

Editorial statement

The *Phonology Yearbook* is committed to the stimulation, dissemination, and cross-fertilisation of ideas in phonology and those disciplines which impinge on it. While the need for a periodical devoted exclusively to phonology has been apparent for some time to a number of scholars, the present timing of the launching of the *Yearbook* might be said to be particularly appropriate.

The intense activity in theoretical work provoked primarily by developments in the sixties has not resulted in any consensus concerning such basic issues as 'abstractness', 'cyclicality', 'naturalness', etc. Rather, we find a fragmentation into various 'traditions' associated with particular configurations of assumptions, some of which, it has become apparent, can in fact be traced rather far back in the history of the discipline. This is especially apparent in the recent proliferation of proposals concerning the nature of phonological structure, both supra- and infra-segmental, and their interrelations. In the absence of some focal point for the publication of research in phonology there is inevitably wasteful duplication, both positive (simultaneous or sequential '(re)discoveries') and negative (repeated 'false starts'). And it remains unclear to what extent alternative proposals are conceptually equivalent, or complementary, or indeed in competition. The *Yearbook* is intended as a contribution towards such intercommunication, and, it is hoped, as a stimulus towards the development of a more coherent research programme in a discipline whose vigour and excitement are not in question.

At the same time, the 'domain of responsibility' for proposals in phonology has vastly increased its scope. An expanding range of languages and language histories has been subjected to phonological and phonetic investigation, to the extent that serious typological study, of units, systems, processes, etc., now has the potential to develop beyond the pioneering work of the second quarter of this century. And, increasingly, experimental and other work in the phonetic bases for phonological constructs and in their behavioural and social manifestations provide rich and compelling testing grounds for phonological proposals. The promotion of increased accessibility of such empirical domains is also an aim of the *Yearbook*.

To these ends, the editors intend that the *Yearbook* should provide a forum for the discussion of theoretical issues, together with detailed descriptive and experimental studies of theoretical interest. The present volume constitutes a collection of papers by invited contributors on a variety of issues of current theoretical import. Subsequent volumes will be organised mainly on a thematic basis, with each volume being devoted to one or more themes. However, contributions on topics not directly related to proposed themes are at all times welcome, and papers of sufficient importance will be published in non-thematic sections. (Themes for volumes 2 and 3, and details of how to submit papers, are given in the *Notes for contributors* on the inside cover of this volume.) A small number

viii *Editorial statement*

of review articles on publications of major importance will also be included.

Refereeing procedures for the *Yearbook* will be rigorous, with all potential contributions being read by at least two people, including one member of the editorial board. The editors will, however, ensure that contributions are scrutinised as quickly as possible and that there is no unnecessary delay in the appearance of those papers accepted for publication.

The editors wish to thank all those who have made the launching of the *Phonology Yearbook* possible, and hope that it will prove to be a major contribution to the development of the discipline. They will at all times be happy to receive, in addition to potential contributions, suggestions for future themes, offers to act as coordinating editor for particular themes, and any ideas or queries about any aspect of the *Yearbook*.