

EDITORIAL SAARLAND WORKING PAPERS IN LINGUISTICS (SWPL)

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Saarland Working Papers in Linguistics (SWPL) is an e-journal founded by graduate students in English linguistics at Saarland University (UdS). It is primarily meant as a first place of publication for doctoral students and graduate assistants of all linguistics departments at UdS. Furthermore, it aims at generating communication across departments and hopes to be a reflection of linguistics as practiced at UdS.

KEYWORDS: editorial, working papers, linguistics

1 SCOPE

Saarland Working Papers in Linguistics (SWPL) will publish papers from any linguistic field, in and on any language, and from any theoretical perspective. Also, articles in related fields (e.g. literature, media studies, or cognitive psychology) will be published if they pertain to linguistics or language in general.

As a rule, the scope of publication is limited to original research articles. No book notices will be published. However, as one aim of SWPL (pronounced [swɔpɪ]) is to generate communication across departments, proceedings of conferences, workshops, symposia etc. hosted at Saarland University (including collections of abstracts) may be submitted. SWPL also encourages the submission of summaries of outstanding B.A. or M.A. theses. The editors welcome other proposals by future authors that reflect the aims of the journal.

Above all, SWPL invites doctoral students and graduate assistants of Saarland University to submit. However, all other members of UdS are welcome as well. Furthermore, the editors reserve the right to invite outside contributors such as scholars formerly working at UdS, guest lecturers, or visiting scholars. Members of UdS are encouraged to propose potential outside authors.

2 AIMS

The aims of SWPL are manifold. SWPL is intended primarily as a first place of publication for doctoral students at UdS. Many universities tend to have such a forum for working papers (cf. e.g. *The University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics*). So far, in contrast, Saarland University has not offered such a venue to its members.

Hence, SWPL invites dissertation supervisors to encourage their doctoral students to submit a paper early in their career. Before embarking on the often long and tedious process of submitting to international journals, SWPL should be considered. It can offer young scholars a first practice in writing a paper, submitting it, going through a reviewing process and getting their own work published. The editors believe that this is good preparation for later publications. Also, a first publication here does not prevent later submissions of revised or extended versions to other journals.

Furthermore, to make contributions to the journal a valuable experience for young scholars, SWPL invites written responses to articles. Responses can take a more relaxed approach and do not have to stand up to the scientific standards of a research article. Any kind of comment will be appreciated and may also be sent privately to the personal e-mail of the author.

A second goal of SWPL is to generate communication with other linguistic departments or chairs as well as institutions in neighbouring fields which work on language-related matters. Faculty 4: Humanities II Languages, Literature, and Cultural Studies houses most of the university's linguists. The faculty includes the two linguistics departments Applied Linguistics and Translation/Interpreting (FR 4.6) and General Linguistics (FR 4.7) as well as the German, Romance, English, and Slavic departments (FR. 4.1-4). Other departments can be found in Faculty 3: Humanities I History and Civilization Studies: these include Comparative Indo-Germanic Linguistics and Indo-Iranian Studies (FR 3.5) and Classical Philology (FR 3.6). However, many other chairs also work in language-related fields such Psychology (FR 5.3) or Cultural and Media History in FR 3.4 History.

Whereas full professors tend to meet for interdepartmental administrative tasks, graduate students and younger scholars often do not know (of) each other and their projects. This prevents potential collaboration, mutual support, and networking within this group. Publications in SWPL could help overcome these barriers and open up ways to communicate and cooperate. In addition, interdisciplinarity within the different sub-fields of linguistics will be fostered.

To nurture communication across departments, special value is placed on the announcement of new issues to all members of the linguistics community at Saarland University. The editors kindly request to be notified if persons have been overlooked for the mailing list. Anyone interested in the publication may contact SWPL to be put on the list.

Finally, SWPL wishes to reflect the various endeavours in linguistics that can be found at UdS. Due to the scattered distribution of linguistics across campus (and across web-sites), this seems highly desirable. A common journal makes the diversity and breadth of linguistics practiced at UdS more visible to the scientific community and the general public outside of this university. For this reason, the editors would like to underscore the fact that contributions by scholars from all departments at UdS are invited. Be it head-driven phrase structure grammar, functional systemics, dialectology, lexicography, interactional sociolinguistics or genre studies (just to name a few fields and approaches represented at UdS), the journal highly values and wishes to reflect the diversity of linguistic scholarship practiced on campus.

However, the attainment of the goals formulated in this editorial depends on contributions by linguists at UdS. SWPL can only be successful in its endeavours if it is supported by the UdS linguistics community at large. The editors warmly welcome

feedback on these matters. The directions of SWPL may be subject to change in the future if so desired.

3 PUBLICATION FORMAT

SWPL has been founded as an e-journal and put on the SciDok-server (<http://scidok.sulb.uni-saarland.de>) to ensure maximum visibility and easy access. In contrast to paper-based journals, no funding has to be ensured. The maintenance of an e-journal for members of UdS on SciDok is free. In addition, the access is also free of charge both from within and from outside the university.

Another benefit of e-publishing is that the time elapsing between submission and publication is shorter than in regular print-papers. Also, the articles can be searched electronically, and they possess all benefits of electronic documents (such as the inclusion of audio or video material).

The great advantage to online publications on individual homepages is the assignment of a persistent identifier (URN) to the documents (cf. ISBN for paper documents). This allows for stable long-term citations of the articles. Furthermore, contributions will be documented in library catalogues such as SWB (Südwestdeutscher Bibliotheksverbund) or OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue). Also, search engines on the internet such as Google scholar can trace and read the full texts, making for the kind of high visibility not to be attained by a SWPL paper-journal. The editors heartily thank Matthias Müller and Ulrich Herb of Saarland University and State Library (SULB) for their support in these matters.

4 REVIEWING PROCESS

SWPL has no funding for reviewers and wishes to travel light. However, it is beyond the competence of the editors themselves to review the contents of papers from the whole array of linguistic fields. To redress these difficulties and to ensure quality contributions, the following procedures have been chosen:

Generally, the thesis supervisor should vouch for the scientific accurateness of submissions by their student. Should this prove difficult, any other full professor of Saarland University may assume this role. The person vouching for the submission will be named in the journal. Once the submission has made it past this phase, the editors will review it for textual criteria such as clarity of argument, coherence, congruity, and the formal criteria outlined in the style sheet.

Should a submission be in a language which the editors do not command, a suitable person, most likely another graduate student from an appropriate department will be asked for assistance. This person will be named in the journal.

Generally, the reviewing process is intended to be transparent, and not to eliminate but to improve papers prior to inclusion in SWPL.

5 SUBMISSION

Articles, responses, and general comments or inquiries can be submitted electronically to swpl@mx.uni-saarland.de. For styles and formatting, please refer to the style sheet. Do make sure that all included items are not copy-righted by a third person. The author(s) will be held liable if problems arise.

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