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## Foreword

The 29th annual meeting of the Child Language Research Forum was held on April 25–27, 1997, in Cordura Hall at the Center for the Study of Language and Information (CSLI), Stanford. This 29th meeting was ably run by the coordinating committee whose members included Jennifer Arnold, Brad Davidson, Adele Goldberg, Meredyth Krych, Yukiko Morimoto, Eunjin Oh, Christine Poulin, Lauren Shapiro, Peter Sells, Scott Schwenter, Ida Toivonen, and Qing Zhang. Special thanks go to Eunjin Oh and Meredyth Krych for organizing the book display; to Jennifer Arnold, Ida Toivonen, and Kyle Wohlmuth for producing the program handbook; and to Yukiko Morimoto and Brad Davidson for overseeing the refreshments. The organizing committee is particularly grateful to Michael Tomasello (Emory University) and Dare A. Baldwin (University of Oregon) for organizing the stimulating Friday evening Workshop on “Word Learning: A Window on Early Pragmatic Understanding.” In addition, presenters at the conference contributed data on some 15 languages (including Thai, Mi’kmaq, Cantonese, Hungarian, Netherlands Sign Language, and Spanish), and their topics ranged from the significance of syllable omissions to compound noun forms, from the acquisition of word order to manual babbling in deaf infants, and from pitch modifications in child-directed speech to expressions of source and goal in space. We thank everyone for their contributions to the meeting itself and to the present proceedings. Lastly, I would like to thank the administrative staff in the Linguistics Department for all their help: we

depend on them critically in planning and organizing the Child Language Research Forum: Michelle Collette Murray, Gina Wein, and, especially, Kyle Wohlmuth. Without them, the meeting could not take place.

The present volume is the sixth since the Center for the Study of Language and Information took over publication of the annual *Proceedings of the Child Language Research Forum*. In two of the previous volumes, we outlined the history of this meeting — in the *Proceedings* of the 25th Annual meeting, published in 1993 — and listed all the papers published in the earlier working-paper series from previous meetings — in the *Proceedings* of the 26th annual meeting, published in 1995. (The *Proceedings* prior to 1992 were published in a working paper series, and are still available through the ERIC Clearinghouse for Languages and Linguistics, at the Center for Applied Linguistics in Washington, D.C.) Many studies first presented at the Child Language Research Forum have since been published in fuller form in linguistics and psychology journals concerned with language and the acquisition of language.

The next meeting of the Child Language Research Forum will take place in April 1999. Further details are available on the CLRF Website (<http://www-csli.stanford.edu/users/clrf>), and will be posted on the psyling and childes email lists during 1998.

Eve V. Clark  
Editor

For the CLRF-97 Organizing Committee

August 1997

**Publisher's Erratum:** The title of Gedeon Deák and Michael Maratsos' contribution to the *Proceedings of the Twenty-Eighth Annual Child Language Research Forum* should be "Reference and Representation: What Polynomy Tells Us About Children's Conceptual Structures."