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## Foreword

The 28th annual meeting of the Child Language Research Forum was held on April 12–14, 1996, in Cordura Hall at the Center for the Study of Language and Information (CSLI), Stanford. (This will also be the venue for the next meeting.) This 28th meeting was ably run by the coordinating committee whose members included Jennifer Arnold, Martina Faller, Dawn Hannah, Tracy King, Andrea Kortenhoven, Meredyth Krych, Peggy Li, Yukiko Morimoto, Maria-Eugenia Niño, Rachel Nordlinger, Eunjin Oh, Christine Poulin, Jennifer Rothblatt, Lauren Shapiro, Helen Shwe, Ida Toivonen, and Qing Zhang. Special thanks go to Christine Poulin and Ida Toivonen for organizing the book display; to Rachel Nordlinger, Maria-Eugenia Niño, and Martina Faller for producing the program handbook; and to Jennifer Arnold and Lori van Houten for overseeing the refreshments. The organizing committee is particularly grateful to Judy A. Kegl (Rutgers University) and John McWhorter (UC Berkeley) for organizing the very stimulating Friday evening Workshop on "Perspectives on an emerging language: Creolization and critical periods." The general focus at this meeting was on crosslinguistic comparisons, and we thank all the presenters for bringing together, between them, data from some 19 languages. 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 annual Child Language Research Forum: Michelle Collette Murray, Gina Wein, and, especially, Kyle Wohlmüt. Without them, the meeting could not take place.

The present volume is the fifth 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 on April 25-27, 1997. Further details are available from the Coordinators of CLRF-97, Department of Linguistics, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305-2150, and will be posted on the psyling and childe email lists.

Eve V. Clark  
Editor  
For the CLRF-96 Organizing Committee

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