FOREWORD

After a two-year interval, the Journal of Linguistics presents another special issue featuring contributions from the international SLOVKO 2025 conference. This year's contributions cover a wide range of current issues in European corpus linguistics. These issues span the building and annotation of language corpora, natural language processing, creation and use of language resources, and digital humanities. We continue to witness rapid technological development in these areas, which provides a framework and impetus for linguistic research. There is also a fruitful combination of methods – a truly interdisciplinary "crossroads." One of the keywords of this year's conference is creativity and its various forms and contexts. This includes the creative principle in language itself and the creative search to understand it. The contributions in this issue reflect a wide spectrum of such creativity, whether concerning the exploration of colors in poetry or the creative dimension of constructions and other abstract linguistic structures. Creativity is also necessary to expand the possibilities of processing and annotating an ever-widening range of texts and for the intersection of linguistics and artificial intelligence. Creativity is essential for innovatively processing lexicons and developing the humanities in the 21st century. With the increasing availability of digital text data and technological advances in natural language processing, new opportunities arise for analyzing language data and phenomena beyond the scope of traditional descriptive linguistics. As the articles in this year's special issue of the Journal demonstrate, corpus linguistics has long transcended purely linguistic research. Its overlap with areas such as mathematical linguistics, digital humanities, computer science, pedagogy, and media and communication confirms that it is a discipline that brings together diverse research traditions while offering new tools for analyzing linguistic phenomena. Given the growing amount of text data and the development of language technologies – including the rapid development of generative artificial intelligence – new opportunities are emerging to explore the relationship between language's meaning, form, and function in its natural environment.

The papers presented at the **13th annual international SLOVKO 2025 conference** reflect the methodological diversity of corpus research. Topics include the design and construction of specialized corpora, the analysis of corpus data, questions of representativeness and annotation, the automation of corpus processing, and its application in empirical research. Applications include automated text processing, machine learning, language modeling, and the development of language tools. The authors approach language research with an emphasis on accuracy,

reproducibility, and the interdisciplinary connection between linguistics and computer science, enabling effective modeling of linguistic phenomena and development of tools for processing large amounts of text data. On the other hand, the authors emphasize the growing trend of incorporating corpus linguistics with language education and translation. The authors cover a wide range of linguistic topics, often with interdisciplinary overlap, thus creating a colorful picture of current corpus research. However, as mentioned in the Foreword from the previous 12th conference issue, this diversity requires a unifying framework that enables mutual understanding and the combination of approaches. Through this special issue of the Journal of Linguistics, we continue to strive to create this space, reflecting the results of the international SLOVKO 2025 conference and building on our long-term efforts to promote scientific dialogue in the field of language technologies.

We thank all authors for their professional contribution, the reviewers for their thorough assessment of the articles, and our colleagues for their help with this special issue of the journal. We believe the articles in this issue will find the reader's interest by offering not only a glimpse of individual research questions but also an outline of the broader connections between corpus linguistics and various scientific fields, and between scientists working in related disciplines. At the same time, we hope the articles inspire discussion about the methodological challenges and perspectives of corpus research in Slovak and international contexts. We hope you find the articles stimulating and inspiring as you reflect on the future of corpus linguistics in the rapidly changing digital age.

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