This issue of ARAL once again showcases the breadth of research done in Applied Linguistics in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region. Masanori Matsumoto investigates the factors that lead tertiary students to persist in their study of Japanese, and finds differences in motivational patterns between students of East Asian and Western background. Research in this area has important implications as it goes to the heart of the debate on "Asia literacy" in Australia. In a sociolinguistically oriented study, Su-Hie Ting and Mahanita Mahadir look at the use of ethnic vs. standard languages in families of different ethnic backgrounds in Malaysia, and show a shift away from the ethnic languages to English, Bahasa Malaysia, and Mandarin Chinese. This shift, however, is more pronounced for some ethnic backgrounds than others. Staying with the topic of multilingualism, but in a different domain, Daphne Huang describes the use of Mandarin, Taiwanese, and English in asynchronous computer-mediated communication within a social network in Taiwan. She focuses specifically on code-switching between languages and writing systems, and finds a complex relationship between different languages and writing system. Finally, David Caldwell analyzes post-match interviews between football players and journalists from a systemic-functional perspective, and describes a neutral stance on both sides. He explains the footballers' lack of evaluation in terms of audience perceptions and the cultural norms inherent in Australian team sports and the wider cultural context. The issue is rounded off with five book reviews, covering a range of recent publications in the field.

I would like to express my gratitude to our reviewers, who volunteer their time and expertise to ensure the quality of our papers. As always, we welcome submissions on any aspect of Applied Linguistics, and particularly encourage empirical studies. Manuscripts should be submitted through our web-based system at http://ojs.lib.monash.edu.au/ojs/index.php/aral/index and follow APA style guidelines. The final issue of 2009 will be guest edited by Ute Knoch and John Read and feature papers from the rapidly growing area of aviation English and its assessment.

Carsten Roever
Editor, ARAL