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Editor's Foreword

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Editor's Foreword

Dear colleagues,

If you are reading these lines you have decided to open this volume. There may be various reasons why you did this: first of all, you might be one of the contributors to this volume and want to see if we deserved your trust and treated your work in an appropriate manner; you could also be an interested scholar scrutinizing a new publication or even looking for information on English in the world! Or you might also be someone who by chance came across this publication and reads these words out of curiosity. In any case, I will grasp this opportunity to thank you for the time you are devoting to us.

When we were planning this new journal, people kept asking why we were doing this, whether there weren't already enough journals on the market, why we called this journal the *International Journal of Language, Translation and Intercultural Communication*, and why we wanted a print journal and not a digital one.

I tried to answer these questions as best I could; I feel that I have to reproduce the answers, since you, the reader, might have the same queries. First of all, this journal is the brain child of everyone at our department. Our department, the Department of Applied Foreign Languages in Management and Commerce in Igoumenitsa, is the only place in Greece where languages are taught interdisciplinarily to undergraduates. We would expect our students to evolve into language professionals facilitating international communication wherever necessary: we expect our graduates to learn how to use the language skills and the thematic knowledge they acquire with us and to facilitate, to keep up and to strengthen the ties of Greek enterprises or public services with the business world globally to a mutual benefit. But how does the journal fit in? Most of you will agree with us that teaching alone is not enough; to put forward your ideas you have to discuss them both locally and globally and contribute by generating new insights. This is exactly how we envisaged our journal: we would like it to become a platform for exchanging and generating insights into local linguistic aspects that deserve global attention and into global perspectives and trends that should respect local linguistic needs. We ask for mutual respect; respect for the local both by major languages and linguistic trends but also respect of the local before the global in terms of coexistence.

A second question that came up in our discussions with colleagues was the title. Finding a title for a journal today is not easy. There are already many journals out there and we had to come up with something novel but also representative. We wanted it to attract contributions on monolingual aspects (that make the local global), on aspects of translation and interpreting (where global meets local and vice versa) and any aspect of intercultural encounters, where the local and the global coexist and evolve hand in hand.

Another good question was the one on either establishing a print or a digital journal. We opted for both! We believe that, in an old-fashioned manner, a print journal gives us and you, the reader, time. And, we believe in time. We all need

time to recollect on what we see; we need the time the scroll down option of our computer's keyboard deprives us of. Having a printed volume on our desk makes us think, keeps our mind focused on what we read! I often feel that switching off the computer makes what I read fade away. Seeing a volume on my desk, keeps it alive!

Unfortunately, financial means are getting scarce and sustaining a print journal will not be easy. We will do our best to ensure the viability of the journal both in print and digital form.

At this point, I would like to thank the contributors to this volume for entrusting us with their work. It is always difficult to send your work to people you have never met and are on the other side of the planet! The authors of the papers in this volume risked it and I hope we have not let them down.

I would also like to thank our friend and colleague Nick Ceramella for guest-editing this first volume. He did a tremendous job in bringing together authors from every corner of the planet. The first volume is dedicated to the varieties of English around the planet. An issue both local and global. Reading through the papers, the reader will realize how(!) local English can be, despite its undisputable global character. Actually, the idea for this theme belongs to Nick Ceramella and it was supported by Pericles Tangas, our Professor of English.

Of course, we owe our gratitude to the colleagues on our Editorial Board, whose expertise guarantees high academic standards and quality.

Needless to say, for any shortcomings I will be the one to blame. So, should you feel that something is not as it should be, do not hesitate to drop me a line! Suggestions for improvement are always welcome! On the other hand, if you like what you are holding in your hands and you would like to say something nice, please feel free to write, too.

Before closing this foreword, I would also like to thank the President of the Technological Educational Institution of Epirus, Prof. Grigorios Gikas, for making the journal possible; in these difficult times for Greece he managed to secure the funds for our new endeavor.

Stefanos Vlachopoulos
Editor-in-chief