Editorial foreword

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This article introduces the Journal of Uralic Linguistics, outlining its motivations, aims and scope. It also provides a brief overview of the contents of the inaugural issue, which contains four research papers by leading scholars in the field.

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We are delighted to announce the first issue of the *Journal of Uralic Linguistics* (*JUL*), an exciting new journal devoted to the study of languages and language varieties which together constitute the Uralic family. Linguistic research on Uralic languages has been undergoing profound and multi-layered renewal and expansion in recent years. This shift has been marked by the extension of in-depth linguistic work on general linguistic topics of current interest to an ever-growing number of Uralic languages, and it has been accompanied by the appearance of new conferences, international book publications as well as electronic research tools. Indeed, more and more of the Uralic languages have been subjected to increasingly detailed investigations. A growing body of methodical research extends to the endangered members of the family, which is supported not only by general grants but also by special forms of sponsorship encouraging work on endangered languages, including original fieldwork and language documentation. The volume of new linguistic data and generalizations that these endeavors keep unearthing is expected to continue to grow. New corpora and NLP tools have been developed in various places across the globe, with great prospects for knowledge and technology transfer in this area.

We have felt it is time to also reflect and support this evolution by creating a new journal forum that serves the needs and goals of this developing and expanding field. By providing a common platform for high-quality theoretical and empirical research on Uralic languages and language varieties, *JUL*'s aim is to buttress

the visibility of this work and bolster its impact on the general study of natural language.

This inaugural issue contains four research articles. The first one, co-authored by Miina Norvik, Yingqi Jing, Michael Dunn, Robert Forkel, Terhi Honkola, Gerson Klumpp, Richard Kowalik, Helle Metslang, Karl Pajusalu, Minerva Piha, Eva Saar, Sirkka Saarinen and Outi Vesakoski, presents and discusses the *Uralic Areal Typology Online*, a new tool for describing and investigating typological variation within the Uralic family and placing its members within the typology of the world's languages. The second paper, by Katalin É. Kiss and Nikolett Mus, presents an investigation of the history of reflexive pronouns as found in the Samoyedic and Ob-Ugric languages. The third article, by Elsi Kaiser, is an in-depth study of the semantics and pragmatics of certain evidential particles in Finnish. Finally, the fourth paper, by Elisabeth Coppock, is an insightful contribution to the long-standing debate on object agreement in Hungarian.

This collection represents nicely several of the journal's key objectives. *JUL* aspires to serve an integrative role in the field of Uralic linguistics by bridging different research traditions and areas of specialization, bringing together formal, typological, descriptive, as well as experimental perspectives. There will be articles on the 'big' national Uralic languages Hungarian, Finnish, and Estonian, but *JUL* will also reflect the flourishing research on the less widely studied Uralic minority languages. We welcome contributions (both full and brief research papers, review articles and book reviews) not only in the core areas of linguistic description (phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics), but also interface fields, including phonetics, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, language acquisition, language documentation, and language technology. Analyses of data from a single Uralic language/variety and comparisons across languages/varieties (either within Uralic, or between Uralic and non-Uralic) are equally encouraged. By bringing into focus the fecundity of applying current methods and theories to the study of Uralic languages, *JUL* seeks to promote communication and cross-fertilization between empirical and theoretical approaches, inspiring further progress.

All this, of course, would not be possible without the support of our distinguished editorial board, whose renowned members have generously agreed to devote their expertise to helping *JUL* become a leading international forum of the field. The dedicated work of anonymous expert reviewers is another key asset without which no journal can exist. We are tremendously grateful to the reviewers of the papers in this inaugural issue for their precious time. Special thanks go to Ms. Anke de Looper, acquisition editor at John Benjamins, for her kind assistance and advice provided all the way through the journal's creation. Last but not least,

we are indebted to Péter Siptár, our linguist colleague, for his careful copy-editing of the accepted manuscripts. We hope his formidable experience as copy-editor of linguistics manuscripts will ensure the highest standards of JUL's texts for many years to come.

JUL is anteceded by the *Finno-Ugric Languages and Linguistics* (FULL), which has been published online in the past ten years. Also, it will incorporate in the form of regular thematic issues the book series *Approaches to Hungarian* (AtoH), originally initiated by István Kenesei in 1985 and produced about every two years by John Benjamins between 2009 and 2020. Like *AtoH*, the series of special issues that will function as its continuation will be associated with the biennial *International Conference on the Structure of Hungarian*. There are links to both *FULL* and *AtoH* on *JUL*'s website.

The *Journal of Uralic Linguistics* will be published by John Benjamins twice annually as of this year, including any special thematic issues. We hope that it will become a common, integrative forum for communicating and critically discussing the very best research on Uralic languages, a platform that strives to bring the intriguingly rich and in many ways still uncharted landscape of data from the Uralic language family to bear on the development of the linguistic discipline as a whole.

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