

## Preface\*

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This special issue originated in a workshop, entitled 'Cross-linguistic studies of morphophonological processing', which was held at the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, Paris, under the auspices of the European Psycholinguistic Association, in June 1984. The workshop was intended to bring together phoneticians, linguists, and psychologists of different language backgrounds to discuss ways in which cross-language research could contribute to the study of sublexical and lexical processes in comprehension. All authors of papers in this volume, except the authors of the final two papers, participated in the workshop; there were also six other participants, whose contributions do not appear here: Benedicte de Boysson-Bardies (Paris), Francois Dell (Paris), Jose Garcia-Albea (Madrid), Jacques Mehler (Paris), Charles Hoequist (Kiel), and Jean-Roger Vergnaud (Paris).

There is currently a renaissance of cross-linguistic research in psycholinguistics, as described by Cutler in the immediately following paper. This kind of research can be useful both for studying universal characteristics of the human language processing system, and for identifying language-specific processing mechanisms; this theme is more fully developed, with particular reference to the problem of lexical segmentation, in Frauenfelder's paper.

Segmentation of continuous speech, and the associated issue of the nature of sublexical representations in comprehension, are also the focus of the next two papers, by Norris and Cutler and by Morais. These papers base their arguments crucially on data from several languages.

The final set of papers deals with issues of lexical processing and representation. Three papers — by Cutler, Hawkins, and Gilligan, by Segui and Zubizarreta, and by Laudanna and Burani — address questions of morphological structure and its role in word recognition, while the final paper, by Deutsch and Wijnen, investigates the processing of lexical gender.

We hope that this collection will be of interest to linguists and

psychologists alike, and may stimulate further cross-disciplinary research of a cross-linguistic nature. We would like to express our thanks to the European Psycholinguistics Association and to M. Clemens Heller and the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme for sponsoring the workshop, and to Brian Wenk and Wolfgang Klein, for their constant encouragement in the production of this special issue.

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### **Note**

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