

Editorial

On behalf of the Editorial Board, I am pleased to introduce the first issue of this year's *Journal of Modern Languages* (JML) consisting of six papers.

The six papers in this issue explore diverse perspectives on language and linguistics in the countries like Austria, China, and Nigeria. Based on different methodologies, the papers include those which focus on pertinent issues in today's context. Among them are concerns about the diminishing use of heritage languages, the issue of mental health, and social and professional inequalities. The issue begins with a paper by Vollmann and Soon on *Young speakers of a heritage language: Hakka speakers in Vienna*. This paper sheds light on young Hakka speakers from a lesser known group, the (Austrian) Indian Hakka community. In particular, this paper examines their language use and their sense of identity in a predominantly German-speaking environment. This paper underscores changing language use within communities in the light of possibly multiple global migrations, and should be of interest to researchers working in many areas including language preservation, minority languages, migration and linguistics, and third culture children.

The second paper, *The connection between pronouns and distorted thinking: Depressed selves in an online depression community*, by Chen et al. uses a multimodal legitimation approach to delve into the relationship between language and depression. This paper zooms into the affective cognition of a group people based on their comments on a particular Chinese Weibo page. The focus of the paper is on pronouns as emotional and cognitive cues of online depression narratives, and thus, the findings may be useful as a means to recognise the linguistic representations of depressed thoughts.

Also within the Chinese context is the paper by Lin et al. but the focus of their paper is on the rural-urban divide in China. In *Multimodal representations of rural-urban divide on reality TV: The case of X-Change*, the authors use a multimodal legitimation approach to explore the depiction of the rural-urban divide in China on this reality television show. The findings will not only be of interest to linguistic researchers but also to those in the area of media communication, especially in relation to the influence of media on attitudes and in perpetuating stereotypes about different social groups.

Another paper which explores a similar point about attitudes and stereotypes is the paper by Guo: *The prevailing issue of native speakerism: A critical discourse analysis of ELT*

institutions' websites. In this paper, the author uses critical discourse analysis to examine the extent to which private online ELT institutions communicate their English language teaching pedagogical beliefs and ideologies on their official websites, especially in relation to stereotypical notions of native-speakerism in terms of the 'nativeness' of teachers and the 'acceptable' variety of English.

The fifth paper moves to a language in Nigeria. Titled *A minimalist analysis of relative clauses in the Ifè dialect of Yorùbá*, the paper examines the syntax of relative constructions in this dialect including the strategies employed in their use. Thus, this paper provides insights into how the Ifè dialect forms its relative clauses, thus offering valuable data on the Ifè dialect as well as data for future comparative studies on similar syntactic forms.

The sixth paper in this issue centres on mobile teaching. In *EFL teachers' attitudes towards mobile teaching affordances: A mokken scale analysis*, Tabatabaee-Yazdi et al. discuss their development of a scale for evaluating the perspectives of English language teachers (ELTs) on the potential benefits of mobile teaching. The use of this innovative instrument can be extended to professional training for ELTs on the use of mobile teaching methods as well as to the development of English language programmes that want to incorporate such methods.

We are hopeful that the six papers will inspire further research and academic conversations among our readers. We extend our gratitude to all the authors for their contributions, and for working patiently with us on their revisions. We would also like thank all our reviewers from universities all over the world for their constructive feedback. In addition, we would like to extend our appreciation to Professor Emerita Dr. Leslie Barratt (Indiana State University) for her input in the preparation of this issue.

We look forward to receiving more contributions on language contexts in different areas of the world and on emerging areas of language research. Do visit the journal's website (<https://jml.um.edu.my/>) to read papers from this and previous issues, and to obtain information about the journal's policies and guidelines for authors.

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