

Call for papers  
Journal *Studii de lingvistică*, issue 12-2/ December 2022  
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### ***Experimental Methods in Language Exploration***

Experimental data are becoming increasingly important in the pool of empirical facts that linguists look at. The use of experimental approaches has had a long history in phonetics and phonology but it has been extended very fruitfully to syntax, semantics, pragmatics, and language acquisition. It has been argued that experiments provide non-biased data, more representative than the professional linguist's judgments (Katsos and Cummins 2010).

While phonetics pioneered experimental approaches to language analysis, initially other branches of linguistics took a more tentative stance, under the concern that one is not able to unfold empirical studies without having a theoretical perspective and that linguistic facts may not be accounted for independently of a theoretical structure. Prideaux *et al.* (2013: 17) drew attention to the fact that such a view had led to the undesirable attitude of considering valid only those data justifying an already embraced theoretical stance and of looking upon data that contradict it as 'uninteresting'.

Nevertheless, as early as the 1970s, Prideaux (1979) signaled that interest for experimental linguistics had increased due to the growing awareness that 'purely theoretical formulations and speculations about language must necessarily be tested against the empirical facts of language knowledge, use and acquisition' and saluted this shift of focus as a sign of scientific maturity for linguistics as a discipline in itself.

In more recent years, more and more researchers working in various branches of linguistics have started resorting to quantitative work with a view to experimentally confirming their linguistic hypotheses. For instance, experimental syntax has been rapidly growing as a field of research, given the view that it is fundamentally connected to theoretical syntax and that the experimental tools resorted to will prove valuable in answering new or crucial theoretical syntax questions, which 'become more tractable when the informal judgement collection methods are formalized using experimental syntax techniques' (Sprouse 2015). Thus, random sampling, gradient judgments or factorial logic have now become standard tools of analysis in the aim of doing away with spurious results and supplying reliable data.

Experimental methods have also been successfully implemented in language acquisition research to study the development of a wide range of linguistic structures and categories such as relative clauses, tense, lexical aspect, or scalar implicatures. Experiments can be designed to focus both on the comprehension or production of these elements. A very effective investigative method used to explore the comprehension of various linguistic structures is, for instance, the truth value judgment task (Crain and Thornton 1998).

In response to these recent developments in linguistic research, the journal seeks papers for a special issue on the use of experimental methods in linguistics. It invites articles in any subfield of

linguistics, on any topic, employing experiment-based approaches and investigating data that can be either purely experimental or extracted from text corpora. *Varia* articles can also be submitted, as well as book reviews.

## References

- Crain, Stephen and Rosalind Thornton. 1998. *Investigations in Universal Grammar: A Guide to Experiments on the Acquisition of Syntax and Semantics*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Katsos, Napoleon and Chris Cummins. 2010. Pragmatics: From Theory to Experiment and Back Again, *Language and Linguistics Compass* 4(5): 282–295.
- Prideaux, Gary Dean, Bruce L. Derwing and William J. Baker. 2013. *Experimental Linguistics: Integration of theories and applications*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins
- Prideaux, Gary Dean, ed. 1979. *Perspectives in Experimental Linguistics: Papers from the University of Alberta Conference on Experimental Linguistics, Edmonton, 13–14 Oct. 1978*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Sprouse, Jon. 2015. Three open questions in experimental syntax. *Linguistics Vanguard*, 1(1): 89-100. <https://doi.org/10.1515/lingvan-2014-1012>

## GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

Authors are invited to submit an extended abstract of 1-2 pages presenting the paper and including references and 5 keywords. The author's affiliation should also be mentioned. Abstracts are to be submitted to [studiidelingvistica@gmail.com](mailto:studiidelingvistica@gmail.com) and [alina.tigau@lils.unibuc.ro](mailto:alina.tigau@lils.unibuc.ro).

Papers should be written in French or English. The selected articles will undergo a double-blind peer-review process.

## DEADLINES

Abstract submission: **September 15 2021**

Response to contributors: October 15 2021

Article submission: March 15 2022

(Guidelines on <http://studiidelingvistica.uoradea.ro/instructiuni-fr.html>)

Evaluation of the articles and return to authors: March-July 2022

Reception of the final version of the articles: August 31 2022

Publication: December 2022

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