

Foreword

You are holding in your hands a selection of papers presented at the 19th International Symposium on Theoretical and Applied Linguistics (ISTAL 19) that took place in Thessaloniki, 3-5 April 2009. This Symposium is a biennial event that the Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, School of English, has been organising since 1987, initially annually, when it was a more local event, and more recently biennially, as it evolved into a well established international forum for presenting research results and work-in-progress. We are very thankful for a truly international participation in this event from all continents. The Symposium's orientation in both theoretical and applied linguistics reflects the Department's range of research interests and teaching both at undergraduate and postgraduate level.

We were privileged to receive many high quality submissions, but due to space limitations only a certain number of them were accepted. We thank all scholars – contributors to this volume or not – for choosing ISTAL 19 as the forum of their research. We trust that with the help of our reviewers, whom we gratefully acknowledge below, we have made a good and balanced selection of papers. We thank our keynote speakers, Johan van der Auwera, David Newby, Carita Paradis, Kanavillil Rajagopalan, Monika S. Schmid and Dimitra Theophanopoulou-Kontou, for accepting our invitation in the first instance, and for contributing their written up papers. We were also very pleased to host part of a seminar series in foreign language teaching, organised by Niovi Antonopoulou, representative and contact person of Greece in the Governing Board of the European Centre for Modern Languages, Council of Europe, under the auspices of the Hellenic Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs, and in collaboration with the Centre for the Greek Language. Within this frame we welcomed the talks by David Newby and jointly by Maria Stoicheva and Christopher Reynolds – the former included in the present volume – on the interrelations between theory and practice, the various interpretations of theoretical concepts in foreign language learning and teaching, as well as on the European Language portfolio, topics that proved of great interest to in-service teachers attending the conference.

We also wish to thank the organisers and participants of the four thematic workshops that ran in parallel with the main session of ISTAL 19.

- (1) Mapping Asymmetries: Phonology, Syntax and Information Structure
- (2) Typology of labile verbs: focus on diachrony
- (3) The optionality of wh-movement
- (4) Language learning strategies: current trends in Greek research

Thematic unity enabled the separate publication of a number of high quality papers presented at these workshops in issues of journals, namely, (1) as a special issue in *The Linguistic Review* 27(3), October 2010; (2) as a special issue in *Linguistics*, forthcoming; (3) as a double-issue in *Linguistic Analysis* 37(1-2), to appear within 2011, and (4) as Vol. 25 of the *Journal of Applied Linguistics* – an Annual Publication of the Greek Applied Linguistics Association. Last but not least, we thank all the authors of all the submitted papers for their important contribution to the Symposium. It is thanks to their contribution that this event has consistently been a success through the years.

The volume consists of 52 papers sectioned in three parts. Part I includes the plenary papers; Part II comprises the papers in English and Part III the papers in Greek. Alphabetical order is maintained throughout the volume. Titles and keywords will hopefully make up for the absence of thematic sectioning in this volume, which, admittedly, would have proved a rather difficult and controversial task to undertake in the present fluid state of research field boundaries.