## **PREFACE**

This special issue contains a selection of papers written by a generation of linguists, whose careers started blossoming at the same time as the conference series BIDE International Student Conference in Linguistics held at the University of Deusto, Bilbao reached its peak during the years of 2006 and 2007. All of the authors were involved with BIDE in different capacities: presenting papers, organizing or attending the event. Thus, the unifying thread in choosing these articles was that they all resulted or benefited from the environment that BIDE created in the Basque Country during the years when it took place. The selection includes a wide range of approaches and methodologies to a diverse number of topics from almost all of the linguistic subfields, going from laboratory phonology to formal syntax. The group of authors has an international identity, representing first-class academic institutions from Spain, USA, Europe including University of Southern California, Ohio State University, Florida State University, Georgetown University, University of Maryland, University of Illinois, Chicago, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona, Eötvös Loránd University, University of Konstanz and University of Deusto, to mention some.

The editors would like to thank the leading organizers of BIDE 2006 and 2007, Irene Barberia and Susana Huidobro for their hard work and encouragement with this project. Furthermore, we also want to thank all the invited speakers that took part in BIDE and Francesc Roca, Jon Ortiz de Urbina and Alazne Landa, faculty members who were supportive of the conference series.

Joseba Lakarra deserves a special mention for all his help and invaluable work as Chief Editor of this series. We would not have published this volume without his help. We are also indebted to Susana Huidobro for her technical aid with the formatting of some of the articles.

This work has been partially supported by the Basque Government Research Project Grammar and Linguistic Variation - HM-2009-1-1 the UPV/EHU unit, UFI11/14, and by the Basque Government Research Grant for Consolidated Research Groups at Basque universities Ref. GIC07/144-IT-210-07.

This volume is a tribute to the great enthusiasm that a group of young people shown towards linguistic research in the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Their enthusiasm spread around the intellectual university community, and they made Linguistics rock at the time like no other areas of humanities have ever done it before.