

Welcome *Bhāṣā*

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It is always exciting to see a new outlet for linguistic publications opening up opportunities for scholarly exchange, especially one which is explicitly engaged in the mission of bringing together linguistic, philological and grammatical studies. Cross-disciplinary research is of paramount importance in a field such as the one that *Bhāṣā* aims to cover, the languages of South Asia, in which linguistic, philological and grammatical studies can all count on a long and rich tradition, with a visible, and regrettable, lack of communication that has remained quite steady over time. The result of mutual ignorance is often a duplication of efforts by scholars that work in neighbouring fields, and could profit from the advancements of colleagues working on the same topic but within different traditions and with different means of investigation. Fostering communication, on the other hand, widens the opportunity to build on results that have already been achieved, resulting in a growth that ultimately promotes research irrespective of the separate tradition to which individual scholars belong. Building bridges is not an easy task when it is confronted with well established habits, which sometimes bring philologists to be suspicious of linguists or the other way around. In this respect, the first issue of *Bhāṣā* is up to its commitment, as it comprises a wide range of studies covering both philological and linguistic research, as witnessed by the papers by Bryan De Notariis on the reconstruction of the archetype of a Buddhist manuscript on the one hand, and by Lucrezia Carnesale concerning Hindi possessive constructions on the other hand. In addition, Patrick McCartney addresses a sociolinguistic issue connected with the speakers attitudes as witnessed by the 2001 and the 2011 censuses. Finally, two other es-

essentially linguistic contribution, one by John Peterson and Lennart Chevallier and the other by Peter Hook and Omkar Koul, tackle their topics from the point of view of typological comparison (negation in South Asian languages) and of areal linguistics (sarcasm in Kashmiri as an areal feature), covering a large spectrum of languages from different language families that reflects the linguistic wealth of the area. For these reasons, professor Andrea Drocco, the founder and editor of *Bhāṣā*, deserves the gratitude of all scholars interested in various ways in the languages of South Asia.