

Foreword

The First International Conference on Linguistics in Southern Africa was held at the University of Cape Town on January 11–14, 2000, and was hosted by the Linguistics Society of Southern Africa in conjunction with UCT's Department of Linguistics and Southern African Languages. The conference was a milestone in that it represented the Society's first international meeting, bringing to Cape Town scholars from Africa, Europe, and North America, and presenting a wide range of scholarship in theoretical, applied, and areal linguistics. Its enormous success was due in no small measure to the tireless efforts of its convenor, Professor Rajend Mesthrie. And if I may add a personal observation, it was a scholarly event that I could never have envisioned when I first traveled to South Africa in October of 1982.

This issue of the *Journal of Germanic Linguistics* contains article versions of papers presented in the workshop on Afrikaans sociohistorical linguistics at the Cape Town conference. Number 14.1 of *JGL* will contain two articles that were originally presented as focus lectures: "Khoekhoe Syntax and Its Implications for L2 Acquisition of Dutch and Afrikaans" by Hans den Besten and "Convergence and the Formation of Afrikaans" by Paul Roberge. The exigencies of publishing a quarterly journal with fairly strict limitations of space have required the division into two parts of what was originally planned as a special issue on Afrikaans sociohistorical linguistics. Nevertheless, it is hoped that the collective "whole" will serve as a showcase of current thinking on the linguistic status and prehistory of Afrikaans and will advance our understanding of the processes of language formation.

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