Letter from the editor

Greetings from the editor, who hopes that all readers will enjoy this the last number (38.2 (2009)) of SAL in its traditional format, i.e., with the print version as primary. The news that I wish to convey here has mostly to do with SAL’s transition from this primarily print format to a primarily electronic and open-access format. Let me state initially that SAL will always be available to our subscribers in hard copy, but the format and payment arrangements will be slightly different, as described below. More importantly, the review process will not change. Our status as a blind, peer-reviewed journal will not be affected, and our editorial board remains intact. I begin by characterizing the new format of the electronic version to begin with our next number, 39.1 (2010).

The new format

For the many reasons detailed in our last issue (38.1) and in a letter to subscribers (2 Feb 2010), the Editorial Board of SAL, in consultation with many others, decided to change the format of the journal to an electronic format accessible to all without charge via the internet. At the same time we decided to also continue with a print version, available as a single volume hard-copy version containing two numbers. The first volume available in this way is volume 39, which will contain both 39.1 and 39.2. It can be ordered on a pre-paid basis roughly six months after the electronic copy appears and on demand thereafter. More details on purchasing the hard copy appear below.

The reasons for switching have much to do with our special audience in Africa but also with the economics of publication today and with the resources made available to us by e-Language. As part of the Linguistic Society of America, e-Language is the umbrella organization for the online, open-access publication of linguistics journals (http://elanguage.net/). Because SAL is a free-standing corporation (“Studies in African Linguistics, Inc.”) with no ties to publishers, we were able to join e-Language without many complications.

What the new format means to readers

The new format allows any interested party with access to the internet to read and download all of the articles published by Studies in African Linguistics (SAL). We are still in the process of uploading past articles now and expect to be finished by the end of this year (2010). Readers can see what is there now by
visiting our web site under *eLanguage* (*SAL* is officially a “co-journal), as below,

http://elanguage.net/journals/index.php/sal/index

A number of readers have already discovered this resource (in addition to web crawlers and trolling bots), and we hope many others will do so.

**What the new format means to contributors**

We soon hope to avail ourselves of the reviewing and editing facilities of *e-Language*, allowing us to carry on much of the reviewing process of line. Contributors will be guided through the process as we gradually acclimate ourselves.

The most exciting news is the expansion of space we can allow contributors. Since there is virtually no limit on the amount of data that can be uploaded, this is an expanded opportunity for data inclusion, including illustrations, sound files, links, etc. Contributors are welcomed, even encouraged, to provide their submissions with accompanying materials and data sets. Not all of these materials will be included in the hard-copy version, however, especially illustrations in color and pictures.

Although the length of an issue or volume is in fact unlimited, we will follow the established pattern of previous volumes in each comprising two numbers and the pattern of previous numbers with each comprising 3-4 articles.

**Ordering hard copies**

Individual volumes will be available roughly six months after the appearance of the second number of each volume. The price will be something less than our current prices, which are given below (from the *SAL* website),

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<th><strong>North America</strong></th>
<th><strong>Elsewhere</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Individuals:</td>
<td>$25.00 per year</td>
<td>$33.00 per year</td>
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<td>Institutions:</td>
<td>$50.00 per year</td>
<td>$60.00 per year</td>
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Those interested in purchasing a bound volume containing the two issues of volume 39 (2010) should send payment via PayPal at our website,

http://sal.research.pdx.edu/subscribing%20via%20Paypal.html

once we have a final fix on the price.

Thanks to referees

Finally I would like to thank the many reviewers who contributed their time and expertise to refereeing the manuscripts submitted over the past year. This includes, of course, articles appearing in volume 38 and others submitted since I began my editorship in the fall of 2009.

Thanks particularly to the editorial board, especially those members who have stepped into the breach when the reviewing pool dried up a bit. When my predecessor David Odden introduced me to the myriad responsibilities of an editor, he cautioned me that finding prompt and thorough reviewers would be the hardest task I would face. He was right. For those of you who did agree to review a manuscript or two, thanks again. The journal could not maintain its high standards without your conscientious and timely application.

The following individuals (listed in alphabetical order) have helped out in the review process over the past year:

Enoch Aboh
Felix Ameka
Nana Aba Appiah Amfo
Per Baumann
Thomas Bearth
David Beck
Jill Beckman
Wolfgang Berndt
Lee Bickmore
Bruce Connell
Catherine Demuth
Gerrit Dimmendaal
Jeff Good
Catherine Griefenow-Mewis
Carolyn Harford
Brad Hopkins
Larry Hyman
Phil Jaggar
Angelika Jakobi
Abdelkrim Jebbour
Omar Ka
Francis X. Katamba
Roland Kießling
Maarten Kossman
Mary Esther Kropp Dakubu
Mohamed Lahrouchi
Seunghun Lee
Rose M. Letsholo
Eva van Lier
Carol Lord
Letter from the editor

Jouni Maho          Kofi Saah
Lutz Marten         Ron Schaefer
Martin Mous         Russ Schuh
Derek Nurse         Guillaume Segerer
Kweku Osam          Lameen Souag
Tom Payne           Andrew van der Spuy
Gérard Philippson   John Victor Singler
Franz Rottland

It is only with your/their assistance that we are able to maintain the high standards of the journal and our top-level ranking.

Thanks again to everyone, especially to my assistant, Jedd Schrock, who has done practically everything outside of reviewing manuscripts, and I’m sure he could do that, too! Thanks finally to Bill Feyerherm, the head of Research at PSU, for a generous grant to support Jedd’s invaluable assistance.

Tucker Childs
Editor, SAL