



Concordia Working Papers
in Applied Linguistics

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Introduction

The editors of COPAL

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Welcome to our first issue of Concordia University Working Papers in Appplied Linguistics (COPAL), a refereed journal of local and international scope. COPAL is dedicated to the publication of a wide range of ongoing research by students (graduate and undergraduate) and faculty in the fields of Teaching of English as a Second or Other Language and Applied Linguistics (including first and second language acquisition, multilingualism, sociolinguistics, technology in language learning, and psycholinguistics).

This first issue is representative of the current research produced in the undergraduate program in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) and in the graduate program of Applied Linguistics (APLI) in the Department of Education, Concordia University. The articles included in this issue were authored by current and previous undergraduate and graduate students, as well as current and previous faculty.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The name COPAL underwent several different incarnations. It started with a mere abbreviation of Concordia University Working Papers in Applied Linguistics: CUWPAL. Even though the acronym is the most faithful to the original intention, its cacophonous nature was not received

with much fanfare by most of the people with whom we shared it. The name then evolved to COWPAL: Concordia Working Papers in Linguistics. Inspired by the concept of “cow” and what it can represent, we envisioned the W as representing an udder, which in our case would not be a source of milk, but a source of nourishment for our intellectual hunger. Despite our creative (and often humorous) associations, the idea was not well-received by our colleagues, for obvious reasons.

Then the acronym COPAL was born. Not a literal abbreviation of what we initially intended, but it constitutes a name that is orthographically simple, easy to read and pronounce in most languages, pleasant sounding and, more importantly, rich in relevant semantic associations in the context of research in progress by established researchers and young academics. Besides, CO made us think of togetherness and PAL of the notion of friendship, both positive associations.

Coincidentally, it turned out that *copal* is a real word for an amber-like resin (see Figure 1 below): It is a subfossil substance, an intermediate stage in the fossilization process that turns the resin into amber.

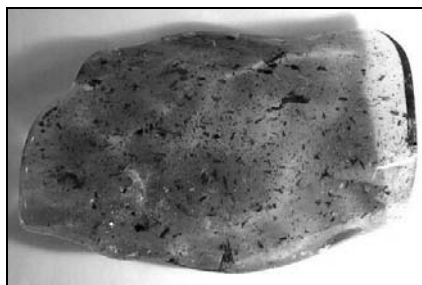


Figure 1. Copal: a subfossil substance

Thus, we likened the term *copal* to what our journal represents: An intermediate stage, before our research matures, before students ripen into full-fledged researchers.

SELECTING A LOGO

Many thanks go out to our logo designer Bill Ringgenberg for providing us with numerous logo options. As you can imagine, selecting the logo that represented all the desired attributes was not an easy task. After long discussions among the editors and colleagues, we narrowed down the number of logos to two, as illustrated in the figures below:



Figure 2. COPAL logo: Option 1



Figure 3. COPAL logo: Option 2

So, to be as democratic as possible, we finalized our choice by conducting a poll among the graduate students, faculty and COPAL editors. The logo that was selected by the majority of the voting population (78% of the graduate students – n=22; 100% of the COPAL editors – n=3; but only 44.4% of the faculty population – n=9), is the one displayed in Figure 2. We thought this option was ideal due, once again, to its symbolism. We felt the series of circles invokes the image of something bubbling, which meshes nicely with the symbolism behind the acronym COPAL: ideas bubbling up from a work in progress.

OUR DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTOR: DR. PATSY LIGHBOWN

For our first issue, we are honoured to have an article by the renowned researcher in applied linguistics: Dr. Patsy Lightbown, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Concordia University. She was (and has been) an outstanding teacher at Concordia and is a leading researcher in the field of second language acquisition. Her presence in the textbooks and articles we read, at the annual SPEAQ convention, and as an oft quoted pundit in the media on issues related to language learning, has prompted some of our colleagues/students to exclaim “She’s everywhere!” We are delighted to have her presence here in our inaugural issue of COPAL. In fact, she *is* everywhere!

"IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE ~~A CHILD~~" COPAL: OUR CONTRIBUTORS, REVIEWERS AND WEB MASTERS

We would like to thank all the people who made COPAL a reality. First, thanks to the several contributors who submitted their papers for consideration for publication in our first issue. Our gratitude also goes to those who scrutinized the quality of the research and manuscripts submitted and provided insightful feedback and comments: the reviewers. COPAL would not be here were it not for the laborious and meticulous work of the following reviewers: Gabrielle Beaudoin, Dr. Laura Collins, Robin Dick, Pamela Gunning, Jesse Harris, Dr. Jerry Krauel, Ioana Nicolae, Aiko Pletch, Derek Theriault, Nick Walker, Dr. Joanna White, and Tamara Yanchak. Last, but not the least, we would like to thank the backbone of COPAL, the technical support provided by Sothea Nim and Stef Rucco. Their assistance will extend the reach of COPAL to a wider audience via the internet, and will show the world that we are ready to go amber.

Enjoy the first issue of COPAL.

The editors