

PREFACE

The present special volume of *Papers and Studies in Contrastive Linguistics* hosts the selected proceedings of the two workshops on "Pre- and protomorphology in language acquisition" which took place in Vienna, February 1996 and Istanbul, July 1996. Both workshops were included in the series which constitutes a forum for discussion among the participants of the Cross-Linguistic Project on Pre- and Protomorphology in Language Acquisition, initiated and coordinated by Professor Wolfgang U. Dressler of the University of Vienna. An earlier Project Meeting (Vienna 1995) resulted in a volume edited by W.U. Dressler *Studies in Pre- and Protomorphology*, published in 1997 by Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften in Vienna. The aim of the project is to collect early acquisition data from typologically different languages (the number at the moment is 24) in order to systematically verify the predictions drawn with respect to the nature and stages in the acquisition of morphology by the model of Natural Morphology developed by Dressler. Wolfgang Dressler's "Introduction", therefore, opens the volume, which includes altogether 11 papers by 22 authors, dealing with the demarcation of stages in morphological acquisition. The papers discuss various aspects of nominal, verbal and adjectival morphology in the speech of children acquiring such diverse languages as German, Greek, Russian, Polish, Hebrew, Yucatec Maya, French and Italian, while two of them deal with the interrelations between phonology and morphology in first language acquisition.

A note of thanks is due in this place to a number of people without whom the present volume would not have come into being. The Editor of *PSiCL*, professor Jacek Fisiak, kindly agreed to host the Project proceedings in his journal. The Project coordinator, professor Wolfgang U. Dressler, helped substantially in the editing procedure and is a triple contributor to the volume. Finally, and essentially, as many as 22 authors contributed their work to produce the final outcome in the shape of the present volume. It is a pleasure to present the result of this cooperation to the reader, hoping s/he will find it worthwhile.

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Guest Editor