

Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of the journal *Chinese as a Second Language Research (CASLAR)*. This journal is a unique publication not only because it is the first English-Chinese bilingual journal but also because it is a response to a situation that is unique itself. This situation was created by the very rapidly growing interest in Chinese language teaching. However, the ever growing interest in teaching and learning Chinese has not resulted in the development of a strong research background for the discipline mainly because there is no publication outlet out there that would serve as a central forum to bring together research in Chinese as a Second Language from all over the world. That is why scholars whose interest is in Chinese as a Second Language Research publish in a variety of different journals (Discourse Studies, Applied Linguistics, Journal of Pragmatics, Studies in Second Language Acquisition, Intercultural Pragmatics, Multilingua, etc.) The problem with this is that good ideas are scattered around in different journals so they may not be available to all members of the CASLAR research community. There is a need for a journal that centralizes research efforts in the field. This is exactly what CASLAR attempts to do.

The goal of the journal is to create a unique outlet that publishes cutting edge research, has a format, content and structure that reflects the growing interest in Chinese as a Second Language (CSL) and is available for researchers both in Chinese speaking countries and areas as well as the Western world. The journal focuses on research on the acquisition, development and use of Chinese as a Second Language. It supports interaction and scholarly debate between researchers representing different subfields of linguistics with a focus on Chinese as a Second Language. The journal intends to be a forum for researchers who are looking for new tools and methods to investigate and better understand CSL.

- We are especially interested in publishing articles and research papers that
- address major issues of second language acquisition from the perspective of CSL,
 - explore the implications of CSL research for theoretical developments and practical applications,
 - focus on the acquisition and use of varieties of CSL,
 - study the nature of interaction between native speakers and non-native speakers of Chinese,
 - investigate how empirical findings of CSL can advance and develop better Chinese language teaching methodologies,
 - analyze the ways in which language is both shaped by culture and is the medium through which culture is created.

We who edit the journal will also make an attempt to bring together scholars who speak only Chinese with those colleagues whose English is good enough to present their ideas in English. The English summaries of the Chinese articles and the Chinese summaries of the English articles serve this goal.

We do hope that scholars who are interested in Chinese as a Second Language research will help us make this publication an outstanding forum of new ideas, cutting edge research methodology and intriguing professional debates.

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