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Editors' preface

The *International Journal of Diachronic Linguistics and Linguistic Reconstruction* (IJDL) welcomes contributions from all fields of diachronically oriented research in linguistics. It appears in two volumes a year. The languages of publication are English, French, Italian and German. All contributions are to be sent directly to the editors at the address given on the cover sheet.

Submitted papers are subjected to examination by one or more specialists in the particular field of research before acceptance. The contributors are informed about the decision on their paper by mail within two months after its submission. Papers accepted for publication appear in IJDL within four to six months after their acceptance.

Since IJDL accepts papers from all fields of diacronic linguistics a maximum of transparency and clarity in the presentation of linguistic material and scholarly results is a necessity.

The contributors are kindly asked to consider that not all interested readers may share their specialists' competence on the particular problem and its linguistic background. It seems necessary always to try and provide the reader with a maximum of background information whenever possible. For example:

> *possible presentation*:
> 'Morphologically, the Old Irish *é*-futures can be compared to Indo-Iranian desideratives',
>
> *clear presentation*:
> 'Morphologically, the Old Irish *é*-futures of the type *céla* (< Proto Celtic **ki-klā-se-*) can be compared to Indo-Iranian desideratives which also are built with reduplication, contain a suffixal *s* and inflect thematically, cf. Sanskrit *cí-kīr-ṣa-*.'

Furthermore the contributors are kindly asked to consider that not all the readers interested in their paper may share their expertise on the scholarly literature relevant to the problem under discussion. It would be of help to avoid arguments by bare citation whenever possible.

For example:

> *possible presentation*:
> 'As this *a* cannot possibly continue an old **e* (Smith 1995: 79-81) ...',
>
> *clear presentation*:
> 'As this *a* cannot possibly continue an old **e* due to the lack of palatalisation of preceding consonants (Smith 1995: 79-81) ...'.

Footnotes should be reserved for short notes on minor details. Matters important for understanding the proceeding argument of a paper should not be discussed in footnotes. Footnotes should not contain extensive discussions. Matters not necessarily central to the main argument of a paper may be discussed extensively in a short appendix or submitted in form of a special paper.

Apart from these few points, the contributors are free to style their papers according to their sense of advisability and good taste.

The editors

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