

The International Ecolinguistics Association

Name of Organisation

The International Ecolinguistics Association

Mission and Vision

To bring together researchers to explore the role of language in the life-sustaining interactions of humans, other species and the physical environment.

To promote the development of linguistic theories which see humans not only as part of society, but also as part of the larger ecosystems that life depends on.

To promote the application of linguistic tools to address ecological issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental justice.

To contribute to the transformation of the social structures that underpin ecologically destructive societies.

To establish a disciplinary and transdisciplinary identity for ecolinguistics, and build links with other ecological science/humanities/social science disciplines and transdisciplinary fields.

To support conferences, dissemination of research findings and practical action.

Scope of Association

The focus of the Association is linguistic research which uses 'ecology' in the literal sense common to ecological science and other ecological humanities such as ecocriticism, ecopsychology and political ecology. That is, the *life-sustaining interactions of humans, other species and the physical environment* (or similar formulation).

Research which explores metaphorical ecologies is beyond the scope of the Association (e.g., an ecology of semantic units, an ecology of dialects, or an ecology of influences on language learners), unless the research makes explicit links to ecology in its literal sense.

Ethics

Since ecolinguistics examines the impact of language on *life-sustaining* ecosystems, it necessarily has an orientation towards preserving those ecosystems, in the same way that medical science has an orientation to preserving life.

The Association does not promote a specific ecological philosophy (ecosophy), and is open to members who base their work on any ecosophy (e.g., sustainable development, deep ecology, social ecology or ecofeminism).

Membership

Membership of the Association is free and open to any researchers or practitioners who wish to explore the role of language in the life-sustaining interactions of humans, other species and the physical environment. This includes ecologists, environmentalists and conservationists who are interested in language, as well as linguists and communication researchers who are interested in ecology.

Structure

Convenor: The convenor is responsible for the day-to-day running of the Association and can appoint co-convenors to assist with specific areas such as membership, journal editing, or bibliography editing. When a convenor leaves, the co-convenors can select a new convenor in consultation with the Advisory Group.

Advisory Group: The Advisory Group is made up of regional representatives and subject representatives. It is responsible for setting up local ecolinguistics associations, peer reviewing articles and books, responding to queries relevant to location/subject expertise, providing updates to the membership and offering advice to the convenors.

Constitution: Changes to the constitution can be made by the convenors in consultation with the Advisory Group.

Selection of Advisory Group: There will be a periodic call for representatives to cover those who leave or to ask for representatives of new regions or areas of study. If there is more than one representative for an area then it will be decided by vote.

Length of Terms: Convenors and Advisory Group members can continue in post as long as they feel they are actively contributing to the Association in a constructive way. If convenors or Advisory Group members are out of touch for a significant length of time or are not acting constructively in their role then they can be asked to leave by the convenors.

Finances

The Association holds no funds. Any accredited conferences or projects will need to be funded entirely by the organisers. Indirect funding of accredited projects or events is limited to suitable sources such as public funding bodies. The Association will not accredit any conferences or projects that are funded from inappropriate sources.

Conferences

The IEA will support conferences of a suitable academic quality which further the aims of the IEA and are organised ecologically. Support includes a) promotion of the conference on the IEA media platforms, b) permission to the use the IEA logo and endorsements such as “an IEA conference”, “in association with the IEA” or “accredited by the IEA”, c) the use of any existing IEA on-line conference facilities.

Journal

The Association will publish articles, digital stories, poetry and other forms of dissemination which lie within the scope of the Association. As far as is practically possible, these contributions will be in any language, and articles will be peer reviewed before publication.

Ecolinguistics List

The Association will operate a moderated mailing list for members to share news about what is going on in the world of ecolinguistics. The list will be moderated by the convenor, in line with moderation policies decided by the Steering Group.