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PRESENTATION

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This 2023 finds many of us full of hope that we will be able to leave the pandemic behind once and for all, that we will be able to walk among crowds without fear of catching the virus, that we will be able to go everywhere without a mask, and that we will be able to forget about the nightmare we had to live through, among other things.

Nonetheless, 2023 also finds us full of fear and frightful premonitions that there will be a global economic recession, that as a minimum, there will be an increase in the inflation rate in most countries which will augment hunger and poverty everywhere, and that most countries are going to be so focused on acquiring fuel and gas to survive that they will not be able to reduce greenhouse emissions, and therefore, the environmental crisis we are already living through will just get worse.

The articles in this first volume of 2023 — which can be divided into 8 written in Spanish, and 4 in English; 5 empirical studies, 3 case studies, and 1 theoretical article — renew our hope for a better world post-pandemic, or at least, a better way to communicate among ourselves through the use of learning management systems (Fathi, Mohammaddokht, & Afzali's article) and various social networks which have become crucial in this modern world, such as Whatsapp (García, Lengeling, Mora and Conaway's article), Twitter and Instagram (García & García's article).

They also provide a space to increase our knowledge of linguistic concepts, such as interactional metadiscourse markers used in academic discourse (Boginkaya's article), relativizers in the Spanish of cosmopolitan Latin American cities such as Medellín (Arias' article), and the recently born language of cryptocurrencies (Casañ's article). Key in the development of this knowledge are foreign language instructors whose role is addressed in Bailey, Corrales, Rey, and Rosado's article about the challenges they face in these times of crisis, and in Aristizabal and Ortiz's article on how to use the English classroom to work on peace projects.

Moreover, the articles shed light on social phenomena that have been taking place for years but have now become commonplace, such as the erosion of heritage languages like Croatian in Argentina (Bilić, Cuneo & Franić's article), the displacement of indigenous communities such as the Embera Chamí to urban centers like Bogotá (Alarcón & Rojas' article), and the use of linguistic prejudices in research projects, specifically in interviews (Figueroa's article).

Finally, as a solace in our compendium, and a great read for those not so interested in online instruction, social media communication, linguistic analysis, corpus linguistics, language instructors' professional development, or sociolinguistic phenomena stands the article by Vargas, who masterfully analyzes how Colombian writer Cepeda Samudio used filmic resources in the writing of his novel *La casa grande*.

We hope that you enjoy this and the other 11 articles in the selection, that all our hopes for this year materialize, and that all our fears fade away as we navigate this surprisingly complicated 2023. Our expectation is to be right there with you, taming the troubled waters and keeping faith up.