

Preface

We resolved to start publishing this journal thinking that despite the fact that Poland has a strong position in second language acquisition research and that quite a large number of monographic publications in this area come out every year—often published abroad with *Multilingual Matters* or Springer, among others—there is yet no academic research-oriented journal devoted to the theory and practice of SLA which would be widely available to Polish academia. The existing journal, *Studies in Second Language Learning and Teaching* published by Adam Mickiewicz University (Kalisz–Poznań), emphasizes the role of classroom-oriented research and so its particular focus complements the new journal by presenting foreign language pedagogy and its classroom applications. The origins of our journal also lie in the success of the *International Conference on Second/Foreign Language Acquisition* which has been organized for almost thirty years by the Institute of English at the University of Silesia. It gathers together each year many Polish and foreign academics and focuses on often un-researched issues and fairly new trends in SLA. Papers falling within the leading theme of each conference are usually edited and published in the form of a monograph, but there are also many studies presented in research areas not directly related to the main theme. Since many of these are of a high academic standard, we would like to open a channel for their publication, alongside other original articles and submissions. We believe that our new journal will serve an important need in projecting new and interesting research in SLA.

This journal will be published bi-annually and will consist of articles submitted to us directly or solicited (by invitation). Each text will be peer-reviewed in a double blind referring process by referees of the Editorial Board and beyond. The Editorial Board consists of both Polish scholars and foreign experts in the area, and represents the wide range of research interests of its members. All updated information on the journal will be

made available on the Institute of English (University of Silesia) webpage at www.ija.us.edu.pl (via a special link) and the journal webpage at <http://www.journal.us.edu.pl/index.php/TAPSLA>.

The present inaugural issue consists of articles in various areas of SLA and also research in multilingualism. The thematic spread of this issue ranges from the texts relating purely to linguistic aspects of second language acquisition/learning in different contexts and at different levels to issues of the identity of those involved in the process of foreign language learning, teachers and learners. In future we also intend to compile special issues which will be thematically-oriented.

We hope that this journal will to some extent fill a gap in the Polish journal publishing market and that it will be of interest to researchers working in the field of second language acquisition. We would like to invite Polish and foreign academics to share their scholarly research with us by submitting their work to the *Theory and Practice of Second Language Acquisition* journal published by the prestigious Polish academic publisher, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Śląskiego (University of Silesia Press).

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