THE EDITOR'S REPORT

[The following represents a somewhat expanded version of the annual report about *Language* submitted by then-editor Brian D. Joseph on December 8, 2008, to the Executive Committee of the Linguistic Society of America for its consideration at its January meeting; the time references are kept as they were in the December version, and footnotes provide some updating since December where necessary or appropriate.]

PREAMBLE. It has finally come to this: as I sit here writing my annual report—an exercise I have engaged in at this time of year since 2002—looming before me is the end of my term as editor of *Language*, just about a month from now when the results of the election of Greg Carlson as the new editor are ratified at the LSA business meeting. The past seven years have sped by, and it is hard for me to believe that with my final issue—the December 2008 issue of *Language* (84.4)—now on its way to the printers and with my final decision letters waiting to be mailed, fully twenty-eight issues of *Language* have been produced in this office and almost 800 submitted papers have been decided on since that day in early January of 2002 when my office staff and I began to learn about handling submissions and putting together an issue of the journal (the March 2002 issue (*Language* 78.1) being our guinea pig). At the time we had almost no idea what the overall operation entailed, and while there was a steep learning curve, by the middle of my second year, things were rolling along smoothly and they have continued that way right up to now.

This report is somewhat different from the others I have written. While it does sum up the year's activities, it also takes a long view over the seven years of my editorship, especially with regard to the statistics on submissions and decisions. What follows therefore is the usual overview of some key events, developments, and issues with regard to the journal and the editorship, covering updates from matters raised last year at this time, some special activities during the past year, some ongoing activities that continued, and then a few concerns for the Executive Committee to consider for the future. All of this is then followed by the usual statistics for the past year, along with a statistical recap of my editorship.

1. UPDATES FROM LAST YEAR'S CONCERNS.

1.1. BOOK NOTICES AND *eLanguage*. *Language* 84 (2008) was the first volume in some thirty years without any print book notices, as was signaled in my report last year at this time. Book notices have migrated to *eLanguage*, and during the past year, after several kinks were worked out regarding how to format the notices and how to work on them, several batches, covering nearly 100 notices in all, have been posted on *eLanguage* (see http://elanguage.net/blogs/booknotices/archive_month.php for the postings).

The technical side of posting these notices is covered, and covered well, by the *eLanguage* team, while the editorial side has been handled by the editor's office, working with the review editor as well. As may be recalled from last year, our decision was to run the notices through a few (relatively light) levels of editorial control, in order to be sure that they had a uniform and professional look and that there was consistency across all of the posted notices in wording, style, and format. Those that have come out on *eLanguage* show very nicely the benefits of this editorial care. Still, while it was hoped that the notices could be dealt with fairly quickly, this desired rapid turnaround did not materialize, largely, I would say, because they have always been the

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last thing on the mind of anyone connected with working on them; with print notices, there were regular deadlines that absolutely demanded our attention, while with electronic book notices, deadlines are far more fluid, and thus, unfortunately, more easily stretched to accommodate other more pressing concerns. See the remarks in §4.1 below for some thoughts on the future of book notices. As anticipated, shifting book notices to *eLanguage* has made it possible to run more reviews in the print journal, and during 2008, fifty-six regular reviews have appeared (with two additional longer ones as part of the innovative 'Alternative (Re-)views' in which two longer reviews of the same book are juxtaposed), as compared to thirty-five in the previous year. (In addition, there were five other more substantial review articles.)

1.2. ADVERTISING DEVELOPMENTS. I prepared an extensive memo for the Executive Committee and the Secretariat in May, with a fuller updated version put together in July, covering the full range of issues pertaining to advertising in *Language*. Without rehashing all that was written there, I can say here that the recommendation that all aspects of dealing with publisher ads be moved back to the LSA Secretariat has been implemented and seems to be working out well (the December issue being a transition period with extensive checking back and forth between the journal office and the Secretariat). It was suggested as well that there be an overall reassessment of ads in the journal in general, focusing on pricing (e.g. Are we charging too little for our ads? Are our prices up to norms for comparable journals? Will any degree of 'opting out' of the print journal on the part of LSA members have an impact on pricing of ads?, etc.), placement (e.g. Should the ads be placed between articles or all at the end of an issue? Is there a 'premium' spot for which a higher charge could be levied?, etc.), and extent (e.g. Are there possible advertisers other than publishers that we should be reaching out to?, etc.).

1.3. COPYRIGHT ISSUES. During this past year, we instituted a new copyright policy for the journal, resulting from work by an ad hoc committee on copyright issues (headed by linguist and lawyer and LSA member Paul Newman (Ph.D., J.D.) and consisting of Johanna Nichols (representing the Executive Committee), Dieter Stein (representing *eLanguage*), and myself) and approved by the Executive Committee. Accordingly, starting in January 2008 and continuing on throughout the year, we have been using a copyright form that implements the new policy. Some updating of the LSA website is still needed to reflect the changes. See also §4.2 below for more on copyright matters.

1.4. USING *Language*'S COVER SPACE. Last year at this time, I raised the question of what to do with the space on the back cover that has been opened up by the elimination of book notices from *Language*, inasmuch as the back cover for the past many years has been where individual book notice titles have been listed. This 'problem', such as it was, solved itself when it became clear, with the June 2008 issue, that the increased number of reviews necessitated extending onto the back cover the table of contents, which traditionally had appeared in its entirety (except for book notices) on the front cover; accordingly, we are now using the back cover for the listing of book reviews in a given issue, and this practice should continue as long as the number of reviews remains high. If the LSA wants to consider using some part of the back cover (inside or outside) for advertising, that would be a possibility, but it would have to be weighed against the need to place parts of a longer table of contents in some prominent spot.

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2. SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES OF NOTE DURING 2008.

2.1. THE TRANSITION. A considerable amount of time in the second half of 2008 was spent working closely with editor-designee Carlson in planning the transition to a new editorial regime in 2009. We consulted on office needs, on general operations and procedures, and on the handling of submissions in the final days of my editorship as we move into the beginning of his. In all cases, we are aiming for a smooth transition with as little disruption of current procedures as possible. To that end, my office staff and I developed a list of our procedures, focusing on how submissions are dealt with from start to finish and how an issue is assembled; a revised version of this list will be given to the LSA Secretariat as a step toward establishing a model set of procedures that can be used in the future with other editorial searches (by way of informing a prospective editor about just what kinds of tasks s/he is likely to be responsible for).

In addition, we consulted on two types of personnel issues. Decisions on recommendations for new associate editors to replace those rotating off the board were made with full input from the incoming editor.[1] Further, current review editor Greg Stump announced that he plans to leave that position at the end of June 2009, having agreed to stay on till then to ensure some continuity for the new editor in his early days on the job; although not immediately pressing, it was decided that searching for a new review editor sooner rather than later would be advantageous. Accordingly, we have worked over the past two months to identify a suitable candidate, with good results, so that a nomination is being presented to the Executive Committee.[2]

2.2. SOME 'PUBLIC' EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES. I have always been sensitive during my term to the public side of being editor of the LSA's journal, and in that regard have been involved in the past year in two activities in which I represented the editorial arm of the LSA. In particular, on December 12–13 (2008), I take part in a conference in Bologna, Italy, organized by Sergio Scalise, on 'Evaluation in the Human Sciences: Towards a Common European Policy', presenting an invited paper entitled 'Evaluation of journals: An editor's perspective'. Moreover, I have worked with fellow journal editors Martha Ratliff (Reviews, *Diachronica*), Keren Rice (*IJAL*), and Joe Salmons (*Diachronica*) to develop a symposium for the upcoming LSA annual meeting (January 9, 2009) on 'The impact of linguistics journals rankings and citation' (where I plan to offer an editor's take on rankings).[3]

3. ONGOING WORK AND POINTING TOWARD THE FUTURE.

3.1. MORE PRESENTATIONS ON *Language*'S HISTORY AND PLANS FOR AN LSA-SPONSORED PUBLICATION. As noted throughout my term in various ways, both in these annual reports and in some of my Editor's Departments, a side interest of mine during my editorship has been exploring various facets of the history of the journal. Work with my now-colleague and former *Language* editorial assistant Dr. Hope Dawson produced a joint presentation at the January 2008 meeting of North American Association for the History of the Language Sciences (NAAHoLS) entitled 'Authorship provenance in *Language*—An increasingly international scope', in which, by drawing on data from

[1] The recommendations for new associate editors were accepted and Harald Baayen (University of Alberta), Jürgen Bohnemeyer (University at Buffalo), and Jason Merchant (University of Chicago) have joined the associate editorial board; in addition, an extension of Jennifer Cole's term by one year was approved.

[2] Dr. Natsuko Tsujimura of Indiana University was put forward for this position, and her nomination was accepted by the Executive Committee; she takes over as of July 2009.

[3] The symposium was quite successful, with about fifty people in the audience; the plan is for materials from some of the presentations to be posted on the website of the Committee of Editors of Linguistics Journals (see §3.3 below).

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papers published in *Language* and from submissions to *Language*, we charted where *Language* authors came from geographically and documented the increasing internationalization of the pool of authors. We have been working as well on another paper for the January 2009 NAAHoLS meeting, entitled 'So, who's really been in charge? A look at *Language*'s editorial structure(s)', on the various editorial arrangements that *Language* has enjoyed throughout its history.

Moreover, Dr. Dawson and I have moved ahead with the plans that were announced in last year's reports (and approved in principle by the Executive Committee at its May 2008 meeting) to gather together written versions of our NAAHoLS presentations ('A forgotten genre, the academic obituary, and the *Language* obituary project' (NAAHoLS 2005), 'Linguistics: Humanities or science? Evidence from trends in multiple authorship' (NAAHoLS 2007), and the NAAHoLS 2008 paper, as well as the upcoming one in January 2009), and put them into a small book (c. 120 pages) along with various of my Editor's Department columns that have treated topics in the journal's history, a short paper we published in *Language* 2004 (80.651–57) on Ohio State University's involvement in the early days of the LSA, and a written version of a paper of hers from the 10th International Conference on the History of the Language Sciences (September 2005) chronicling the history of American linguistics as seen through the pages of *Language*. We have been exploring with Maryland Composition just what the production of such a book would entail and what the costs would be, and it appears that it could be produced at a relatively reasonable cost; it could then be sold by the LSA at a profit. The fact that some of the material exists already in print-ready *Language*-type pages (my Editor's Departments) should help to keep the costs down on this project. We aim to have it done within a year or so.

3.2. THE TWENTIETH-CENTURY INDEX. Work continues on the updating and correcting of the *Twentieth-century index*; some progress is being made, with a volume-by-volume cross-checking of the items in the *Index* for completeness and accuracy. Although it was hoped that this process would be finished by the end of 2008, there is still more to be done on it, so that finalizing an accurate electronic version of the index that can exist alongside the currently available electronic indices for *Language* volumes in the twenty-first century (on the *Language* website) must remain a task for the future.

3.3. THE COMMITTEE OF EDITORS OF LINGUISTICS JOURNALS. My involvement with a group of editors of linguistics journals, now dubbed the Committee of Editors of Linguistics Journals (CELxJ), continued in 2008, aided by the efforts of my co-leaders Joe Salmons (University of Wisconsin, editor of *Diachronica*) and Keren Rice (University of Toronto, editor of the *International Journal of American Linguistics*). At the January 2008 LSA annual meeting, we had our now-usual gathering of some twenty or so other editors who were in Chicago for the LSA meeting, and we continued our communication (as in past years) via a listserv that I administer here at Ohio State University. The LSA symposium in January 2009 alluded to above (§2.2) is a direct result of discussions carried on at that annual meeting and via the listserv. My plan is to continue taking part in the group, owing to other editorial roles I play with other language-related journals,[4] and I expect Greg Carlson to join the committee as well, representing *Language* on it.[5]

[4] Specifically: *Diachronica* (as associate editor), *Journal of Greek Linguistics* (as coeditor), *Reading Research Quarterly* (as member of editorial review board), and *Journal of Modern Greek Studies* (as associate editor).

[5] Greg has agreed to this role, and I look forward to working with him on CELxJ.

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4. SOME ACTION ITEMS (FOR ME, THE NEW EDITOR, AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE).

4.1. BOOK NOTICES. In the light of what has emerged about doing book notices electronically and posting them on *eLanguage*, as described above, it might be useful to shift the book notice operation entirely to the *eLanguage* staff. At the very least, the incoming editor of *Language*, the review editor (current and incoming), and the editor-in-chief of *eLanguage* should have some pointed discussion about the handling of book notices, working with the recognition as well that publishers may be less willing to send books to the LSA if the chance of any sort of review issuing from the sending of the book is reduced to just the (possibly as many as) eighty or so regular reviews that the coming years are likely to see, and will probably not send two copies of each book, one for *Language* to consider and one for *eLanguage* to consider.[6]

4.2. COPYRIGHT CONCERNS. Continued mention of book notices and *eLanguage* leads me to my next point. It is not clear to me that we have effectively solved the issue of what to do about copyright issues with electronic book notices. While the copyright implicitly (I believe) resides with the author of the item, it may be that the LSA should have an explicit licensing agreement with the author to allow for the electronic 'publication' of the notice. This should probably be explored with Paul Newman and the *eLanguage* editor-in-chief. Also, although it may not be my place to say anything here, it may be that a full consideration of copyright issues for *eLanguage* should still be undertaken, not just with regard to book notices. I leave this for the Executive Committee and the LSA editors to work on.

4.3. THE *Language* STYLE SHEET. It had been my hope that during my final year, the *Language* style sheet, which now exclusively resides on the LSA website (http://www.lsadc.org/info/pubs-lang-style.cfm) and is a document that is intended to be used by authors once their papers have been accepted for publication (and not by PROSPECTIVE authors), could be rewritten so as to be clearer on a few key points. We did not manage to get to this, so as a project for the coming year, the incoming editor should make sure that the style sheet is revisited and any necessary adjustments and clarifications made.

4.4. ARCHIVING *Language* EDITORIAL MATERIAL. Even though a 'civilian' as of January 2009 as far as the LSA is concerned, I intend nonetheless to spend time in that month (and subsequent ones if needed) preparing documents from my editorship for the LSA Archives at the Western Historical Manuscript Collection at the University of Missouri. Some decisions need to be made about just what materials are to be deposited, since there is some ambiguity in the current policies and inconsistencies in practices; it is my hope that a definitive policy can be arrived at so that the valuable contribution that *Language* documents can make to our field's intellectual history can be realized.

5. *Language* BY THE NUMBERS, THIS YEAR AND THE PAST SEVEN.

5.1. THE PAST YEAR. As in my past reports, I give here a statistical overview of volume 84, with some commentary where needed. In 2008, the customary four issues

[6] An unfortunate backlog of processed book notices remained at the end of my editorship, and it is something I am taking care of, by way of completing this unfinished business from my term. Book notices have come to form a successful part of *eLanguage*, according to the *eLanguage* folks, so I am happy to be able to pay off my debt, as it were, and contribute to *eLanguage* in this way.

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of *Language* appeared, and once again, as has been the case since issue 79.3 (September 2003), the four issues appeared on time, being posted electronically with Project Muse and/or mailed out to subscribers by approximately the third week of the month in which they were slated to appear (March, June, September, and December). I am pleased that once we got the hang of the production side, we were able to maintain this record of timely delivery of the journal through to the end of my term.

The four issues of volume 84 contained 915 numbered pages, with 482 pages devoted to 14 articles, 48 to 4 discussion notes, 96 to 5 review articles, 34 to 3 obituaries, 188 to 58 reviews, and 73 to other sorts of material (letters: 10 pages for 9 letters; Editor's Department columns: 27 pages for 4 pieces, including the annual Editor's Report; Recent Publications lists: 20 pages; index: 8 pages; slippage: 2 pages).

These numbers correspond more or less to those of previous years. For instance, the total of 915 pages is down from last year's 951 and the previous year's 991, and while it exceeds the original target of 900 pages I started with in 2002, it is less than the new target of 950 established two years ago by the Executive Committee. Still, this year's total seems to fall within the normal ebb and flow of page totals, and the average over the past three years (952) is almost right on the new target.

The diversity of types of published pieces is higher than in past volumes, with only short reports not represented in volume 84, and the rough ratios of these types to one another are comparable to those of past years. In particular, the ratio of 'substantive' pieces (articles, review articles, discussion notes, and obituaries) to review pieces (book reviews) for *Language* 84 was thus 3.45 : 1 (650 pages : 188 pages). This figure has fluctuated somewhat over the years (e.g. 3.22 : 1 in 2007, 2.94 : 1 in 2006, 3.74 : 1 in 2005), but in previous years the review total included book notices. In this first year without book notices, therefore, 22.4% of the pages in the journal were book reviews, a percentage that is close to what is found in other years (e.g. 23.7% in 2007, 25.4% in 2006, and 21.1% in 2005). The increased number of reviews seems to be compensating well quantitatively for the now-absent print book notices; it is hoped that the increased depth that reviews offer offsets the loss of breadth from the print journal that book notices provided.

As always, the listing of numerical facts about *Language* would not be complete without details about the numbers and types of papers submitted and papers acted on in the past year. Given that in my first year we had a ten-month reporting period (January 2002 through October 2002) and that in subsequent years the twelve-month reporting period ran from November 1 to October 31 of the following year (in order to allow for a reasonable and accurate count that could be reported in a timely way for the Executive Committee's annual meeting), for this last year of my editorship, the reporting period is actually a little over fourteen months, covering November 1, 2007, through to the absolute end of my term in early January 2009 (at the LSA annual meeting).

During that period, the *Language* office saw considerable activity in terms of the numbers of papers received and the number decided upon. The relevant figures, given in Table 1, include the review articles, since such submissions are subject to refereeing and can in principle be rejected (as one was this year, with another being returned for revisions before being accepted), but do not count the obituaries accepted in the period, since obituaries are commissioned and not subject to formal review by anyone other than the editor.

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Papers submitted since November 1, 2007	141
Papers acted on since November 1, 2007	133
Accepted	30
Returned for revisions with an invitation to resubmit	13
Rejected outright	89
Withdrawn	1

TABLE 1. Papers submitted and acted on Nov. 1, 2007–Jan. 7, 2009.

(There is overlap between the papers submitted and the papers acted on, but the numbers do not (and could not) match—some (indeed most) of those submitted within the past fourteen months were acted on within that period, but some were still in the review process at the end of the reporting period; further, some papers acted on had been submitted in the previous year.)

In an average month last year, therefore, *Language* received 10.1 papers, and 9.5 final decisions were made; these numbers are up from last year's averages of 8.4 and 8.3 respectively, and fit squarely within the overall averages over my years as editor of 9.5 submissions per month and 9.4 decisions per month.

Using the above figures for final decisions made, the acceptance percentage for the year is 23% for all submissions acted on, a figure that is up when compared to last year's percentage of 18%, but consistent with the rate of 23% in 2006 and 24% in 2005, for instance. (See §5.2 for the full listing of year-by-year rates.)

As in past years, so too in this final reporting year it was the case that papers submitted ranged over a broad number of areas within the overall field of linguistics. Representation continues to be concentrated heavily in what may be viewed as the traditional core areas of modern linguistics. The breakdown of areas for the past fourteen months is given in Table 2. The assessment of the primary area a paper fell into was

Syntax	35
Semantics	21
Phonology	12
Morphology	11
Historical Linguistics	10
Psycholinguistics	8
Language Acquisition	7
Language Typology	6
Sociolinguistics	5
English as a Second Language	3
Pragmatics	3
Translation	3
Computational Linguistics	2
Discourse Analysis	2
History of Linguistics	2
Language and Literature	2
Language Contact	2
Phonetics	2
Dialectology	1
Language Evolution	1
Missionary Linguistics	1
Second Language Acquisition	1
Sign Language	1

TABLE 2. Submitted papers by area of specialization.

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made in the editorial office, and not by the authors, so the categories listed here simply represent identifiable groupings that emerged from the overall submissions; they are not intended to define the field in any way. As always, the caveat is necessary that to some extent, these assessments are arbitrary, with many papers realistically categorizable in more than one area (e.g. a paper on syntactic variation could be called syntax or sociolinguistics). Thus this count is at best an imperfect measure to be sure, but still, I trust, somewhat instructive.

The general topical distribution evident here compares well to that of past years; moreover, there seems to be nothing to suggest any trends, given the rather small numbers involved.

Similarly, among the 133 papers acted on, the topical breakdown is as follows in Table 3, with the process of assessment as to topic being the same as that used as with the submitted papers.

	RECEIVED	ACCEPTED	R&R	REJECTED
Syntax	30	6	2	22
Semantics	16	5	2	9
Phonology	11	2	1	8
Morphology	10	2	1	7
Psycholinguistics	8	2		6
Historical Linguistics	8	2		6
Language Acquisition	7	1	1	5
Language Typology	7	2	1	4
Sociolinguistics	5	2	1	2
Phonetics	4		2	2
Computational Linguistics	3			3
English as a Second Language	3			3
History of Linguistics	3	1	1	1
Translation	3			3
Discourse Analysis	2			2
Language and Literature	2	1		1
Language Contact	2			2
Pragmatics	2	1[a]		
Sign Language	2	1	1	
Dialectology	1			1
Language and Culture	1			1
Language Evolution	1	1		
Missionary Linguistics	1	1		
Second Language Acquisition	1			1

TABLE 3. Papers acted on by area of specialization and decision.

[a] + 1 withdrawal

With regard to book reviews and book notices, the relevant activity was as follows. The review editor's office received 524 publications, and of those, 42 were assigned to reviewers for a full review (with several requests still outstanding), and 253 were claimed for book notices (for posting on *eLanguage*). In addition, the number of submissions received, logged in, and processed in the review editor's office was 131 (100 book notices and 31 reviews).

5.2. THE PAST SEVEN YEARS. As a numerical reflection of my entire editorial term, the same statistical breakdowns can be offered, but summed over the seven years of my editorship (and indeed, some measures in the previous section already take that full span into account). All in all there were 793 papers submitted during my term, and

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I acted on 787 papers. The distribution of decision types for those acted on is given in Table 4 and Figure 1, broken down year-by-year and totaled over all the years.

	SUBMITTED	ACTED ON	ACCEPT	R&R	REJECT	WITHDRAWN
2002	110	95	15	23	57	
2003	135	130	16	19	94	1
2004	102	120	29	21	69	1
2005	115	126	31	21	73	1
2006	89	83	19	14	49	1
2007	101	100	18	9	73	
2008	141	133	30	13	89	1
TOTAL	793	787	158	120	504	5

TABLE 4. Papers submitted, acted on, and decisions made, 2002–2008.

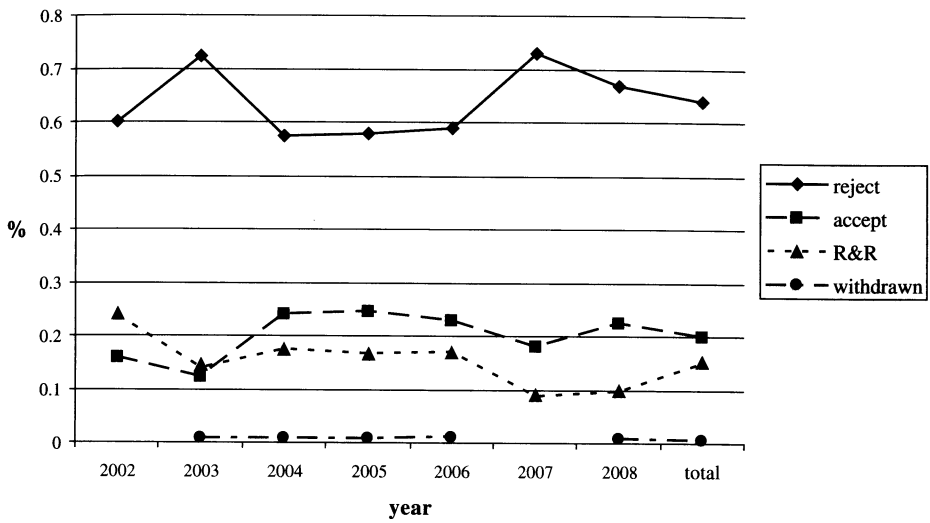


FIGURE 1. Decisions made as percentage of total acted on per year, 2002–2008.

These figures yield the following year-by-year acceptance rate for my term, displayed in Table 5.

2002	16%
2003	12%
2004	24%
2005	25%
2006	23%
2007	18%
2008	23%

TABLE 5. Percentage of papers accepted, by year.

The overall acceptance rate, therefore, for my seven years, was 20%.

The breakdown of subject area for submitted papers over the past seven years is given in Table 6.

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	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	TOTAL
Anthropological Linguistics					2	1		3
Applied Linguistics					4			4
(Child) Language Acquisition	3	7	5	4	2	6	7	34
Cognitive Linguistics			3	1		1		5
Computational Linguistics	4	1		2		1	2	10
Conversational Analysis				1				1
Corpus Linguistics		1				1		2
Creolistics/Creole Studies	2	2	4	1				9
Dialectology							1	1
Discourse Analysis	6		4	6	2	2	2	22
English as a Second Language				1		1	3	5
Forensic Linguistics	1					1		2
Historical Linguistics	15	8	10	7	5	5	10	60
History of Linguistics	1	2					2	5
Language and Culture		1						1
Language and Literature						3	2	5
Language Contact/Contact Linguistics	2	3	4	3	4		2	18
Language Evolution		1	1		1	2	1	6
Language of Advertising						1		1
Language Reform		1						1
Linguistic Stylistics		1						1
(Language) Typology			3	4	1	9	6	23
Metatheory	2	2						4
Metrics	1			1				2
Missionary Linguistics							1	1
Morphology	7	7	4	8	7	9	11	53
Phonetics		4			2	3	2	11
Phonology	11	17	8	12	10	10	12	80
Pragmatics			3	2	3	2	3	13
Pragmatics/Discourse		6						6
Psycholinguistics	6	6	4	4	4	4	8	36
Second Language Acquisition	1	1	1				1	4
Semantics	24	19	10	13	14	10	21	111
Sign Language		4	3		1	1	1	10
Sociolinguistics	2		2	2	6	1	5	18
Sociology of Language (Lang. Endangerment)				1		1		2
State of the Field				1				1
Syntax	22	41	33	41	21	26	35	219
Translation							3	3

TABLE 6. Submitted papers by area of specialization, 2002–2008.

Without wanting to read too much into these graphs, since there is some degree of self-selection on the part of authors when it comes to what to submit where, it nonetheless seems that these facts present a snapshot of the field over the past seven years, and are suggestive of the sorts of areas in which research was concentrated.

6. SOME FINAL REFLECTIONS AND NECESSARY ACKNOWLEDGMENTS. Every year since 2002, at this time, I have been moved to reflect on the amount of work involved in producing four high-quality issues of an important scientific and scholarly journal each year, and on the number of people involved in various ways in the overall operation that generates each issue of *Language*. While I have occasionally alluded to the angst and strain involved therein, I probably have not adequately expressed the pleasure, the feeling of privilege, and the sense of historicity that I personally have felt from being able to work on each issue. Work on *Language* over the past seven years has taken a

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large amount of time on my part, yes, but I feel that it has all been time well spent, and fond memories of having been a part of this great venture will remain with me for the rest of my life.

While the actual product that has resulted from this effort every three months is a point of pride and satisfaction for me, to be sure, the real pleasure has come from the interactions with a surprisingly large number of fine and wonderful people, scattered around my city, around the country, and even around the world, whose contributions to the effort involved in running the *Language* operation have been substantial and essential. It is hard to convey fully my appreciation for all they have done, but I would like to mention the various groups and individuals within those groups and publicly thank them; they follow, in no particular order.

First, there are my associate editors, upon whom I have relied heavily for advice and assistance on routine and not-so-routine matters associated with the journal. Those who served during 2008 deserve my immediate thanks: Farrell Ackerman, Mark Baker, Jennifer Cole, Cleo Condoravdi, Nick Evans, Ted Gibson, Laura Michaelis, Gary Miller, Joe Pater, and Sali Tagliamonte, but by way of extending an expression of my gratitude to all who have served, I offer in Table 7 a full listing of all of my thirty-one associate editors from the past seven years along with the years they were with me and their affiliation.

Farrell Ackerman	2006, 2007, 2008	University of California, San Diego
Mark Baker	2007, 2008	Rugers University
Eugene Buckley	2002, 2003	University of Pennsylvania
Jennifer Cole	2006, 2007, 2008	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Cleo Condoravdi	2007, 2008	Palo Alto Research Center
Stephen Crain	2003, 2004	University of Maryland
William Davies	2005, 2006, 2007	University of Iowa
Nick Evans	2006, 2007; 2008	University of Melbourne; Australian National University
Donna B. Gerdts	2002, 2003	Simon Fraser University
Edward Gibson	2007, 2008	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Adele Goldberg	2002, 2003, 2004	University of Illinois
Helen Goodluck	2002	University of Ottawa
Kirk Hazen	2003, 2004, 2005, 2006	West Virginia University
Marie Huffman	2002	SUNY Stony Brook
Keith Johnson	2002, 2003	Ohio State University
James McCloskey	2003, 2004, 2005	University of California, Santa Cruz
John McWhorter	2002	University of California, Berkeley
Norma Mendoza-Denton	2003, 2004, 2005	University of Arizona
Laura A. Michaelis	2006, 2007, 2008	University of Colorado at Boulder
D. Gary Miller	2007, 2008	University of Florida
Shigeru Miyagawa	2002	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Richard T. Oehrle	2002, 2003, 2004	—
Jaye Padgett	2004, 2005, 2006	University of California, Santa Cruz
Joe Pater	2007, 2008	University of Massachusetts
Janet Pierrehumbert	2004, 2005	Northwestern University
Shari R. Speer	2005, 2006	Ohio State University
Donca Steriade	2003, 2004, 2005	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Greg̊ory T. Stump	2003, 2004, 2005	University of Kentucky
Sali A. Tagliamonte	2007, 2008	University of Toronto
Natsuko Tsujimura	2004, 2005, 2006	Indiana University
Tom Wasow	2005, 2006, 2007	Stanford University

TABLE 7. Associate editors for *Language*, 2002–2008.

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Second, my two review editors, Stanley Dubinsky (2002–2005) and Greg Stump (2006–2008), besides running the book operations without any hitches, have been wonderfully supportive in many ways, and properly critical when necessary, offering their considered judgments about plans of mine for the journal and providing me repeatedly with their general insight into journal-related matters.

Third, the staff at the LSA Secretariat over the years has been phenomenal in addressing all the questions and concerns that I have raised. I especially want to thank former Executive Director Maggie Reynolds for all her help from 2002 through 2006, but all who have been in the LSA Secretariat during my term as editor—Katha Kissmann, Rita Lewis, Mary Niebuhr, Felix Oliver, Alyson Reed, and David Robinson, as well as Maggie—merit special mention and special thanks.

Fourth, previous *Language* editors Bill Bright, Sally Thomason, and Mark Aronoff, and former review editor Ed Battistella were always ready with helpful answers to questions of mine, especially those involving matters of precedent and journal policy. I thank them for their willingness to share their wisdom and experience with me.

Fifth, the excellent folks at Maryland Composition—our compositors and our liaison for the printing of the journal (by parties I did not have contact with)—and specifically Jim Sollers, Angie Arnold, Kathy Phillips, Ginger Bower, Pat Mrozek, and Teresa Exley, have made my life as editor so much easier through their patient and prompt attention to my many requests and to the demands in general that composing and printing technical material in linguistics have raised.

Sixth, my office staffers here at Ohio State have loyally and faithfully aided me in all aspects of operations here. Audra Starcheus has been with me from day one, with a couple of brief hiatuses for the births of two children, and her loyalty and hard work, not to mention her pleasant demeanor, have been a steady source of pleasure for me; Steven Hartman Keiser was part of the initial OSU *Language* team through the first half of 2002 before moving to a tenure-track position (now tenured) at Marquette University; Hope Dawson began her association with *Language* in late summer of 2002 and has worked in various capacities (see below) since then, including a stretch as office assistant from 2002 to 2005; and Helena Riha (now Dr. Helena Riha, teaching at Oakland University) worked long and hard in the office from late in 2005 until September of this past year (2008). All of them routinely went above and beyond the call to duty, attacking *Language* tasks with an industriousness and a diligence and an attention to detail that helped to make each issue into a fine vehicle for scholarly work.

Seventh, as a partially overlapping set with the previous one, the independent copyeditors and proofreaders who worked on *Language* papers, reviews, and book notices deserve mention here: Hope Dawson and Audra Starcheus in the past year and most previous years as well worked on both copyediting and proofreading; Frances Kelly handled an important share of the copyediting from the very start in 2002 right up through my very last issue; Mary Niebuhr (of the LSA Secretariat) and Timothy Sergay filled in on some of the copyediting on an occasional basis in 2002–2005 and 2003 respectively; Kate Fenton (on whom see my Editor's Department of the December 2002 issue (*Language* 78.4.618)) did some of the proofreading of my first issue, and Priscilla Mullins did the bulk of it from early in 2002 until late in 2004. Copyediting and proofreading are the last line of defense, so to speak, in the production of clean and clear material for dissemination to the scholarly world, so the efforts of these tireless folks merit serious recognition and their contribution to the quality of the final product cannot be overestimated.[7]

[7] On this, see my Editor's Department, 'The editorial process once again: Behind the scenes in the *Language* office', from September 2006 (*Language* 82.3.482–85).

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These behind-the-scenes contributors have all rendered remarkable service to the journal, and to me, and I could not have managed in any year without them. I would like though to recognize the extraordinary service that my now-colleague (as senior lecturer and coordinator of undergraduate teaching in linguistics here at OSU) Dr. Hope Dawson has provided again this year and repeatedly over the three years since she stopped working in the *Language* office per se: she has been especially generous with her time, drawing on her multiyear experience with the journal to answer questions on all sorts of journal-related problems that arose for me and my office staffers.[8] Her encyclopedic knowledge of *Language* style and operations is legendary, at least among the small group of us here at OSU privileged to work with her on the journal, as we repeatedly relied on her wisdom and appreciated her decisiveness.

Eighth, I extend my thanks as well to numerous support staff members of various departments here at Ohio State, especially Linguistics Department fiscal expert Claudia Morettini and computer specialist and system administrator Jim Harmon, but also at various times Judy Anderson and Frances Crowell of Linguistics, Jackie Hartzell of Slavic, and Connie Dantuono of the College of Humanities, all of whom also lent their help to the *Language* effort. Moreover, I thank OSU deans Michael Hogan, Jackie Royster, and John Roberts for their generous financial support of the journal's operations that helped to make the *Language* enterprise at OSU work.

Ninth, the outside reviewers of submitted papers deserve recognition for the role they play in the journal's success. Their professionalism and their willingness to commit their expertise to the task of judging submissions to *Language* have greatly aided me in my work on the journal; without the insights they provide on papers, careful and informed decisions would simply not be possible. I acknowledge the contribution they make and thank them for the important service they render. A full listing of the referees who served the journal, the Society, and the profession with their insightful reports between November 1, 2007, and December 31, 2008, appears as an appendix to this report, though I offer my thanks here.

Finally, I thank my family, immediate and more distant, and especially my wife, Mary Clark, for putting up with my long hours both at the *Language* office and at home huddled over my computer dealing with yet another paper for the journal. My sons David Clark-Joseph and Adam Clark-Joseph provided logistical support as well from time to time, regarding, respectively, the *Language* web pages and the journal's annual statistics. More importantly, though, the patience, love, flexibility, and support they all showed helped make my life as editor tolerable and my job more manageable.

Let me end, then, with a big thank you to all of these diverse groups of people for what their help has meant to me; I would also, though, like to extend my thanks to the LSA, both to the organization in the abstract but more concretely to the rank-and-file members, for the wonderful and truly extraordinary opportunity they have afforded me to serve the field and the society for these seven years.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian D. Joseph
Columbus, Ohio
December 8, 2008

[8] She is moreover the author of the statistical tables and graphs in this report, as in past years, yet another invaluable service to me and to the field.

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APPENDIX: OUTSIDE REVIEWERS, NOVEMBER 1, 2007–JANUARY 10, 2009
(* indicates that the individual was responsible for more than one report)

Farrell Ackerman
Akinbiyi Akinlabi
Adam Albright
John D. Alderete
Edith Aldridge
Barry Alpher
Felix Ameka
Elena Anagnostopoulou
Raimo Anttila
Ron Artstein
Ash Asudeh
R. Harald Baayen
Mark Baker*
Jonathan Barnes
David Basilico
Brigitte L. M. Bauer
David I. Beaver
Michael Becker
Patrice Speeter Beddor
Ricardo Bermúdez-Otero
Judy Bernstein
Rajesh Bhatt
Derek Bickerton
Lev Blumenfeld
Paul Boersma
Robert Borsley
Željko Bošković
Claire Bowern
Ted Briscoe
Ellen Broselow
Eugene Buckley
Miriam Butt
Joan Bybee
Lyle Campbell
Greville G. Corbett
Sarah Creel
Peter Culicover
Anthony R. Davis
Hope C. Dawson
Michel DeGraff
Katherine Demuth
Matthew S. Dryer
Stanley Dubinsky
Nick Evans*
Nigel Fabb
Patrick Farrell
Sam Featherston
Evelina Fedorenko
Christiane Fellbaum
Fernanda Ferreira
Charles Fillmore
Janet Fodor
Thorstein Fretheim
Jon Gajewski
Mark Gawron
Orin Gensler
Bart Geurts*
Ted Gibson*
Brendan Gillon
Grant Goodall
Adele Goldberg*
Sharon Goldwater
Matthew Gordon
Lydia Grebenyova
Stefan Th. Gries*
Daniel Grodner
Carlos Gussenhoven
Sandile Gxilishe
John Hajek
Mark Hale
Jorge Hankamer
Kristin Hanson
Alice C. Harris*
Martin Haspelmath
Jennifer Hay
Kirk Hazen
Bernd Heine
Nikolaus Himmelmann
Geoff Horrocks
Robert Howell
Elizabeth Hume
Nina Hyams
Sharon Inkelas
Keith Johnson
John E. Joseph
Edith Kaan
Stefan Kaufmann
Shigeto Kawahara
Frank Keller
Barbara F. Kelly
Ritsuko Kikusawa
Cecilia Kirk
Wolfgang Klein
Ekkehard Koenig
Jean-Pierre Koenig
Hahn Koo
Kiyomi Kusumoto
Stephen C. Levinson*
Rochelle Lieber
John M. Lipski
Meichun Liu
Diane Massam
Stephen Matthews
William McClure
Grant McGuire
Andrew McIntyre
Armin Mester
Bettina Migge
D. Gary Miller*
Gary Milsark
Shigeru Miyagawa
Timothy Montler
Bruce Morén
Salikoko Mufwene
James Myers
Ken Nakatani
Bhuvana Narasimhan
Andrew Nevins
Frederick Newmeyer
Irina Nikolaeva
Anat Ninio
Mitsuhiko Ota
Bill Palmer
Panayiotis Pappas
Steve Parker
Eric Pederson
Amy Perfors
David Pesetsky
Betty S. Phillips
Julian Pine
Vladimir Plungian
Eric Potsdam*
Christopher Potts
Ljiljana Progovac
Nick Riemer
Jan Rijkhoff
Elizabeth Ritter
Marie-Eve Ritz
Ian Roberts
Catherine Rudin
Louisa Sadler
Ivan A. Sag
Mamoru Saito
Joseph C. Salmons
Uli Sauerland
Daniel Schreier
Carson Schütze
Jeff Siegel
Anna Siewierska
Tal Siloni
Michael Silverstein
Jane Simpson
Kenny Smith
Maria-Josep Solé
Joseph P. Stemberger
Sali A. Tagliamonte
Judith Tonhauser*
Gunnel Tottie
Elizabeth Traugott
Natsuko Tsujimura
James Unger
Julie Van Dyke

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Robert D. Van Valin, Jr.
Martine Vanhove
Shravan Vasishth*
Kai von Fintel
Dieter Wanner
Tessa Warren
Thomas Wasow
Stephen Wechsler
Pauline Welby
Edwin Williams
Richard Wright
Lee Wurm
Susanne Wurmbrand
Tae-Jin Yoon
Raffaella Zanuttini

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