

FOREWORD

The study of human cognition, emotions, behavior, intentions, and motives through understanding his/her discourse activity at all levels of language functioning, from uttering a (foreign) word to neural networks, language organization in the brain, i.e. “Nature” vs. “Nurture” (Chernigovskaya 2009) issues, is one of the greatest challenges of modern psycholinguistics.

As late Prof. Tatiana Slama-Cazacu (1920–2011), founder and Honorary President of the International Society of Applied Psycholinguistics (ISAPL) argued, communication is the privileged area of psycholinguistics that derived from “marriage” between Psychology and Linguistics (Slama-Cazacu 2007). Therefore, psycholinguistics tries to find the explanation of language facts, i.e. messages produced in the interaction between the interlocutors, by the psyche included in its social context. This insight induces the idea of psycholinguistics being an explanatory science encountering and studying concrete realities and not mere abstractions. Its diversity of foci mirrors the interdisciplinary nature of psycholinguistics providing a good opportunity for research and training in the field.

This journal first issue contains papers on the shared and individual research interests of Ukrainian, Japanese, Swedish, and Russian scholars who work in the field of psycholinguistics, related areas of linguistics and psychology of speech. The majority of the articles published here discuss human communication and language competence in the light of recent works on psycholinguistics. Most articles report studies based on theoretical research supported by strong empirical base. The contributions by the international team of scholars cover the pivotal issues of today’s psycholinguistics, such as theoretical psycholinguistics (Yulia Nurtayeva, Maryna Orap), linguistic relativity, hermeneutics, bilingualism, translation (Oksana Ivanashko, Oleksandr Kapranov, Oksana Kykhtiuk, Rieko Matsuoka, Alla Musiyenko, Tetiana Pastryk, Tetiana Tykhonova, Nataliya Vichalkovska, Serhii Zasiakin), speech in ontogenesis (Larysa Kalmykova, Nataliya Kharchenko, Inna Mysan), applied psycholinguistics (Natalya Fomina, Olena Frolova, Heorhii Kalmykov, Liudmyla Malimon, Marina Mirchetich, Alla Pashkina), socio- and ethno-psycholinguistics (Inessa Filippova, Olena Halapchuk-Tarnavska, Valentyna Halatska, Volodymyr Khomyk, Diana Terekhova), psychosemantics (Olena Kotys, Zhanna Virna, Larysa Zasiakina), psycholinguistics of information and mass media, text and discourse (Diana Kalishchuk, Oleksandr Kholod, Larysa Kompantseva, Olena Lytvynenko, Anastasiia Odintsova, Khrystyna Shyshkina, Iryna Vashchenko, Olha Vasyliuk), cognitive psychology (Anna Kulchytska).

Hopefully, East European Journal of Psycholinguistics will offer answers to the challenging questions of today’s rapidly changing communication society by providing scientifically proven conceptions of human speech and language functioning at the beginning of this new “digital” millennium. I strongly believe that all of the topics discussed in the journal will foster further research of human communication and WILL develop psycholinguistics globally.

Serhii Zasiakin, Editor-in-Chief