

PREFACE

Dialectologia has its annual two-issue publications of papers submitted by geolinguists, dialectologists, sociolinguists, and linguists in general around the world. Successfully enough, *Dialectologia* has had its regular publications up to today.

Along with these regular issues, *Dialectologia* has decided to begin a series of special issues, focusing on various aspects of regional/social variations in any languages. The first special issue of *Dialectologia* collects papers from scholars in Europe and Asia. This issue is the result of the papers presented at an international symposium on ‘Geolinguistics around the World’ held on 22nd and 23rd July, 2007, hosted by the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics in Tokyo.

At the symposium, each scholar was asked to report two papers, one of which dealt with a brief description of the current geolinguistic research in their country, and the other of which discussed the application of geolinguistic analysis. Along with two plenary speakers, we had two discussants for each day of the symposium. Whereas discussants have already made their report in a previous issue of *Dialectologia* 1 (<http://www.publicacions.ub.es/revistes/dialectologia1/>), all the speakers including a chairperson, Yoshiyuki Asahi, made their submissions to this first special issue of *Dialectologia*.

For editing manuscripts, two scholars from the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics, Yoshiyuki Asahi and Takuichiro Onishi cooperated. Finally, in order to have this special issue complete, we would like to express our gratitude to David Heap, the only native speaker of English and a discussant at the symposium, who kindly coordinated proofreading for all papers in this special issue with his team of graduate students (Nerissa Taylor, Kristen Izaryk, Valérie Rosser, and Barbara White).

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