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With this issue, we present Volume 38, Number 1 of the Journal of Language Technology and Computational Linguistics (JLCL). The journal continues to provide a forum for research at the intersection of computational methods and linguistic inquiry. The contributions in this issue reflect several current directions in computational linguistics and natural language processing, addressing questions of multimodal understanding, meaning, and language variation.

The issue opens with a dissertation abstract by Letitia Parcalabescu on vision and language models. The work investigates how multimodal systems combine information from different sources and how their capabilities can be evaluated and interpreted. As such models become increasingly important in language technology, questions concerning their understanding and transparency remain central research topics.

The two research articles highlight the importance of combining computational approaches with linguistic analysis. Maria Berger and Tatjana Scheffler investigate the cross-lingual operationalization of conceptual metaphors, exploring how linguistic expressions can provide insights into underlying conceptual structures. Eugenia Rykova, Elisabeth Zeuner, Susanne Voigt-Zimmermann, and Mathias Walther address challenges in automatic speech recognition for atypical speech by incorporating knowledge about aphasic and dialectal phonetic features into an ASR-based analysis pipeline.

Together, these contributions illustrate the continued need for methods that account for the complexity and diversity of human language. They also demonstrate how linguistic insights can contribute to the development and evaluation of language technologies.

We thank the authors and reviewers for their contributions to this issue and hope that the articles will stimulate further research and discussion within the JLCL community.

Christian Wartena