

EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION

This is the *first* number of a new journal to be called *Psychology of Language and Communication*. The idea of launching this journal took shape in the Psycholinguistic Department of the Faculty of Psychology, University of Warsaw, headed for many years by Ida Kurcz and now by Barbara Bokus. To be published in Poland, the journal will appear in English. It is intended to serve as a forum for discussion on various aspects of psychological research on language and communicative processes in people. We invite participation not only by Polish authors but also by researchers in the East and West. We are interested in language production and comprehension in children and adults, cognitive and social bases of speech, nature and strategies of various types of discourse, development and disorders of linguistic and communicative competences.

The first number of this journal includes theoretical and empirical articles as well as short communications from three language research centers in Poland: the University of Warsaw, the Jagiellonian University in Cracow, and the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin.

The opening article of this number of *Psychology of Language and Communication* was written by Grace Wales Shugar who initiated research in developmental psycholinguistics at the Warsaw center. This article treats the child's acquisition of language use as the entry of the child into a universe of discourse.

The next articles deal with the following topics:

- language and mental representation of the world (articles by J. Bobryk and M. Przetacznik-Gierowska with the collaboration of J. Łuczyński);
- narration as a discourse type (articles by M. Ligeza and B. Bokus);
- discourse strategies: negotiation of meaning (article by J. Rytel);
- development of linguistic competence – case studies (by E. Haman and D. Kiebzak-Mandera).

The problem areas mentioned above will comprise the main topics of the next numbers of *Psychology of Language and Communication*. The second number will be wholly devoted to language and mental representation of the world. It will contain elaborated versions of papers presented by the participants of the International Conference on Permanence and Change in Conceptual Knowledge held in Kazimierz on the Vistula in Poland, November 18-20, 1995. The third number will be devoted to narrative discourse in children and adults.

Psychology of Language and Communication welcomes original theoretical contributions, reports of empirical studies and book reviews from authors of different countries. The journal will also publish short communications dealing with published monographs, book series presenting work on linguistic and communicative competences – general, developmental, and disordered.

We hope that *Psychology of Language and Communication* will contribute to a mutual sharing of experiences by research workers in diverse centers in West and East.

Barbara Bokus