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Guest Editor's Foreword

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Guest Editor's Foreword

The essays collected in this first issue of the *International Journal of Language, Translation and Intercultural Communication* are the result of a long and patient weaving of contacts made throughout the academic world circles. It took me well over one year to gather such a great international team of linguists who, as kindly as generously, agreed to write an essay each on the variety of English currently used in their respective countries. Note that what makes my story extraordinary is the fact that we have never met to this day.

Here is how the idea popped up. It all started when my colleagues and friends, Periklis Tangas and Stefanos Vachopoulos, professors at the Technological Educational Institution of Epirus in Igoumenitsa (Greece), told me that they had been entrusted with the establishment of an academic journal dealing with literature, language and translation studies. So I suggested I would come out with a monothematic issue entirely dedicated to the main varieties of English. Periklis found my idea exciting, though he said that the problem was they had no contacts in that field of research. At that point I could not but offer to take the challenge and full responsibility for finding the right scholars wherever they were.

Thus, my first move was to ask certain colleagues whether they were interested in contributing an article, or if they knew anybody who would. Of course, things did not work out so nicely and smoothly as one may think. In fact, I received all sorts of replies going from 'yes', 'no', 'perhaps', and so on. In brief, it was quite stressing. Yet, I must say that nobody ever left me completely down. I was always addressed to someone else who would perhaps accept to come on board my 'crazy' boat. Thus, I hardly ever lost hope of realising the project.

Little wonder if now I am particularly relieved that we have finally reached, like Ulysses, our safe harbour in Igoumenitsa, Greece. I still can't believe it, but it is all true: all the articles, from Honolulu to Delhi, are collected here.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to all of these fantastic colleagues who have trusted me and helped me make the dream come true. I hope we will meet one day and celebrate what we have managed to achieve all together. Meanwhile, I wish to acknowledge individually the invaluable expertise of them all: **Gordon Senanu Kwame Adika** (University of Ghana), **Melissa Axelrod** (University of New Mexico, USA), **Ian Bekker** (North-West University, South Africa), **Charles Bwenge** (University of Florida, USA), **Peter Collins** (University of New South Wales, Australia), **Katie Drager** (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa), **Jeffrey L. Kallen** (Trinity College Dublin, EIRE), **Rukmini Bhaya Nair** (Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, India), **Joanne Scheibman** (Old Dominion University, USA), **Peter K W Tan** (National University of Singapore), **Paul Warren** (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand).

On concluding let me just mention that I have decided to give my humble contribution with an article meant to underline the importance of keeping one's mother tongue and present the role of English within the European Union.

I trust we all agree that, by sharing our different perspectives, we will be offering the readers of this newly founded Journal a great opportunity to receive

directly from the source such exhaustive and scholarly information on the fascinating world of some of the most important varieties of English in the world. Thanks to this publication, we hope to stimulate intellectual confrontation and circulation of ideas on the state of English and encourage further research in the forthcoming future.

Nick Ceramella
Guest Editor