



Foreword

In 1950 Antonino Pagliaro founded the scholarly journal *Ricerche Linguistiche* as the scientific body of the former “Istituto di Glottologia” of the University of Rome. He published five volumes until 1962, when Walter Belardi, who had served as the editorial assistant of the journal, succeeded Pagliaro as the new Editor-in-chief. The sixth volume was published in 1974 as the last volume of the journal. In the same year, Belardi established the new series *Biblioteca di ricerche linguistiche e filologiche* that took up the themes of the journal in the form of monographs. The sixty-second and last volume was published in 2006 and the series ceased with Belardi’s passing.

Over its lifetime, the journal *Ricerche Linguistiche* hosted articles authored by esteemed scholars from the fields of comparative Indo-European linguistics, Iranian philology, and Romance studies, including Harold W. Bailey, Giuliano Bonfante, Enrico Campanile, Enzo Evangelisti, Robert A. Hall Jr., and Vittore Pisani. *Ricerche Linguistiche* stood out for the calibre of its authors and topics.

The revival of the journal has been envisioned by the two of us – successors of Antonino Pagliaro and Walter Belardi – with the explicit aim of pursuing the scholarly legacy of our Masters and renovating a scientific tradition which never dried up.

The new series of *Ricerche Linguistiche*, published yearly, intends to privilege and promote the studies in the field of historical linguistics. Although the articles are definitely expected to follow a research policy fitting for the innovative methodologies and the new topics which have come to light over the last fifty years, we feel that it is essential for the journal to retain its original breadth of interest without dis-

owning the traditional principles of our discipline: a consistent reference to texts, which necessarily lays the foundations of any diachronic research, and a careful exegesis of historical documentations, in close connection with both an in-depth philological scrutiny of textual data and an extensive account of changing socio-historical contexts.

Behind this editorial approach is a clear assumption of method, which is based on a profound connection between *philologeîn* (aimed at tackling linguistic issues in the hermeneutics of ancient texts) and *philosophheîn* (aimed at exploring historiographical and theoretical aspects of linguistic thought). This conception of linguistic analysis has been characterising the so-called “Roman school of historical linguistics” for more than a century: from Luigi Ceci to Antonino Pagliaro, Walter Belardi, and his successors.

The journal provides a venue for contributions in the fields of diachronic and historical linguistics concerning all levels of linguistic analysis, with a special focus on ancient Indo-European languages, as well as Romance languages and varieties. Contributions on other language families are also welcomed, provided that they coincide with the main focus of the journal with respect to methods, language history, and historical documentation. The journal also aims to promote the study of the history of all branches of linguistic thought, including writing systems, literacy, textual exegesis, grammaticography, from antiquity to modern times.

The journal consists of three sections: (1) papers and essays; (2) *Léxeis* (contributions on the history and etymology of specific words); (3) review articles.

The articles contained in this first issue fully illustrate the lines of research and the methodological approach pursued by *Ricerche Linguistiche*.

Eystein Dahl investigates patterns of variation and convergence in the prohibitive clause system of ancient Indo-European languages, suggesting a typologically plausible reconstruction of the Proto-Indo-European situation and its development in the so-called Core Indo-European. Simone Gentile offers a theoretically informed reassessment of the relation between relative clauses and the proto-*ezāfe*

in Avestan, Old Persian, and some Eastern Middle Iranian languages. Marco Fattori provides a new edition, translation, and commentary of one of the most controversial passages of the Bīsotūn inscription, the Old Persian version of paragraph 70, correcting several misreadings on the basis of new high-resolution photographs. Martin Maiden deals with matters related to sound change, morphological change, and language contact applied to a case of syncretism in the present indicative and subjunctive of medieval Tuscan and Badiot Ladin. Franco Franciullo traces the main historical steps concerning the theoretical relationship between phonetic change and the dimensions of linguistic variation, providing a rich exemplification from Italo-Romance varieties. Vincenzo Orioles builds on a solid historical reconstruction of the events surrounding an unpublished lecture that Graziadio Isaia Ascoli gave in Gorizia on February 25th, 1861 and highlights the first signs of Ascoli's linguistic thought concerning the "Italianness" of Gorizia. The section of the *Léxeis* contains etymological notes authored by two distinguished scholars in the field: Daniel Kölligan traces the Old Norse word *jóð* 'child, descendant' back to Germanic **euð/pa* and provides further evidence for the reconstruction of a verbal root PIE **h₁eu_h_{1/3}* - 'to give milk, suck', so far only assumed for Hittite; Adriano V. Rossi demonstrates that the Pahlavī lexeme *kōk* 'migration' should be considered as a ghost word, since a closer look at the texts where the relevant forms occur suggests that the word should be read *kōy* 'road, street'. The issue closes with a review article by Luca Alfieri, who critically analyses the papers collected in the Proceedings of the fifteenth Conference of the Indogermanische Gesellschaft and provides historical and typological notes on the concept of the PIE root within the framework of contemporary linguistics.

We hope that *Ricerche Linguistiche* will serve as more than a home for scholarly studies, functioning also as a solid vehicle for prolific exchange of ideas and a welcome forum for fruitful collaboration between generations of scholars.

