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Editorial Introduction

The papers in this volume include four general research papers, including three in our *Language Contexts* series (see https://www.elpublishing.org/language-contexts), ten *Language Snapshots* (see https://www.elpublishing.org/language-snapshots), and one *Language Snapshots* collection on the minority languages of the Tibetan region. They cover a wide geographic range, including Asia, Pacific Islands, Australia, Africa, South America, North America, and Europe. The papers were written by a mix of established and early career researchers (MA and PhD students, and post-doctoral fellows), some of whom are native speakers of the languages discussed. As always, we are delighted to be able to publish high quality work by a wide range of 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 specialist knowledge of the topics and/or languages 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 previously documented or only poorly known to date. Two papers present new methods for the documentation and analysis of languages using new technologies: GPS and GIS for conversational analysis, and social networking software for long-distance research in the context of COVID-19. All the papers are based on first-hand fieldwork with speakers, mostly in situ where they live, but also including those in diaspora settings, as in the case of Nukuoro. 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 Contexts* articles present up-to-date information on speaker numbers and vitality of the languages concerned; in several

cases the existing sources either are missing 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.

Peter K. Austin
London, UK

15 December 2021