Inclusive linguistic research matters: underrepresented populations, unexplored contexts and emerging types of data

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The world of linguistics is changing rapidly. Over the last 50 years, the linguistic landscape and reality as well as the way in which linguists study language and related phenomena have immensely changed. The use of advanced machinery, application of computational algorithms in models, common use of statistical software and the currently observed data sprawl all pose new challenges to linguists and invite exciting novel research opportunities.

Although many old topics are currently verified with new approaches and techniques, linguistic research tends to turn a blind eye to certain types of inquiries and neglects several recent challenges or certain research contexts and groups of participants. This might result in getting an unbalanced and illusory picture of language processing and behaviour.

Gaps in linguistic research comprise, among others, studying underrepresented populations, studying participants in ecologically valid circumstances rather than the laboratory setting, studying linguistic interactions embedded in social, economic or political context and conducting systematic longitudinal research. Moreover, the study of language processing and use frequently remains the study of undergraduate behaviour. More generally, linguists tend to rely on data elicited from students, better educated populations, young speakers and inhabitants of the so-called privileged first world in which majority of them work. Underrepresented populations include older speakers, individuals with learning difficulties or clinical populations, people of varied ethnic and linguistic backgrounds, participants from non-academic, uneducated backgrounds, etc. Omission of these groups might lead to sampling bias and blur the true picture of human linguistic behaviour.

We invite original contributions from various linguistic disciplines that showcase undertaking new challenges in linguistic enquiry as well as methodological papers that discuss relevant current problems in language research. Priority will be given to papers revolving around the following aspects:
- research on language that goes beyond Western-centric bias,
- studies investigating language processing and use among migrants, heritage language learners, bi- and multilinguals, people of complex ethnic backgrounds, older speakers, people with various language or cognitive dysfunctions, non-human speakers (e.g. speech generated or mediated by machines).

Linguistic research into non-typical populations or less common study contexts will be given priority in this session. Replications of linguistic research in novel context and with understudied groups of participants will be of interest too. The call is open to researchers from various branches of linguistics, e.g. phonetics, sociolinguistics, areal linguistics, discourse analysis as well as interdisciplinary teams of scholars. The session is inclusive and revolves around common problems rather than specific branches of linguistics. Its aim is to promote inclusivity in contemporary linguistic research.

The abstracts should follow the general session guidelines and should be submitted via the conference EasyChair platform.

Selected bibliography:

Britt, E., & Weldon, T. (2015). African American English and the Middle Class. *Oxford Handbook of African American Language*. New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press. 800-816.

Kiełkiewicz-Janowiak A. (2010). "Discursive construction of (elderly) age identity in Poland." In: Duszak, A.; Okulska, U. (eds.), *Language, Culture and the Dynamics of Age*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter, 253-272.

Mellow, J.D. (2015). Decolonizing Western science, research, and education: Valuing linguistic diversity. In Reyhner, J., Martin, J., Lockard, L., & Gilbert, W.S. (eds.), *Honoring our elders: Culturally appropriate approaches forteaching Indigenous students*, 45–60. Flagstaff: Northern Arizona University.

Nagels, L., Bastiaanse, R., Başkent, D., & Wagner, A. (2017). The processing of contextual and lexical information in cochlear implant users. Poster session presented at Speech Perception and Production across the Lifespan workshop, London, United Kingdom.

Polinsky, M. (2014). Heritage Languages and Their Speakers: Looking Ahead. In Fairclough, M.; Beaudrie. S.M. (eds.), *Innovative Approaches to Heritage Languages: From Research to Practice*.Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Pres

Trofimovich, P. (2019). Exploring a new research agenda for second language speech learning. Plenary lecture at New Sounds 2019 Conference.

Trofimovich, P., & Turuševa, L. (2020). Language attitudes and ethnic identity: Examining listener perceptions of Latvian-Russian bilingual speakers. *Journal of Language, Identity, and Education*.

Wagner, A., Nagels, L., Toffanin, P., Opie, J., & Başkent, D. (2019). Individual Variations in Effort: Assessing Pupillometry for the Hearing Impaired. *Trends in hearing, 23*, 1-18. https://doi.org/10.1177/2331216519845596