Editorial note

It is with great pleasure that I write this editorial for a second special edition linked to the *Southern African Microlinguistics Workshop* (SAMWOP) series: this time linked specifically to SAMWOP-2, hosted at the Vaal Triangle Campus of the North-West University for three days, from the 30 October to 1 November 2013; and this time hosted by *Stellenbosch Papers in Linguistics Plus*. Kate Huddlestone, current journal manager of SPIL-Plus, has also generously offered to make SPIL-Plus the home of these special editions for the foreseeable future. As I write these words, the *3rd Southern African Microlinguistics Workshop* (SAMWOP-3) is just around the 'corner': to be hosted by the Potchefstroom Campus of the North-West University (as was the case with SAMWOP-1) and for four days from 24-27 November 2014. I hope it is not premature to see in all of this a bright future for both the workshop and special edition series.

This special edition, as with the first (hosted by *Southern African Linguistics and Applied Language Studies*, Vol. 32 (1)), is a veritable fair of microlinguistics, including articles dealing with syntax, morphology and phonology and ranging in terms of the languages covered from Tsonga to Obolo.

The first article, by Andy Chebanne (*University of Botswana*), which focuses on both phonetics/phonology as well as morpho-syntax, discusses and provides answers to the question of linguistic losses observed in the Eastern Kalahari Khoe language varieties. In these languages several features in the domains of phonetics/phonology and morpho-syntax are reduced. Clicks are also missing or modified in some cognates, and this features' variation is observed from the west to the east of this zone. The triggers of these losses are sociolinguistic in contact situations with non-Khoisan languages.

The issue continues with an article by Mark de Vos (*Rhodes University*), which approaches an old problem from a new angle. Head movement is an important and common syntactic operation but it seems to be different to other types of movement. This article argues that the process of syntactic linearization highlights discrepancies between underlying 2-dimensional phrase structure and their 1-dimensional linearizations. Head movement is one way of dealing with these discrepancies and creating a more optimal linearization. The article attempts to derive head movement and the head movement from more general principles of linearization. It also explains the contrast between short V-raising in English as well as V-T movement in French.

Next is an article by Rigardt Pretorius (*North-West University*) which discusses the frequency of use and the sequencing of Setswana verbal suffixes, based on statistics extracted from the 67284 orthographic-unit, annotated NCHLT Setswana corpus which includes 9146 verbs. The relationship between productivity/frequency and the position/slot of Setswana verbal suffixes is investigated taking their inflectional or derivational nature into account. The data are subsequently used to comment on existing descriptive grammars of Setswana.

Andrew Van der Spuy's (*University of the Witwatersrand*) article lies on the interface between phonology and morphology. It looks at the question of whether the palatalization processes which occur in the Zulu locative, diminutive and passive are best regarded as morphologically conditioned or as phonologically conditioned. Arguments are presented to show that all of these processes are morphologically conditioned.

As with the first issue, a large number of articles deal with phonology. The article by Seunghun J. Lee (*Central Connecticut State University*) and Clementinah Burheni (*University of Venda*) presents phonological processes in Xitsonga diminutives. Round vowels are changed into a labial glide to avoid vowel hiatus. When the glide is preceded by labial consonants, then other processes occur. The seemingly disjunctive processes are argued to be responses to the OCP-LABIAL constraint in which adjacent segments with [labial] are prohibited.

Maxwell Kadenge (*University of the Witwatersrand*) and Ron Simango (*Rhodes University*), on the other hand, compare hiatus resolution strategies in ciNsenga and chiShona, using OT. They note that in both languages across the prefix + noun stem boundary and within the Inflectional Stem it is resolved through glide formation, secondary articulation and elision. An interlinguistic difference occurs when V_2 is MacroStem initial: in ciNsenga, hiatus resolution is blocked but in chiShona spreading is triggered. The article demonstrates that whilst vowel hiatus resolution is categorical in chiShona it is domain-specific in ciNsenga.

The article by Calisto Mudzingwa (*University of South Africa*) and Maxwell Kadenge (*University of the Witwatersrand*) presents a comparative analysis of some synchronic morphological properties of Shona class 1 nondeverbal and deverbal nouns. They demonstrate that deverbal and non-deverbal nouns behave differently with respect to their phonology and derivational properties. Their main conclusion is that class 1 nouns are not uniform and a theory of noun classes needs to be rich enough to account for the diversity.

Lastly, William Bennett's (*Rhodes University*) article analyses a case of nasal consonant harmony in Obolo, an Andoni language spoken in southern Nigeria: if a syllable in Obolo has a nasal onset, it cannot have a non-nasal coda. The behaviour of nasalisation in vowels suggests the pattern is a direct consonant-to-consonant interaction, which cannot be handled by a local spreading analysis. The proposal in the article captures this by drawing on the mechanism of Surface Correspondence (Rose & Walker 2004, Hansson 2010, Bennett 2013). The analysis has ramifications for one-way agreement dependencies in other languages, as sketched out for a recently noted case of voicing agreement in Afrikaans (Coetzee 2014).

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References

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