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Editorial note

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In 2016, TURKIC LANGUAGES celebrates its 20th anniversary. The journal was founded on 25 April 1996, when Dr Michael Langfeld, director of the publishing house Harrassowitz, and Professor Lars Johanson, editor of the new journal signed a contract.

In the first issue, in 1997, Lars Johanson set forth his editorial programme in the article “An anchorage for Turkic language studies”. Some of the main points are cited below.

The journal TURKIC LANGUAGES, introduced with this issue, aims to be an international scientific periodical devoted to Turkic language studies in a broad sense. Its goal is to meet the rapidly increasing scientific interest in Turkish and other languages of the extensive Turkic family.

TURKIC LANGUAGES will be concerned with the languages of the entire Turkic-speaking world and cover descriptive, historical, comparative, areal, social, typological, acquisitional as well as other aspects. The scope of interest will not be restricted to linguistic issues in a narrow sense; however, Turkic language data must play a central role in all contributions. Discussions on questions of philology, literature, oral texts, history, etc. are most welcome provided they are based on language data. Contributions basically dealing with theoretical issues but referring to Turkic data will also have a natural place in the journal. Attention will be paid to genetic, typological, and contact relations with other languages, in particular Altaic (Mongolic, Tungusic, etc.), Paleoasiatic, Indo-European (Iranian, Slavic, Germanic, Greek, etc.), Uralic, Chinese.

We also invite representatives of neighbouring disciplines to submit articles on topics of common interest. In order to set and maintain high theoretical and methodological standards, linguistic Turcology needs stimulation “from outside” as well.

It is hoped that the journal will promote the development of Turkic linguistics by bringing together scholars dealing with Turkic data under different perspectives. The journal is meant to be an anchorage for all kinds of serious Turkic language studies, a platform where scholars of different traditions and orientations may come together to talk and listen to each other, to establish contacts and interconnections. This should provide for innovation and contribute to the broadening of the perspectives in a field where there is still so much more to discover.

Prominent representatives of the Turcological and linguistic communities welcomed the new journal in the first issue.

In his welcoming address to the new journal, “Der neuen Zeitschrift *Turkic Languages* zum Geleit”, Karl Heinrich Menges gave a short sketch of the development

of Turkic studies and the concomitant attempts to create an appropriate periodical for Turkic studies.

Bernard Comrie contributed the article “Turkic languages and linguistic typology” and remarked: “At first sight it might seem strange to make a plea, as I shall, for greater cooperation between the fields of Turkic linguistics and linguistic typology, because already many features of Turkic languages play an important illustrative role in language typology”.

The other articles, authored by Geoffrey L. Lewis, Hendrik Boeschoten, Ad Backus, Marcel Erdal, Rémy Dor, and Claus Schönig, illustrated the broad range of topics to which the new journal was devoted according to its editorial programme.

Over the last twenty years, *TURKIC LANGUAGES*, the only scientific journal devoted exclusively to Turkic linguistics, has played an important role in this field of study. The nineteen volumes published so far cover all fields of study within Turkic and other relevant languages. Here we wish to thank the many authors who have more or less regularly contributed valuable articles. Let us remember our dear colleagues who have passed away during the course of these two decades: Árpád Berta, Gunnar Jarring, Sergej G. Kljaštornyj, Roy Andrew Miller, Vladimir P. Nedjalkov, Jurij V. Ščeka, Masahiro Shōgaito, Talat Tekin, Marc Vandamme, and Stephen Wurm.

The journal has published obituaries commemorating scholars such as Kaare Thomsen Hansen, Gerhard Doerfer, Andreas Tietze, Árpád Berta, György Hazai, and others. These are significant records for the history of our field of research.

TURKIC LANGUAGES has also published reports on interesting ongoing scholarly activities (projects, research groups, conferences, etc.), making it possible for readers to keep up to date with research initiatives. The ultimate aim of the journal has been to clear a path of communication through the landscape of Turkic language studies.

In order to document the rich material published so far, we present a list of the contents of the nineteen volumes on our website <http://www.turkiclanguages.com>.

One year after they appear in print, all volumes are published with free access online <http://www.digizeitschriften.de/>. For more information, see the website of the Harrassowitz publishing house.

From the beginning, the journal has been produced in collaboration with an international board whose members have changed over the years. Those who have been involved during the entire period are Hendrik Boeschoten, Bernt Brendemoen, Éva Á. Csató, Dmitrij Nasilov, and Sumru Özsoy. Later, Tooru Hayasi, Peter B. Golden, Irina Nevskaya, and Astrid Menz have joined the group. Most recently, László Károly and Abdurishid Yakup have been included. We wish to thank all the members for their support over the years.

The work of our peer reviewers has ensured the high quality of the publications. Their careful comments and suggestions have been most helpful for the authors, who have thankfully acknowledged the value of this support.

We would like to express our gratitude to Dr Barbara Krauss, the present director of the Publishing House Harrassowitz, and her highly competent team for their strong support in bringing out the journal.

This jubilee issue includes contributions from the international board of editors.

Bernt Brendemoen examines the value of Karamanlidic literature for the study of spoken Turkish in the 18th and 19th centuries. He concludes that some dialectal features can be observed in the texts. He also examines the syntactic influence of Greek.

Peter B. Golden deals with the accounts of the “Great King of the Türks”, called Šāba, in the Iranian, Arabic and Transcaucasian sources, and points out that the name is not of Turkic origin.

Tooru Hayasi studies variability in linguistic judgments on examples of the usage of Turkish demonstratives *bu*, *şu* and *o*. Participants were Turkish monolingual high school students in Istanbul, and Turkish-German bilingual peers in Berlin. University students learning Turkish as a foreign language in Tokyo were used as a control group.

László Károly discusses 36 basic Turkic adjectives belonging to the universal semantic types of age, colour, dimension, human propensities, physical properties, speed, and value. He analyses the lexemes in terms of their semantic and morphological properties and their diachronic stability in seven modern Turkic languages: Turkish, Turkmen, Tatar, Kazakh, Uyghur, Khakas, and Yakut.

Astrid Menz investigates a type of conditional sentence in Turkish where the predicate of the embedded clause is based on a hypothetical form followed by the particle *de* or sometimes *bile* and establishes for Turkish the category of concessive conditionals.

Sumru A. Özsoy investigates the grammaticalization of the cause-time relation in Turkish *sonra* clauses, and comes to the interesting conclusion that while constructions in which the embedded verb is based on *-DIktAn* express the temporal relation between the two events, constructions in which the verb of the embedded clause is based on *-mAsIndAn* encode a causal relation between the event of the matrix clause and that of the embedded clause.

Abdurishid Yakup reports on preliminary results of a project at Minzu University of China on information structure in Turkic languages that are spoken and written in Central Asia. He contrasts the properties of focus constituents in Turkish with those of some Central Asian languages, in particular Uyghur, and describes some shared and divergent features.

A paper in German concludes the issue, Ingeborg Hauenschild’s comments on Te-leut plant and animal names according to an 18th century source.

Lars Johanson and Éva Á. Csató

