

SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES, CULTURES AND LINGUISTICS  
SOAS UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

SOAS WORKING PAPERS IN LINGUISTICS  
VOLUME 20, 2021





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VOLUME 20, 2021

edited by

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10 Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square

London WC1H 0XG

[www.soas.ac.uk/linguistics](http://www.soas.ac.uk/linguistics)



Published by the School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics, SOAS  
University of London, 10 Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London  
WC1H 0XG

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ISSN: 1473-0855

Available for free download at:

<https://www.soas.ac.uk/linguistics/research/workingpapers/>

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## Editorial note

It is with great pleasure that we present the 20th volume of the SOAS Working Papers in Linguistics. This volume comes after a three-year hiatus since the 19th volume was published in 2018. As before, the volume features the work of SOAS graduate students, faculty and alumni. The ten papers in this volume cover a broad range of linguistic disciplines including phonology, syntax, sociolinguistics and language documentation. Papers that focus on particular languages include languages originating from Japan, Indonesia, Palau, Greece, Italy, India and China.

The first two papers have a phonological focus. Shanti Ulfsbjorninn applies a “Strict CV” analysis to Hawu (Malayo-Polynesian) to propose a principled motivation for a rare pattern in which all schwa vowels are stressed. In the second paper, Vasiliki Vita and Chelsea Pedro present initial research on the phonology of Ramari Dongosaro, also known as Sonsolorese, a Micronesian language of Palau. They also outline their recent efforts to engage the community of speakers in building up a consensus on how to write the language.

The next three papers contain morphosyntactic analysis. Paris Alexandros Zeikos compares the verbal morphology of Griko with Modern Greek and Italian to show that Griko (a Hellenic language spoken in Italy) essentially maintains the same verbal morphology as Greek, with the exception of a few paraphrastic conjugations that show some Italian influence. A paper by Andriana Koumbarou, Shubham K. Srivastava and Sarada B. Biswas explores a relatively undiscussed aspect of complex predicates in Hindi in which there is an apparent reversal of the word order of the light verb and the main verb in the construction. They present new data and give an initial analysis of the semantics of these rarer versions of Hindi complex predicates. In the third morphosyntax paper, Yan Jiang and Wen Wang argue against previous analyses of the Shanghainese sentence-final particle *tse* which treat the particle as a tense marker. They instead argue that the particle’s primary function is discourse-related, leading to temporal interpretations in specific contexts.

The sixth and seventh papers have a more sociolinguistic focus, both writing about language use and attitudes in Japan. Tom O’Neill presents a study of how well Japanese speakers assess their own understanding of novel loanwords used in discussions of the COVID-19 pandemic. He reviews the literature on loanword use and its motivations, and demonstrates that his findings suggest that, in some cases, novel loanwords can be an impediment to communication. Miho Zlazli writes about linguistic activities involving the Ryukyuan languages of Japan. The paper calls for more reflective approaches to language documentation and revitalization, and illustrates how this is currently being implemented in the author’s own work as an insider-linguist.

The final three papers of this volume are topical essays and a review on issues related to language documentation. Sarah Round presents a summary of recent explorations of interdisciplinarity in language documentation, covering the motivations as well as perceived obstacles and possible solutions. Vicky Baldwin summarizes the literature on the relationship between language documentation and revitalization and, in another paper,

provides a concise review of the recently released online learning tool for language documenters called Archiving for the Future.

As part of the editorial process, each contributor to this volume gave feedback on one other submitted paper, and in addition we recruited another person to give expert feedback for each paper. We did not anonymise the review process, and we were pleased that all of the reviewers provided insightful and constructive feedback in a spirit of collegiality. We would like to thank each of the reviewers who gave of their own time to be a part of this process: Peter Austin, Mike Cahill, Vera Ferreira, Maria Flouraki, Weifeng Han, Seiko Harumi, Steve Parker, Julia Sallabank, Naresh Sharma, Aung Si, Martha Tsutsui Billins and Radu Voica.

SOAS Working Papers in Linguistics is an unfunded, volunteer-run open access publication. We thank each of the contributors for their sustained efforts through multiple rounds of comments and proofreading, and for their understanding and patience throughout the editorial and formatting process.

Adékúnmi Olatúnjí and Joseph Lovstrand  
*Editors*