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Edited by

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Editorial note

As in previous volumes, this edition showcases the work of SOAS graduate students, faculty, alumni and associates. The six papers in this volume explore various linguistic fields, including syntax, language documentation, discourse analysis, and sociolinguistics—from language attitudes to language policy. This volume features a wide range of languages, with African languages (Ndaou and Nairobi Swahili) discussed in two papers, one paper focusing on Chinese, specifically analysing the grammatical structure “被” (bei), and another on the Sonsorolese languages of the Republic of Palau.

The first paper by Thomas Jelpke examines the wide-ranging use and functions of distal demonstratives “-le” in Nairobi Swahili, particularly in relative clauses where they function as either pronominal head nouns or modifiers of the head noun. In the second paper, Scott Williams investigates the relationship between perceptions of Basingstoke English and the London heritage narrative, with interesting findings on the complex relationship between London heritage and the English-speaking identity perceptions of Basingstoke residents.

The next two papers focus on language policy and planning. First, Talent Mudenda and Kingsley Ugwuanyi’s paper assesses the status of the Ndaou language in education, reflecting on its progress ten years after its official recognition in Zimbabwe. Among other outcomes, the study found that despite the officialisation of Ndaou in Zimbabwe, there remain a wide range of factors inhibiting its full implementation in the classroom. On the other hand, Vasiliki Vita’s paper explores grassroots language action and legislative efforts for the Sonsorolese languages, one key finding of which was that to assert Sonsorolese linguistic rights, speakers engaged in meta-documentation while surveying and identifying speech community attitudes and desires in the process of documenting Sonsorolese languages.

In the fifth paper on discourse analysis, Pei-Yu Liao examines the power dynamics in the discourse of the Sunflower Movement using the lexicogrammar “被” (bei). The paper explores the bi-directional power dynamics in the Sunflower Movement, showing how the discourse reflects the ideology of the general public and the power structures in Taiwanese society.

Finally, Alia Amir’s review of Eduardo D. Faingold’s (2023) *Language rights and the law in Scandinavia: Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, the Faroe Islands, and Greenland* offers critical insights into the field of language legislation, specifically the rights of minority communities in Scandinavia, as well as practical recommendations for both academics and practitioners.

As with previous volumes, each contributor provided feedback on another submitted paper, and we also used external reviewers to ensure the quality of each paper. We would like to express our gratitude to the reviewers for their insightful feedback. Our sincere thanks go to Ross Graham, Moses Melefa, Godswill Chigbu, Nahida Ahmed, Folajimi Oyebola, Sopuruchi Aboh, Mathias Chukwu, and Mayowa Akinlotan for generously

offering their time and expertise.

SOAS Working Papers in Linguistics remains an unfunded, volunteer-run, open-access publication. We are deeply grateful to the contributors for their sustained efforts through multiple rounds of comments and proofreading and for their understanding and patience throughout the editorial and formatting process.

The call for the expression of interest for the 22nd volume of the *SOAS Working Papers in Linguistics* was made in November 2023, with a target to publish the volume in 2024. So, we are quite pleased to have accomplished this goal. At the time of publication, both editors (Kingsley Ugwuanyi, a postdoctoral researcher, and Chinazor Nwoda, a doctoral researcher) were undertaking research at SOAS.

Kingsley Ugwuanyi and Chinazor Nwoda
Editors, SWPL (Vol. 22)