances that surround the move of a journal from subscription to Open Access.

The CWTS Leiden (<http://www.cwts.nl/Home>), a research institute that studies the dynamics of scientific research and authors of the [Leiden Manifesto](#), will monitor the impact of the linguistics journals transitioning to Open Access.