

Editorial

Welcome to the second issue of the 2020 volume of the Journal of Modern Languages. Thanks to both an increase in submissions, support from colleagues from around the world, and the diligence and dedication of our Editorial Board members, this is the first time the Journal has published two issues in a single year since its inception in 1983. This is a real achievement, especially when the two issues were produced during a time when we were all physically separated and had to make massive adjustments of various kinds in response to the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This issue of the Journal offers six articles. The first three articles present corpus studies conducted by researchers from several countries in Asia. In the first article, Yuichiro Kobayashi explores how metadiscourse markers were used by 11 Asian groups of learners based on the written component of the International Corpus Network of Asian Learners of English. Next, Ariel Robert Ponce and Shirley N. Dita examine the syntactic and semantic use of *if*-conditional sentences in three corpora of Asian varieties of English as part of the International Corpus of English. In the third article, Siti Aeisha Joharry and Syamimi Turiman present the findings of their corpus investigation of two Malaysian columnists' style of writing from two national English online news portals.

The remaining three articles are concerned with a range of issues in education, ecolinguistics and sociolinguistics. The fourth article, by George M Jacobs and Stephen J Hall, revisits a familiar topic in education on praise and offers practical suggestions of how to involve more people in giving and receiving praise. Alena Zhdanova, Surinderpal Kaur and Kumaran Rajandran, in the fifth article, report the findings from a multimodal analysis of two vegan campaigns, which suggest that the language and images used create stories that represent nonhuman animals as sentient beings, similar to humans in many ways. In the final article, Suvita Thanagopaldasamy and Anitha Devi Pillai consider how home and school literacy practices can contribute to the maintenance of a minority language in Singapore.

It is perhaps important to note that the Journal of Modern Languages, like all other scholarly journals, depends on the support of individuals from a range of areas in modern language studies. The insightful comments and suggestions of reviewers allow the Journal to maintain the high quality of the articles. The number of submissions we receive for consideration of publication steadily increases each year. As a result, we need more and more external reviewers. If any readers of the Journal would like to be external reviewers, please contact us with an indication of the areas in which you have particular expertise.

Finally, we would like to express our thanks to all individuals who have made the Journal possible. As always, a big thank you to the external reviewers who have found time in their busy lives to read and provide helpful comments on submissions. Our heartfelt thanks certainly go to all the authors who have shared with us their thoughts and latest research findings. Writing and publishing, as we know, require not only hard

work but also the patience and determination to go through the entire revision process. To all readers, we can't thank you enough for your support and commitment over the years. We hope that you will enjoy reading this and future issues of the Journal of Modern Languages. All of us involved in the publication of this Journal wish our readers and their families good health and many blessings.

Chau Meng Huat, Ph.D.
Editor-in-Chief