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Editorial note

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The present issue of *TURKIC LANGUAGES* contains six contributions on Turkish and other Turkic languages.

Two of them are devoted to the description of modern Turkish.

Klaus von Heusinger and Jaklin Kornfilt investigate the interaction between semantic parameters and morphological constraints in the distribution of the accusative case marker with direct objects in Turkish. They argue that the marker indicates properties such as specificity in a reliable way under certain morphosyntactic conditions, whereas this marker is not a reliable indicator of such properties in other contexts.

Julian Rentzsch deals with aspect categories in Turkish constituent clauses, constituent clauses, relative clauses, converb clauses and secondary predications, arguing that the aspectual values deriving from the oppositions of intraterminality and post-terminality are fully represented in these clauses.

Three articles are devoted to Turkic languages spoken outside Turkey.

Ann Denwood deals with interactions of consonants and vowels in the Lithuanian dialect of Karaim. The object of her analysis is the puzzling sound harmony processes which, as she notes, provide a challenge for phonologists. What are the roles played by consonants and vowels in driving the harmony? The framework for the analysis given here is Government Phonology, an approach that attempts to unify theoretical notions of syntactic and phonological structures. It is based on the assumption that phonological structures of languages are essentially the same, following a small set of inviolable principles, whereas surface realizations exhibit restricted variation. The author treats sound harmony as a supra-segmental phenomenon, driven by inter-nuclear relationships, and concludes that it is impossible to separate harmonizing properties of consonants from those of vowels in a Government Phonology analysis.

In her study on Mongolic loanwords of Turkic origin in Tuvan, Baiarma Khabtagaeva sets up phonetic, morphological and semantic criteria to determine a special category of loanwords that comprises elements of ultimately Turkic origin. After defining criteria by which Mongolic loanwords in Tuvan can be distinguished, the author identifies a number of words which are ultimately of Turkic origin, having been reborrowed from Mongolic.

Joakim Enwall presents a sociolinguistic study on the interethnic relations and the ethnic definition strategies among Tuvans and Kazakhs of the province of Bayan-Ölgii in western Mongolia. The author points out that the Tuvans, who speak a Turkic language, tend to identify themselves ethnically with the Mongols rather than with the Turkic-speaking Kazakhs.

Ingeborg Hauenschild deals with a topic of General Turcology, namely the Turkic designations of mushrooms and the motivations for these designations. She demonstrates that name-giving is based on optical perception and experience in dealing with mushrooms, and on the use of metaphors of different kinds, many of which analogize mushroom structures with animal and human features. More general designations are motivated by specific external characteristics, processes of growth and efficiency. More specific designations are based on the form of the mushrooms, their colour, smell, toxicity, nutritional value, etc.

The issue is concluded by Şeyda Ozil's review of Friederike Braun's monograph on gender in Turkish: *Geschlecht im Türkischen. Untersuchungen zum sprachlichen Umgang mit einer sozialen Kategorie*.

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