Editorial

Tarja Nikula, Sauli Takala & Sabine Ylönen, University of Jyväskylä

We are happy to announce the publication of the third volume of *Apples – Journal of Applied Language Studies.* The first two volumes were published in 2001 and 2002, with Kari Sajavaara and Sauli Takala as editors. Unfortunately, the technical solutions chosen at the time proved problematic, which led into the temporary break in the publication of Apples. Human factors have also had their impact: many personnel changes in the Centre for Applied Language Studies over the last few years have affected the development work and the sad occasion of Professor Kari Sajavaara's unexpected death shook our foundations deeply.

Despite the problems, the work towards building better technical solutions for Apples has continued and in December 2008, we were able to launch the first call for papers for the rejuvenated Apples. The editors are Tarja Nikula, Sauli Takala and Sabine Ylönen, with Taina Saarinen as the editorial secretary. On this occasion of the re-launch of Apples, we wish to express our gratitude to Dr Peppi Taalas for her continuous efforts to develop the new online format for Apples and to Kimmo Kuisma for finding technical solutions for the Apples interface. We also wish to extend a special thank you to all who have submitted and reviewed papers for this new Apples launch.

The papers in volume 3 by Eric Johnson, Katarina Kalocsai, Evdokia Karavas and Xenia Delieza, Allan James, and Cordula Meißner deal with language policy issues and linguistic rights, language learning as socialisation into communities of practice, assessment of spoken language proficiency, conceptualisations of English in the era of globalization, and with features of scientific writing. As the papers show, Apples continues to address topical issues in the area of applied language studies and is keen to publish articles with an interdisciplinary orientation to language in society. The scientific rigour of the journal is ensured by each manuscript being peer-reviewed by two experts in the field. We also wish to invest in a rapid publication process in that each article gets published on-line as soon as it has gone through the reviewing and editing phases. We have also made the first two volumes originally published in 2001-2002 accessible online via this new Apples interface.

We would like to encourage you to register online to Apples if you are interested in receiving information about new papers and thematic issues. The working language of the journal is English but papers and other contributions can also be published in other languages. In such case, please contact the editors first. We at apples.jyu.fi are looking forward to interesting article submissions and thematic issue proposals also in the future!

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