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**Title:** Editor's note

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**Citation style:** Wysocka Maria. (2009). Editor's note. W: M. Wysocka, B. Leszkiewicz (red.), "On language structure, acquisition and teaching : studies in honour of Janusz Arabski on the occasion of his 70th birthday" (S. 5-6). Katowice : Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Śląskiego.



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## EDITOR'S NOTE

The academic career of professor Janusz Arabski began at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. He joined the staff of the Foreign Languages Institute of the University of Silesia, Katowice in 1973. In 1995 the Institute of English Studies was founded and professor Arabski became its Head. He has devoted his time, energy and talents to this Institute and to the whole University of Silesia up to the present time.

His scholarly interests are chiefly in the fields of general linguistics, applied linguistics and psycholinguistics. He contributed to the development of these disciplines through his numerous publications not only of a theoretical and descriptive character but also presenting the results of his research, to mention gender studies as the recent example.

Professor Arabski has been invited as a visiting professor to lecture in many universities abroad (in Great Britain, the United States, France, Germany, Australia) and also has presented papers at numerous conferences in Poland and in other countries. His great initiative resulted in the invitation of many famous linguists to join the 20<sup>th</sup> annual conference on Second Language Acquisition, which he organized, in May 2008. It is due to his outstanding personality that the tradition of these regular meetings has been established. Specialists from all over the world look forward to them since they realize the unique opportunity to discuss the most important issues there.

It must also be emphasized that Professor Arabski is a member of the most prestigious associations and organizations in Poland and abroad, to mention only a few examples: the International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language (IATEFL), the International Association of University Professors of English (IAUPE), the Polish Linguistic Society (PTJ), Committee on

Linguistics, and the Polish Academy of Sciences. He was also a member and co-ordinator of the European Union Tempus Programme.

Special attention must be paid to the presentation of Professor Arabski as an academic teacher and organizer of the whole teaching process. He intuitively felt the need for organizing new specialization courses and he offered to the students translation programmes of English combined with German, Arabic, and Chinese languages and also recently Spanish. These programmes are gaining greater and greater popularity since they provide the students with new professionally developed skills.

Many younger scholars including the editor of the present volume herself, several contributors to it, as well as generations of students are indebted to Professor Arabski, who was their teacher and/or the helpful supervisor of their dissertations. This volume includes articles that discuss current problems in theoretical and applied linguistics, pragmatics, language learning and language teaching. They have been presented to Professor Janusz Arabski on the occasion of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. We hope that they will also contribute to further development of these disciplines, to which he devoted so much of his time talent and attention.

On behalf of all the authors of the papers published here, colleagues, friends from all over the world and my own behalf I would like to express our deep gratitude for everything that Professor Janusz Arabski has done in the areas of research, teaching and academic administration. I also hope that he will participate actively in the life of our Institute and the whole University of Silesia for many years to come.

*Maria Wysocka*