

Editorial

The first issue of 2025 presents papers focusing on phonetic and phonological aspects of language, as well as on language varieties and minority languages, and translation. The languages featured in this issue include Banjarese, Daur, Standard Malay, the Tambirat Malay dialect, and English-Arabic translations, in addition to language use by Uyghur international students in Japan.

In this issue, Wan Aslynn, Muhammad Roslan, and Nur Hanisah Tukiran take an acoustic phonetic approach in their preliminary acoustic study of /r/ in the standard variety of spoken Malay in Malaysia. Their study shows that the realisation of the tap and trill, as well as the zero realisation of *r* is common in particular word contexts. Although theirs is a preliminary study, it contributes to a better understanding of how orthographic *r* in this variety tends to be produced by Malay speakers from Peninsular Malaysia.

Mohd Zulkanien Sarbini also focuses on Malay, but this time on a phonological aspect of the Tambirat Malay dialect in Sarawak, which is one of the two Malaysian states on the island of Borneo. The first of two papers in this issue based on Optimality Theory, the author examines the phonological behaviour of liquid consonants in this dialect. In particular, he discusses the patterns associated with [ɣ] and [l] from a constraint-based approach. His study adds to the body of knowledge related to the phonological patterns of Malay varieties, especially lesser studied ones like the Tambirat Malay dialect.

The second paper based on Optimality Theory is by Muhammad Farris Imadi Fuze and Sharifah Raihan Syed Jaafar. Their focus is on Banjarese, a language spoken in Kalimantan, and in particular, the use of reduplication in this language. In light of their findings, the authors challenge assumptions about reduplication and highlight the need to re-examine morphological processes using contemporary theoretical models.

This issue also features a paper on an endangered language, the Daur language spoken in Inner Mongolia, China. In this paper, Jinke Du examines the vitality of this language. Based on an analysis of the patterns of language use and the EGIDS vitality framework, Du highlights the concerning state of this language. The author also discusses insights into efforts to maintain this language, and thus, this paper contributes to a pertinent issue on the vitality of ethnic languages not just in Inner Mongolia but also in other areas around the world.

Another minority group in China are the Uyghurs. In their paper, Zulihaer Alifu, Kim Tiu Selorio and Hiroki Saito explore language-related challenges faced by Uyghur students in Japan. The authors focus on the ethnic identity and linguistic strategies of Uyghur international students. They show that the diverse educational backgrounds of these students result in varying levels of proficiency in not just Chinese and Uyghur, but also Japanese and English. Based on their study, Alifu et al. recommend strategies that can be taken to enhance the experience of international students in Japan. This study points to an important aspect of the internationalisation of higher education, which tends to focus on the language of instruction (e.g., English) without taking into account existing and developing linguistic resources and identities of international students.

The sixth paper in this issue is on English-Arabic translation by Al Sammarraie Huda Saad Mudheher. The author examines the challenges and strategies in post-editing Neural Machine Translation (NMT) of subtitles of a movie. Based on Gottlieb's ten subtitling strategies and a descriptive-qualitative approach, the author highlights the role of human-based translations in refining machine-generated ones and provides recommendations for enhancing Arabic subtitles in post-editing NMT environments.

We hope that the range of language-related contributions in this issue will inspire further research in these areas, and we look forward to receiving contributions related to language contexts from different parts of the world and on emerging areas of language research. We encourage you to visit the journal's [website](#) to obtain information about the journal's policies and guidelines for authors.

As always, our appreciation goes out to everyone who contributed to this issue, especially the authors and reviewers.

Stefanie Pillai

Editor-in-Chief

stefanie@um.edu.my

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1693-5022>