Checklist

*Functions of Language* receives many more manuscripts than we are able to publish. Currently, about 90% of submissions are rejected, many of these because they are not within the scope of the journal. All submissions are first internally reviewed by the editors of *Functions of Language* (independently from each other). We each read every submission and decide whether the article is suitable for being sent out for external reviewing, for example whether it is within the scope of *Functions of Language* and whether it has the potential to be published.

Before submitting your article to *Functions of Language*, please make sure it satisfies all the criteria in the following checklist:

1. Your article must make a substantive contribution to *functional linguistics*. It should either take a broadly functional perspective on the use and/or organization of language or make explicit use of one or more functionalist models or schools of thought.
   
   A submission that does not contribute to functional linguistics will not be accepted.

2. Your article must refer to relevant literature in ways that provide a *coherent and critical map* of key publications in the field and demonstrate how your study moves the field forward.
   
   A submission that merely lists examples of work in the area will not be accepted.

3. Your article must make an *innovative contribution* to theory, methodology and/or analysis by critiquing, extending and/or enhancing existing frameworks.
   
   A submission that rephrases existing knowledge in different terms will not be accepted.

4. Your article must display *sophisticated* qualitative or quantitative *linguistic analysis*.
   
   A submission that provides commonsense descriptions or commentaries will not be accepted.

5. Your article must be *interesting and accessible* to the community of functional linguists in general. Unfamiliar or framework-specific concepts should be explained. If it focuses on a particular phenomenon in one language (group), relevance to broader language-typological or language-theoretical concerns should be brought out.
   
   A submission that is too inward-looking and overly jargonistic will not be accepted.

6. In terms of scale, scope, theory and analysis your article must be *mature and well-developed*, with – in the case of an argument based on empirical analysis – an extensive dataset, whose design is explicitly and comprehensively described and justified. The methodology should be presented in a manner that permits replication, and any statistical tests should be explained and justified in ways comprehensible to less mathematically inclined readers.
   
   A submission that presents a pilot study, preliminary research or a small and unrepresentative dataset and/or an unclear methodology will not be accepted.
7. Your article must be **written for an international audience**, having been proofread in advance of submission by an expert user of English academic writing, preferably one familiar with the discourse of our discipline, and must use [inclusive language](https://www.linguisticsociety.org/resource/guidelines-inclusive-language) [inclusive language]. A submission that shows poor structure and expression will not be accepted.

8. Your article must clearly **align with the mission statement** to be found on the webpage of *Functions of Language*. Before submitting, check if it is not better suited to a different journal.

A submission that is primarily a contribution to such sub-disciplines as Applied Linguistics or Critical Discourse Analysis or has purely educational or other practical implications will not be accepted.

Examples of research that is **not** for FoL include:

- Acoustic analysis of Mongolian speech
- A comparison of Attitude in four political speeches
- Exploring identity in a short story
- Analysis of stance in English academic lectures
- Discourse analysis of traffic policing
- Strategies used in courtroom discourse
- Phonological analysis of Northern Saudi Arabic
- Developing learner’s speaking and writing skills through literature

Please also read the *Functions of Language style sheet* and ensure that you have followed its instructions before you submit your article.

---

*FoL* Editors  
August 2018