

From the Editors

On behalf of the membership of the Linguistics Association of Ghana, the editors are proud to present this maiden issue of the *Ghana Journal of Linguistics*. We are particularly proud of the line-up of nine internationally distinguished linguists who have agreed to join our Editorial Board. The journal is to appear twice yearly, in January and July. Although it is almost inevitable that many of the papers will be concerned with language in Ghana and West Africa, we would like to emphasize that this is intended to be a peer-reviewed journal of linguistics, not a journal of Ghanaian linguistics or of linguistics in Ghana. There is no restriction as to languages or topics to be dealt with, or theoretical orientation.

The Linguistics Association of Ghana was originally constituted in 1992 as successor to the Linguistic Circle of Accra, which had been founded in Legon in 1967. However it became dormant after January 1999, until it was revived with a new constitution in 2010, following meetings held late in 2009. Publication of this journal was and remains a principal goal of the new version of the Association.

Perhaps not all readers will be aware that this is not the first publication by LAG in its various incarnations. The first, in Linguistic Circle of Accra days, was a special issue of the *Journal of African Languages*, now unfortunately defunct – Volume 10 Part 3, in 1971. This was followed by a special issue in 1976 of *Communications from the Basel Africa Bibliography*, Vol. 14 entitled *Languages of the Akan Area*. Before this however the Institute of African Studies of the University of Ghana had begun publication for the Circle of a series called *Papers in Ghanaian Linguistics*. The first issue was published as Supplement No. 4 to the Institute's periodical *Research Review* in March 1973, but from number 2 in 1977 onwards it was published as an autonomous series. The last issue, *Papers in Ghanaian Linguistics* 9, was published in 1998. A *Working Papers in Linguistics* was published in 1994.

These various publications presented new research, and some of the papers contained in them have continued to be cited, but they were very modestly produced. With the *Ghana Journal of Linguistics* we hope to start a new era, in disciplinary range and quality and also in physical quality. As part of the digital future we also expect to start publishing online as soon as practically possible. Meanwhile, in this particular issue, earlier versions of most of the papers were presented at the first conference of the newly constituted Association, which was held at the University Ghana in Legon in August 2010. The next issue will also probably include a number

of papers from this source and from the second conference, held in Kumasi in 2011, but we wish to reiterate that the Journal is not simply the transactions of the Association; all language scholars are free to submit, and papers will be published on their merits. You are invited to consult the inside covers of this issue for information on submission and how to contact us.

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