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Editorial introduction

The papers in this volume include three general research papers, one in our *Language Contexts* series (see http://www.elpublishing.org/language-contexts), and 12 *Language Snapshots* (see http://www.elpublishing.org/language-snapshots). They cover a wide geographic range, including Asia, Papua New Guinea, Australia, Africa, Central America, South America, and Europe. All the papers except one were written by early career researchers (MA or PhD students, or post-doctoral fellows), in three cases in collaboration with their supervisors. We are delighted to be able to publish high quality work by such up-and-coming scholars. All the papers were double-blind reviewed by at least two reviewers (sometimes three) according to our usual procedures. We have been fortunate to have had support from reviewers with a real specialist knowledge in all cases.

The research presented here includes new material on the structures, contexts, and uses of a wide range of endangered languages, including some never documented previously or only poorly known to date. All are based on first-hand fieldwork with speakers, mostly in situ where they live, but also including those in diaspora settings in the case of Nobiin. In several cases the authors are native speakers of the languages concerned and draw upon their own experiences to complement their field research. The Language Snapshots and Language Context articles present up-to-date information on speaker numbers and vitality of the languages concerned; in several cases existing sources either do not exist or are woefully dated and inaccurate.

I am grateful to all the reviewers for their support, and to the authors for swiftly and thoughtfully revising their submissions in the light of feedback, as well as dealing with proof-reading in a very timely manner. As always, I owe a great debt to Tom Castle for his support with design and layout, and to David Nathan for cataloguing the papers and preparing and managing their online publication.

We welcome feedback and comments on the papers presented here, or on any aspect of our publishing activities. Please contact us at elpublishing2017@gmail.com.

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London, UK

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