

Contents of

Eliasson, Stig. 2010.
The Nordic Association of Linguists:
The preparatory phase and the first thirty years
(1977–2006).

In Hans Götzsche (ed.), *Memory, mind and language*, 4–54. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

1. Introduction, 5
 2. Rationale, 6
 3. Preparations, 8
 4. Launching the Association, 14
 5. Nordic Journal of Linguistics (NJL), 15
 6. Nordic Linguistic Bulletin (NLB), 17
 7. Conferences and Proceedings, 18
 8. The Core Countries Represented in NAL, 22
 9. The Name of the Society, 23
 10. The Main Working Language of NAL, 24
 11. The Composition of the NAL Executive Committee, 28
 12. NAL in the Context of Other Linguistic Associations, 30
 13. Linguistic Schools in NAL, 33
 14. The Norden Languages, Sociolects, and Dialects as Pools of Empirical Data, 35
 15. Conclusion, 37
- References, 37

Appendices, 42

- A. NAL Bylaws, 42
- B. NAL Officers, NJL and NLB Editors, 44
- C. NJL Thematic Issues and Guest Editors, 46
- D. List of NAL Conferences, 47
- E. NAL Proceedings, 48
- F. NAL Links and E-mail Addresses, 54

(At the end of this pdf-file, you will find the title page, the table of contents, and two introductions taken from the volume that contains Eliasson's paper.)

We would like mention an article published outside the *NJL*. Stig Eliasson has written an article on the background, history and activities of the *Nordic Association of Linguists*: Eliasson (2010), full reference at the end of this note. The article traces the main stages of the *NAL*: the first tentative airings of the idea in the early 1970s, the launching of the *NAL* in 1977, and its subsequent development through 2006. It also outlines the history and the characteristics of the *NJL* and of the two *NAL* conference series: the *International Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics* and the *Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics*. Finally, the appendices provide a wealth of supplementary details, including a bibliographical listing of conference proceedings and of the thematic journal issues.

From
Ringen, Catherine & Sten Vikner. 2011.
Note from the Editors.
Nordic Journal of Linguistics 34(1), 1–2.

CHAPTER ONE

THE NORDIC ASSOCIATION OF LINGUISTS: THE PREPARATORY PHASE AND THE FIRST THIRTY YEARS (1977-2006)

STIG ELIASSON

NORTHERN EUROPEAN AND BALTIC LANGUAGES
AND CULTURES

JOHANNES GUTENBERG UNIVERSITY MAINZ

Abstract

The Nordic Association of Linguists (NAL) is the linguistics society of the five Nordic countries Denmark (with the Faeroes and Greenland), Finland (with Åland), Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. Founded in Austin, Texas, in 1976, NAL went into operation in January 1977. It is a major organizational platform for Nordic linguists and language scholars as well as linguists outside the Nordic countries working on the languages of this particular geographical region. Two series of international conferences are organized under its auspices, the *International Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics* and the *Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics*. Although oriented towards modern linguistics, the former conference series has traditionally tended to place a greater emphasis on the historical and descriptive study of the Scandinavian (i.e., North-Germanic) languages, whereas the latter one has been more concerned with general linguistic and theoretical issues and a wider range of languages. Beside an impressive string of conference proceedings, the major scholarly outlet of the Association is the *Nordic Journal of Linguistics* (NJL), since the beginning of 2003 brought out by the Cambridge University Press. The journal is open to contributions from all branches of linguistics, but gives priority to articles of a general theoretical and methodological nature and studies of the languages of the Nordic region. For a number of years (1977-2004), the Association also issued a news bulletin, the *Nordic Linguistic Bulletin* (NLB), until the spread of electronic communication made this form of news dissemination largely superfluous. This article traces the major issues and the main stages in the evolvement of the Association: the first tentative

airings of the idea in the early 1970s, the preparatory work in the years 1972-1976, the launching of the Association in 1977, and its subsequent development through 2006. Appendices provide supplementary details, a bibliographical listing of conference proceedings and thematic journal issues as well as Internet links.

1. Introduction

The *Nordic Association of Linguists* (NAL) is “the main organizational forum for Nordic linguists” (Hovdhaugen et al. 2000: 497).¹ The adjective ‘Nordic’ in its name is used in a political sense, referring to the five Nordic countries Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden, including the semi-autonomous Greenland, Faeroe Islands, and Åland Islands (with Greenland belonging geographically to North America). In the Nordic countries themselves, speakers normally apply the one-word designation *Norden* (or its equivalents, Icelandic *Norðurlönd*, Faroese *Norðurlond*, Finnish *Pohjoismaat*, sometimes *Pohjola*) to this region, a usage that I will occasionally resort to also in English (on the term Nordic, see also fn. 21). The idea of a society specifically geared to linguists in Norden was put forward informally in the early seventies and subsequently debated in more formal contexts. The Association was founded at the Third Interna-

¹ Jussi Niemi (Joensuu), NAL President 2003-2008, initiated this report on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of NAL in January 2007. I am greatly indebted to him for supplying copies of NAL Minutes from recent years and other related material, to Kurt Braunmüller (Hamburg) for providing missing issues of the *Nordic Linguistic Bulletin*, and to Jens Allwood (Gothenburg) for the seven volumes of proceedings of the two combined NAL conferences organized by him in Gothenburg in 1993. Thanks also go to Helge Dyvik (Bergen), Guðrún Þórhallsdóttir (Reykjavík), and Martha Thunes (Bergen) for answering queries or heeding requests for printed information as well as a number of individuals whose assistance is recognized in the appropriate places below. Jussi Niemi, Fred Karlsson (Helsinki), Hans Götzsche (Aalborg), Richard Hudson (London) and Kurt Braunmüller kindly read a pre-final version of this paper and provided helpful comments on specific points. Furthermore, it is only proper to acknowledge once again the generous grant from the Nordic Cultural Foundation in Copenhagen in 1974 that enabled the preparatory work necessary for launching the Association. As this is the first attempt to sum up the NAL activities over the years, since the information about NAL is widely scattered in different countries, and because in certain cases data have been lost or were not retrievable, the writing of these annals was somewhat tricky. Nevertheless, I have tried to secure accurate information and to double-check crucial details, and I hope inexactitudes have been kept at a minimum. All responsibility for the errors that remain rests, of course, with me.

tional Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics in Austin, Texas, in 1976 and started its work in January 1977. Its general aim is to provide a common scholarly and organizational platform for linguists in the Nordic countries as well as non-Nordic linguists with an interest in the languages of this particular region. This article will pursue the specific background, the broader setting, the preparatory phase as well as the development and main activities of NAL during the past thirty years and offer a succinct assessment of what has been achieved.²

2. The Rationale

The *raison d'être* of a specialized scholarly association derives from specific factors or developments in the disciplines concerned. During the 1960s, interest in general linguistics had gradually increased in the Nordic countries. In the 1960s-early 1970s, moreover, quite a few linguistics departments were established at various Swedish, Norwegian and Finnish universities. Accordingly, the need grew to maintain contacts between linguists at different Nordic locations, not only within the separate countries, but also across their borders.

During most of the 1960s, no regular inter-Nordic linguistics meetings existed. However, for the benefit of scholars working on Scandinavian languages and interested in general linguistic issues, the Icelandic Scandinavianist and linguist Hreinn Benediktsson took an important initiative by organizing an *International Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics* (ICNGL) in Reykjavík in 1969.³ The general theme of the conference was "The Nordic Languages and Modern Linguistics" (Benediktsson 1970: 25), where the term 'Nordic' was understood as referring specifically to the North Germanic, or Scandinavian, languages.⁴ Greenlandic, Sámi lan-

² When available at the time of writing, certain information has been provided in the Appendices also for the years following 2006.

³ Hreinn Benediktsson (1928-2005) was an internationally oriented scholar. After studies in Oslo and Paris in 1947-54, then in Freiburg and Kiel, he received his Ph.D. in linguistics from Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., in 1958. For the next forty years, up to 1998, he was professor of Icelandic linguistics at Málvísindastofnun Háskóla Íslands (Institute of Linguistics, University of Iceland). On his scholarly oeuvre, see, e.g., http://is.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hreinn_Benediktsson and Ottosson (2002).

⁴ In this article, the term 'Scandinavian languages' will always refer to the North-Germanic branch of the Germanic languages, whereas the adjective 'Nordic' will be employed in the wider political sense just cited. Hence, except for its presence

guages, Finnish, Meänkieli (Tornedalsfinska), Kven, Yiddish, and Romany were not within the purview of the conference (cf. also Hovdhaugen et al. 2000: 496). Thus, only one prominent scholar representing the non-Germanic languages in Norden, the Sámi language specialist Knut Bergsland from the Finno-Ugric Institute at the University of Oslo, participated in the meeting, although not with a paper. The conference, rightly hailed by everybody as a great success, was documented in an attractive volume of proceedings, and gave rise to a series of similar conferences, on which see further below. Benediktsson's timely initiative amply illustrated the value of inter-Nordic meetings with printed proceedings.

Nordic publication opportunities in general linguistics were otherwise provided by the journals *Acta Linguistica Hafniensia* (ALH) in Copenhagen, *Norsk Tidsskrift for Sprogvidenskap* (NTS) in Oslo, and *Studia Linguistica* (SL) at Lund. After irregularities in its publication, the old *Acta Linguistica* of Viggo Brøndal and Louis Hjelmslev had been resurrected in 1965, with the addition of the word *Hafniensia* and the subtitle *International Journal of General Linguistics* to its name. NTS (28 volumes, 1928-1976), until 1965 edited by the Celticist Carl Marstrand, was principally an internationally oriented outlet for Norwegian linguists ("[o]rgane exclusif des linguistes norvégiens"; NTS, vol. 23, 1969, inside front cover) rather than linguists from other countries, even though foreign linguists contributed, too. SL, in turn, appeared to suffer from a slight lull in the early seventies, at least in comparison to several other international journals. Apart from the journals just mentioned, in the 1970s, a plethora of provisional or sometimes even ephemeral working papers began to see the light of the day. These provided speed of publication and allowed many voices to be heard, yet the diversity sometimes hampered the overview, and permanence and availability in libraries were not always afforded. It was clear that the rapidly increasing quantity of linguistic research throughout the Nordic countries motivated some kind of coordination and a strengthening of the permanent publication channels. Ideally, such a step could also enhance the outreach to an international linguistic audience. In other words, a joint Nordic journal of linguistics seemed to be called for. Quite unexpectedly, this idea turned out to be in line with a broader initiative in Nordic publishing in the humanities at the time. As it emerged, the *Inter-Nordic Committee for Research in the Humanities* (Internordisk nämnd för humanistisk forskning) had decided to promote the coordination of Nordic scientific publishing in general and, at its meeting on Octo-

in quoted material, the expression "Nordic languages" in the sense of "Scandinavian languages" will not be used here.

ber 2, 1974 in Helsinki, entrusted a *Nordic Publication Committee for Journals in the Humanities* (Nordiska publiceringsnämnden för humanistiska tidskrifter) to work out corresponding recommendations and measures.⁵

Still another matter of relevance to linguists in the Nordic countries was the regular and rapid distribution of news on linguistic events, publishing, etc., which could in those days be best materialized by means of a newsletter. In sum, then, a joint permanent forum for Nordic linguists with a common Nordic linguistics journal, regular Nordic linguistics conferences, a vehicle for spreading news and information, and the option of taking further inter-Nordic initiatives appeared to be called for.

3. Preparations

From the initial idea to the actual establishment of an association, there was some way to go.⁶ In informal discussions with participants at the *Seventh Meeting for the Description of Swedish* (Sjunde sammankomsten för svenskans beskrivning), April 7-8, 1972, in Turku, Finland, the proposal met with interest. Encouraged by these positive reactions, I wrote a letter to Karl-Hampus Dahlstedt, professor of general linguistics at Umeå University, who had himself attended the Turku gathering and who had been charged with the task of organizing ICNGL 2 in Umeå in June 1973. The letter detailed the major arguments for a common Nordic linguistic forum, ending with the question whether the topic could be put on the agenda of the General Assembly of the Umeå conference. Moreover, word of the

⁵ This decision in turn had its roots in earlier developments regarding Nordic scientific publishing generally. As Martinsson (1973: 123; transl. SE) notes, “[in] 1961 through a decision at the meeting of the Nordic ministers of education, the Nordic governments assigned to the Nordic Cultural Commission the task of carrying out an analysis of Nordic journal production and, if called for, of submitting a proposal for rationalizations through widened Nordic co-operation”. Martinsson (*ibid.*; transl. SE) further explains:

The mood that constituted the point of departure in Swedish [research, SE] council circles was radical. Existing [nationally or locally based, SE] journals and monograph series (jointly called “journals”) should be abolished and replaced by new Nordic journals.

⁶ The need for some kind of joint permanent forum for Nordic linguists first became apparent to me when, as a graduate student of linguistics in Cambridge, Mass., in the late 1960’s, I noticed that sometimes similar descriptive, historical or theoretical issues were discussed in different Nordic countries without the discussants being seemingly aware of each other’s work.

informal Turku discussions rapidly spread. In May 1973, the Department of Linguistics at Stockholm University arranged a meeting on the organization of study programs in general linguistics in Sweden under the chairmanship of Bengt Sigurd, professor of linguistics in Stockholm. On this occasion, the need for a Nordic linguistics forum and a Nordic linguistics journal was voiced again. The meeting appointed a three-member committee consisting of Sigurd (as convener), Sture Ureland, and Eliasson to work for expanding publication opportunities for linguists (af Trampe 1973: 5). Further, it entrusted the task of arranging a symposium for Scandinavian linguists in the following year to the linguist group at the University of Gothenburg (*ibid.*).

The formal proposal for a Nordic linguistic association, including an associated journal, was made a month later, however, on June 19, 1973, in the General Assembly of ICNGL 2 under the chairmanship of the Helsinki Scandinavianist Carl-Eric Thors. The main objectives of the proposal were (Eliasson 1977b: 4):

- (i) to establish a common permanent forum for linguistics in the five Nordic countries
- (ii) to expand the publication resources in a relatively new and rapidly growing field
- (iii) to increase the opportunities for discussion by arranging meetings more frequently
- (iv) to aid in the dissemination and exchange of information on linguistics in these countries
- (v) to enhance, by joining forces, the Nordic participation in the international discussion in the field

Also Bertil Malmberg, Sweden’s best-known and most influential general linguist and main editor of *Studia Linguistica*, participated in the ensuing deliberations. In Bonebrake’s (1973: 1) words:

Professor Bertil Malmberg agreed basically to a linguistic society of Scandinavia, but preferred to reserve “national sections” for purposes of publication in order to review contributions. The publication *Studia Linguistica* could function as a publishing organ for the Swedish section provided the present publisher ... accepts such an agreement.

Having debated the various issues involved, the ICNGL Plenary Session (Resolutions 1973 [1975: 43])

adopted a resolution that a linguistic society of Scandinavia or a [N]ordic association of linguists be organized. The name of this body was not decided upon.

Moreover, “[t]he members at the conference elected ... an organizing committee, entrusted with the planning of the linguistic society and its journal” (ibid.). The committee consisted of six members, representing Denmark, the Faeroe Islands, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden (the Umeå Committee):

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Denmark: | Kristian Ringgaard (Aarhus) |
| Faeroe Islands: | Ulf Zachariassen (Tórshavn) |
| Finland: | Carl-Eric Thors (Helsinki) |
| Iceland: | Hreinn Benediktsson (Reykjavík) |
| Norway: | Einar Lundeby (Oslo) |
| Sweden: | Stig Eliasson (Uppsala) (Chair) |

On the same day, I also had a personal conversation with Malmberg, who declared himself willing to explore the possibility of some kind of coordination of the nationally based linguistics journals in Scandinavia. A few months later, after consultations with the publisher issuing SL, he contacted the boards of ALH and NTS on the matter (p.c., 9/19/73 and 10/19/73). Whether he received any response from ALH is not clear. The representatives of NTS, on the other hand, saw themselves unable to accept the conditions he had suggested. Presumably as a consequence of his lack of success, Malmberg turned against the proposed project.

Furthermore, the three-member group appointed in Stockholm in May 1973 for strengthening publishing opportunities for linguists was never summoned together. However, the idea of regular Nordic linguistics conferences was less delicate than that of a Nordic linguistics journal and a Nordic linguistic society. As an outgrowth of the discussions in Stockholm, the *First Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics* (here abbreviated SCL 1) was successfully arranged in Kungälv, Sweden, in March 1974.⁷ In

⁷ The word “Scandinavian” in the conference title refers to all the five Nordic countries. The choice of the preposition “of” in the title—which has parallels in names such as “World Congress of Semiotics”, “International Conference of Cognitive Science”, “International Congress of Psychology”, or “International Congress of Genetics”—recurs in the names of the following meetings in the series. At my request, Gregory K. Iverson (Milwaukee, Wisc./College Park, Md., p.c., 7/9/08) kindly provided native speaker intuitions on prepositional usage. Comparing with the International Circle of Korean Linguistics (ICKL, formed in 1975), he makes the following observations, worth quoting in full:

the concluding session on March 31, the participants debated the proposal for a Nordic society for linguistics further.⁸ Having decided upon a second SCL in 1975, they urged that, rather than waiting for the next ICNGL in 1976, a concrete proposal for a linguistic society should be delivered to the next SCL. To this end, they appointed an additional, five-member committee, in its composition partly overlapping with the Umeå one. The members of the Kungälv Committee were:

| | |
|----------|---------------------------------|
| Denmark: | Hans Basbøll (Copenhagen) |
| Finland: | Kalevi Wiik (Turku) |
| Iceland: | Hreinn Benediktsson (Reykjavík) |
| Norway: | Even Hovdhaugen (Oslo) |
| Sweden: | Stig Eliasson (Uppsala) (Chair) |

Having been designated chair of both committees, I united these as the *Committees for Nordic Linguistic Cooperation* (Kommittéerna för nordiskt lingvistiskt samarbete). Subsequently, I applied for and received funding for their work from the *Nordic Cultural Foundation* (Nordisk Kulturfond) of the *Nordic Council of Ministers* (Nordisk Ministerråd), the agency for Nordic governmental cooperation in Copenhagen. After preparations and preliminary consultations, the two Committees met for a full-day session

... the [Korean linguistics, SE] society ... has had the same issues. The organization is the ‘International Circle of Korean Linguistics’, with ‘of’, which seems to be pretty much OK, but it would work better with ‘Linguists’ rather than ‘Linguistics’. Still, as an organizational name, it doesn’t appear to be too odd. The meeting they hold, on the other hand, is the ‘International Conference on Korean Linguistics’ and here ‘of’ would be distinctly strange ... meetings are held ‘on’ a topic, but organizations can be ‘of’ something or, better, of people. So, ‘Scandinavian Conference on Linguistics’ would ring much better to my ear, while ‘Scandinavian Conference/Society/Circle of Linguists’, as an organization, would be fine. I’ve always wondered at the name ‘Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics’, and have assumed it just got stuck that way back in 1974.

The designation “International Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics”, introduced in the late sixties, exhibits in principle the same stylistic feature (also here the preposition might preferably be ‘on’), although in this case, due to the different syntactic setting, the deviation makes itself less strongly felt. Having appeared in the titles of several printed proceedings, including a volume of proceedings published in the US, the usage was also carried over into the NAL By-laws.

⁸ In this case, no minutes were taken and the conference proceedings contain no record.

in Uppsala on May 23, 1975. The Danish ALH was represented by its Editorial Assistant Niels Ege, the Editorial Board of the Norwegian NTS had entrusted to Even Hovdhaugen to be its spokesman, while the Swedish SL had submitted a brief written statement. The agenda included first of all the two primary questions whether a Nordic society of linguists was needed and whether a common Nordic linguistics journal would serve a useful purpose. In case of an affirmative answer to these two questions, the meeting was to discuss the possible name of the society, its organization, its starting date, whether to favor the creation of a new journal or to recommend refashioning an old one, and in the former case, what should be the name of the new journal, its publication policy, the structure of its editorial board, its starting time, and the relation between the society and the journal. Having considered all these issues, the two Committees decided unanimously in favor of founding a linguistics society and creating a common Nordic journal, whether—if this should turn out to be possible—as a continuation of one or more existing journals or constituting a new one.⁹

An interim report on the work of the Committees was read at the SCL 2 Business Meeting at Lysebu, Oslo, in April 1975 (Eliasson 1975) and was extensively debated by the people present. Furthermore, on behalf of the Committees, I had prepared a questionnaire that was circulated at the meeting. Of the 56 respondents, 46 were in favor of creating a Nordic linguistic society, 8 undecided, and 2 against. As for a common Nordic journal of linguistics, 50 were in favor, 4 undecided, and 2 against. Moreover, 26 respondents were in favor of starting a new journal, while 15 were undecided and 15 against, 14 of the latter opting for refashioning an existing journal for the task. Thus, the majority of the respondents were clearly sympathetic to the idea of a Nordic society and journal, whereas opinions about how to establish the journal were less clear-cut.

The final report of the Committees for Nordic Linguistic Cooperation was presented at ICNGL 3 at the University of Texas, Austin, on April 9, 1976, in its concluding Business Meeting under the chairmanship (in part) of the internationally renowned Harvard Scandinavianist and linguist Einar

⁹ Later, Professor Werner Winter, Secretary-Treasurer of *Societas Linguistica Europaea* (SLE), was to suggest a further option. In late 1976, he offered as an alternative to a Nordic journal now and then to devote an issue of the SLE journal *Folia Linguistica* to Nordic contributions. The particular needs and interests within the Nordic linguistic community seemed, however, to call for some kind of publication outlet in addition to the Pan-European *Folia Linguistica*.

Haugen.¹⁰ A special supplementary report outlined the pros and cons of a joint Nordic journal that was to gear to “general and theoretical linguistics as well as studies in the specific Scandinavian languages, Finnish and Lappish” (Minutes 1976: vii). In a long and detailed discussion, both reports were greeted with general approval. The meeting subsequently proceeded to pass a resolution to found a society by the name of the *Nordic Association of Linguists* (NAL) to go into operation on January 1, 1977. The conference further elected the first NAL Executive Committee, which included the following eight scholars from the Nordic countries:¹¹

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| President: | Stig Eliasson (Uppsala) |
| Vice-President: | Hreinn Benediktsson (Reykjavík) |
| Secretary: | Alvar Ellegård (Göteborg) |
| Treasurer: | Mirja Saari (Helsinki) |
| Members-at-large | Einar Lundebj (Oslo) |
| | Kristian Ringgaard (Århus) |
| | Carl-Eric Thors (Helsinki) |
| | Gun Widmark (Uppsala) |

The meeting further assigned to Even Hovdhaugen (Oslo) the task of preparing for the publication of the journal.

¹⁰ Einar Haugen (1906-1994) was Professor of Scandinavian and Linguistics at Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., from 1964 until his retirement in 1975. Haugen had done much to draw attention to Scandinavian linguistics internationally and to promote the Norwegian language in the US and elsewhere. Fittingly, at the later ICNGL 4 in Oslo in 1980, he was to be elected “the Association’s first Honorary Member” (1980 Business Meeting minutes, NLB 4.3-4, 1980: 104). On his multi-faceted contributions to 20th century linguistics, see, e.g., Eliasson (1997) and references there.

¹¹ The unchecked Texas “Minutes”, published in the conference proceedings, mention an executive “committee of ten members”. However, the preliminary proposal for statutes of the Association discussed before the Texas ICNGL explicitly envisaged a nine-member committee. Furthermore, although the question of a ten-member committee was raised at the Texas conference, the Business Meeting eventually settled for a nine-member board, and only nine members were elected. It may be added that one Committee member elected in Texas, the Information Secretary, did not take up his duties, which were therefore for the first two years handled by the chairman. In January 1979, the Finnish and Meänkieli specialist Erling Wande (Department of Finno-Ugric Languages, Uppsala University) took on the task as Information Secretary.

4. Launching the Association

NAL went into operation in January 1977, as planned. In agreement with the original motives for creating the Association, the preliminary By-laws (NLB 1.1, 1977: 10-12) describe its goals as follows (ibid. 10):¹²

[The aim of the Association] shall be to advance linguistic research and study in the Nordic countries. It proposes to attain this aim

(a) by publishing a journal, the Nordic Journal of Linguistics (NJL)

(b) by publishing a newsletter, the Nordic Linguistic Bulletin (NLB), for the dissemination and exchange of information, especially as pertaining to linguistics in the Nordic countries

(c) by arranging the International Conferences of Nordic and General Linguistics and the Scandinavian Conferences of Linguistics at regular intervals, and

(d) by any other appropriate means as may be decided by the Association in due course.

Besides handling certain legal, financial, and other practical formalities relating to the founding of the Association as well as initiating the recruitment of members, the three most urgent tasks were getting the journal off the ground, getting the newsletter started, and taking on the responsibility for the further planning of the two conference series. In what follows, we will first discuss the NJL, the NLB, and the conference series. Subsequently, we will touch on some topics that were either addressed at the founding stage of NAL, brought up during the course of its existence, or may for other reasons be of some special interest: the core countries represented in NAL, the name of the Society, its main working language, the composition of the NAL Executive Committee, NAL in the context of other linguistic societies in northern Europe and elsewhere, the reflection in NAL of linguistic schools, and the languages, sociolects and dialects of Norden as pools of empirical data in the NAL context. A short conclusion follows as well as an Appendix tabulating certain vital information on NAL that could be retrieved from available sources.

¹² By far the most important single source for the history of NAL is the *Nordic Linguistic Bulletin* (NLB), not least since the Minutes of many NAL Business Meetings are reproduced there. We will frequently refer to it below.

5. Nordic Journal of Linguistics (NJL)

In 1978, only one year after the launching of NAL, its journal, the *Nordic Journal of Linguistics* (NJL) began appearing. The rapid publication start was made possible above all because the Editorial Board of NTS had generously settled for supporting a common Nordic publishing policy and to turn NTS into a Nordic linguistic journal. This measure was fully in line with the general recommendations made by the *Nordic Publication Committee for Journals in the Humanities* (cf. above section 2).

In his editorial statement, the first editor of NJL, Even Hovdhaugen, observed that (Hovdhaugen 1978: 1):

both NAL and *NJL* represent a reaction against the accelerating speed of specialization ... They represent an attempt to stress the common factors and common interests of all linguists and the importance of cooperation at both the scholarly and organizational levels.

Specifically with respect to the journal, he expressed the hope “that *NJL* will become a scholarly focus for linguistics in the Nordic countries and stimulate linguistic research in these countries, and also that it will promote the international status and reputation of Nordic linguistics” (ibid. 2). According to a recent formulation of its editorial policy, NJL “covers all branches of linguistics, with a special focus on issues related to the Nordic languages (including Finnish, Greenlandic and Saami) and on issues of general theoretical interest” (NJL, vol. 31.1, 2007, inside front cover).¹³ International and inter-Nordic in scope, NJL has from the outset

¹³ These aims may be compared to the current editorial policies of ALH and SL. ALH (vol. 39, 2007: iii) defines itself explicitly as an outlet for the research interests of Danish linguists with supplementary input on the same or similar topics by international scholars (boldface added by SE):

Acta Linguistica Hafniensia is the **voice of the Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen**. Our aim is to **reflect the research of Danish linguists**, while simultaneously maintaining the international scope of the journal. One of the ways in which we seek to pursue this dual aim is to look for opportunities to present work of Danish contributors in combination with articles by international authors on related subjects. To the extent this strategy succeeds, we will (as a third aim) achieve a measure of thematic coherence.

Renamed *Studia Linguistica. A journal of general linguistics* in 1993, SL nowadays “provides an international forum for the discussion of theoretical linguistic research, primarily within the fields of grammar, cognitive semantics and language typology” (<http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/journal.asp?ref=0039-3193>;

been a refereed journal, generally published semi-annually. In 2003, Cambridge University Press (CUP) took over the publication, also making the Journal available online.¹⁴ The *Nordic Publication Committee for Periodicals in the Humanities* offers financial support. Unlike the SLE journals, *Folia Linguistica* and *Folia Linguistica Historica*, which require at least one author of a paper to be a member of the SLE,¹⁵ NJL remains open to contributors regardless of NAL membership. Since 1989, the second issue of each NJL volume is a thematic one, devoted to an area of language or linguistics of special contemporary interest. Guest editors are invited or may offer themselves for special issues on current topics. In the years 1988-2008, one thematic volume and 20 thematic issues appeared.¹⁶ Ex-

accessed 08/30/2008; cf. also NLB 16.3, 1992: 4). With a slightly different wording, it deals with “the field of general linguistics, such as syntax, morphology, phonology, semantics, pragmatics, psycholinguistics and computational linguistics” (<http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/journal.asp?ref=0039-3193&site=1>; accessed 08/30/2008). In 1992, when the journal was being remodeled, its publication scope vis-à-vis grammar was at first announced as the very special domain of “principles and parameters theory”, i.e., Chomsky’s Government-Binding (GB) model as in Chomsky (1981) (Blackwell [1992]: 2), but this restrictive formulation was soon dropped. The SL editorial statement makes no particular reference to the languages indigenous to the Nordic countries. Established in 1983, *Norsk Lingvistisk Tidsskrift* (NLT) publishes articles in Norwegian on general linguistic topics, on Norwegian, or on other languages, but also articles in English about Norwegian. The annual Finnish *SKY Journal of Linguistics*, created in 1988 and now available online as well as in a paper version, disseminates papers in all branches of linguistic research. The journal *NOWELE* (*North-Western European Language Evolution*) “is devoted not only to the study of the early and more recent history of a locally determined group of languages, but also to the study of purely theoretical questions concerning historical language development” (NOWELE 49, 2006, inside front cover). Also, some additional journals exist that may be less familiar to general linguists. For instance, members of the Institute of Language and Communication at Odense University bring out *RASK*, which is devoted to studies on language and communication in general. Similarly, the Department of Languages and Business Communication of the Aarhus School of Business, University of Aarhus, produces the semi-annual *Hermes. Journal of Language and Communication Studies* with articles in English, German, French, Spanish, Danish, Norwegian, or Swedish.

¹⁴ Through 1991, Universitetsforlaget (Norwegian University Press) put out NJL, beginning with vol. 15, 1992, under the name Scandinavian University Press (Universitetsforlaget). Taylor & Francis issued volumes 23-25, 2000-2002.

¹⁵ <http://www.folia-linguistica.com/contributors.html> (6/23/08).

¹⁶ For the complete list of thematic issues, see the Appendices under C. Volume 11, put together by the regular NJL editor, was devoted in full to computational

cepting shorter pieces (brief introductions to thematic issues, discussion notes, etc.), in the thirty-year period 1978-2007, NJL published 222 articles as well as 117 reviews or review articles, on an impressively wide range of linguistic topics.¹⁷

6. *Nordic Linguistic Bulletin* (NLB)

The main vehicle for quickly disseminating linguistic news to the NAL membership and other interested readers was for a long time the *Nordic Linguistic Bulletin* (NLB). The NLB, with its characteristic light yellow cover, was started and edited for two years by Stig Eliasson as interim editor. The purpose of the newsletter was “to serve as a means for spreading information relevant to linguistics, with a special focus on the Nordic countries” (Eliasson 1977a: 3) or, more specifically, to “carry information on such matters as linguistic meetings and symposia, ongoing linguistic research, recent linguistic literature, activities of the Association, and other news relevant to linguistics” (Eliasson 1977b: 5). As already noted, much of the running business of the Association is reflected in the NLB. Created before the advent and widespread use of swift electronic communication, it was to fulfil its task under a series of editors in Sweden, Finland, Norway, and Great Britain for 28 years (1977-2004). From April 1992, the Bulletin information was circulated in both electronic (*NLB Electronic News*, for short *NLB E-News*) and paper versions. Suffering the same fate as several other printed newsletters, e.g., the German *Mitteilungen der DGfS* or the American *LSA Bulletin*, it was phased out in October 2004. An alternative means of communication is the unmoderated NAL electronic discussion forum, *Nordlingnet*, established in 1996 by Helge Dyvik (Bergen), NAL President in the years 1993-1998. He described the purpose of the discussion list in the following way (NLB 20.4, 1996: 1):

Nordlingnet is the discussion list of the Nordic Association of Linguists (NAL). Its target group is linguists within all subfields of the discipline in the Nordic countries, and linguists elsewhere with an interest in Nordic languages.

linguistics: “Of the ten papers on Computational Linguistics in this double issue, five are based on papers presented at the Sixth Scandinavian Conference of Computational Linguistics, Copenhagen ..., 1987..., [earlier versions of which] also appeared in the proceedings of that conference” (NJL 11.1-2, 1988: 2).

¹⁷ No cumulative index exists of NJL articles, book reviews, topics, and authors over the past three decades.

Nordlingnet is meant to meet the need for informal net contact among linguists in the Nordic countries that is not fully met by the more general Linguist List. Relevant topics for the list include, for instance, discussions of linguistic data and theory, the teaching of languages and linguistics in universities and schools, information about conferences, courses and similar events, search for colleagues working on specific topics, and job postings. Contributions in all Nordic languages are of course welcome.

Inasmuch as the NLB no longer exists, it may for the future be of some interest to document systematically the main activities of the Association in some other way.

7. Conferences and Proceedings

The NAL conferences evidence a lively and multifaceted linguistic research scene in the Nordic countries. The ICNGL had been launched several years before the idea of a Nordic society of linguistics was brought up for public discussion. The SCL, moreover, was instituted prior to the actual formal foundation of the Association (section 3 above). The conference structure, therefore, was already established, when NAL went into operation. Often of longer duration, ICNGL has usually been held triennially, whereas SCL has tended to be annual or biannual. The venues for meetings have been institutions all over the Nordic countries except Greenland and the Åland Islands (Aalborg, Århus, Bergen, Copenhagen, Gothenburg, Helsinki, Joensuu, Lund, Odense, Oslo, Reykjavík, Roskilde, Stockholm, Tórshavn, Tromsø, Trondheim, Turku, and Umeå) as well as the University of Texas, Austin, Texas. Since 1977, the responsibility for finding organizers of the meetings rests with the NAL President and the Executive Committee, who have strictly upheld the principle of choosing different host institutions for successive meetings. In spite of a growing number of Nordic conferences devoted to specialized linguistic topics, the general NAL conference series, not least the SCL, have remained eminently attractive. Attendance has been good and there has been no shortage of papers offered. In contrast to the Linguistic Society of America (LSA), but like the SLE, NAL does not require the submitting author of a paper for a meeting to be a member of the Association. Actually, the large majority of the presenters are not.

In regard to themes, languages analyzed, the professional orientation of the participants, and the languages used in presentations, the two conference series in part overlap, in part differ. In their announcement of the 1995 ICNGL 9 and SCL 15 in Oslo, the organizers attempted to sum up

the similarities and differences (NLB 18.2, 1994: 10; bracketed substitutions and division into paragraphs by SE):

for those who are unfamiliar with these conferences, the following review of the different traditions for the two in many ways similar conferences may be useful. The differences have to do with conference language, participants and topics addressed in talks.

Papers at the [SCL] are usually given in English, whereas papers at the [ICNGL] are given in any of the Scandinavian languages, Norwegian (nynorsk or bokmaal), Danish, and Swedish, as well as in English or German.

As for participants at the two conferences, the majority at [SCL] have been general linguists in the Scandinavian countries (incl. Finland and Iceland), with some participation from other countries as well. A number of Scandinavianists and people from language (e.g. English) departments within Scandinavia have also participated. [ICNGL] has had a larger number of people from Scandinavian departments in the Scandinavian countries, but also many general linguists from these countries, as well as people from other language departments. [ICNGL] has tended to have a higher proportion of participants from outside Scandinavia, from Scandinavian and linguistics departments. The original goal of [ICNGL] was to bring Scandinavianists into closer contact with new developments in general linguistics.

When it comes to the topics covered at the two conferences, there has been extensive overlapping. However, [ICNGL] has concentrated more on the Nordic languages, whereas papers using data exclusively from languages outside the Scandinavian countries have mostly been given at [SCL]. ...

At least in principle, the scope of languages covered at the ICGNL has widened since the first meeting in 1969. As noted above, ICNGL 1 was devoted to the Scandinavian, i.e., North Germanic, languages to the exclusion of Fennic, Sámi, Greenlandic Inuktitut, etc. By the time of ICNGL 9 in Oslo, however, the organizers explicitly formulate the language scope as “the linguistic study of the Nordic Languages, Finnish, Sami and Greenlandic” (Fjeld et al. 1996: 7). The SCL, on the other hand, is the natural platform also for papers on West Germanic, Romance, Latin, Slavic, Turkic, Semitic, East Asian, and so forth. Beyond these features, in his review of the SCL 4 Proceedings, Haugen (1979: 5) brings up another characteristic of at least the early SCL meetings: “These annual meetings [i.e., SCL] are relatively informal, compared to the tri- or quadrennial International Conferences of Nordic and General Linguistics”. With some slight adjustments, we convert the foregoing observations into Table 1.

| | <i>ICNGL</i> | <i>SCL</i> |
|--|--|--|
| <i>Proportion of Nordic vs. non-Nordic participants</i> | Higher proportion of non-Nordic participants | Higher proportion of Nordic participants |
| <i>Departmental affiliation of participants</i> | A large number of Scandinavianists from the Nordic countries | Mostly general linguists from the Nordic countries |
| <i>Language of presentation (language in which papers are given)</i> | English, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, German | Usually English |
| <i>Language of data</i> | A greater proportion of Scandinavian linguistic data | Nordic or non-Nordic |
| <i>Proceedings</i> | More formal | Often more informal |

Table 1. Differing characteristics of the two NAL conference series, essentially as described in the ICNGL 9/SCL 15 meeting announcement (NLB 18.2, 1994: 10). Cf. quote in text.

The existence of two conference series instead of a single one is in part a consequence of how NAL came into being, in part the result of diverging general linguistic and language-specific professional pursuits. Naturally, the overlap/divergence raises the question of how to shape the conference activities in the future. The organizer of the 1993 ICNGL 8/SCL 14 in Gothenburg, Jens Allwood, tried to solve the problem by merging the two. Later, on the basis of responses to an inquiry (Dyvik 1993, Dyvik et al. 1994), the "NAL board ... opted for ... co-organization, but retained the identities of the two conferences, one occurring immediately before the other" (Dyvik 1994: 2). Accordingly, this was the solution for the next two meetings in Oslo in 1995, where ICNGL 9 immediately preceded SCL 15. Summarizing the achievements of ICNGL 9, the Oslo Scandinavianist Kjell Ivar Vannebo put in a strong plea for preserving this particular conference series (Vannebo 1996: 69; italics in original):

... it is important that the conferences on Nordic and General Linguistics are arranged. In my opinion we need conferences of this kind, where the

main subject is the Nordic languages as a whole. Specialisation in different topics is of course necessary, and conferences on more specialised topics are needed as well. But still it is important to have an opportunity to come together and discuss the total area of Nordic linguistics. This is important in order to preserve and promote Nordic studies as a field of research and as a field of education.

Three years later, in 1998, ICNGL 10 was organized in Iceland. Copenhagen was designated as the venue for ICNGL 11 in 2002 (Minutes 1998: 5), but this conference did not come about, and no ICNGL has followed thereafter. At the NAL Business Meeting in Helsinki on January 9, 2004, it was proposed "to currently discontinue ICN&GL and leave the option open, if a University/group of linguist[s] would like to resume organizing it in the future" (Minutes 2004: 3).¹⁸ However, at the NAL Business Meeting at Uppsala on October 2, 2008, the members of the meeting agreed that the ICNGL should be revitalized. Shortly thereafter, the Institut für Vergleichende Germanische Philologie und Skandinavistik at Freiburg University, Germany, submitted an offer to take on the organization of the next ICNGL (Minutes 2008: 2). For the time being, then, the issue, whether NAL should keep both conference series intact or, alternatively, arrange only one series of meetings at relatively fixed, regular intervals, perhaps annually or every three semesters, has been settled in favor of continuing the established practice.

The achievements of the NAL gatherings thus far are notable. By the year 2006, through joint efforts, Nordic, and in one case American, linguists and language scholars had successfully organized ten meetings of the ICNGL and 22 meetings of the SCL, nearly all of these with published conference proceedings. Moreover, the conferences have a distinctly international appeal. For instance, the 2002 SCL 19 in Tromsø at the world's northern-most university boasted participants from no less than 18 countries. The organizer of SCL 20 in Helsinki in 2004, Fred Karlsson, proudly records 181 participants from 25 countries (Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and USA) (Karlsson 2004: Preface). Numerous well-known or illustrious speakers and guest speakers have participated at the two conferences series, such as Raimo Anttila, Robert Austerlitz, Renate Bartsch, Lyle Campbell, Noam Chom-

¹⁸ The Minutes do not record an actual decision on the proposal, but judging from the formulation of the paragraph as a whole, this was the decision taken.

sky,¹⁹ William Croft, David Crystal, Carlos Gussenhoven, M. A. K. Halliday, Nils Hasselmo, Einar Haugen, John Hawkins, Berndt Heine, Robert D. King, Paul Kiparsky, William Labov, Howard Lasnik, Ilse Lehisté, William P. Lehmann, William G. Moulton, Edgar Polomé, Shana Poplack, Geoffrey Sampson, Peter Sgall, R. L. ('Larry') Trask, Peter Trudgill, Otmar Werner, and Wolfgang Ullrich Wurzel, to mention just a very few, whose contributions reflect many key issues of general or Nordic linguistics at the respective time. The wealth and variety of linguistic topics covered at these meetings are striking. All in all, the ICGNL and SCL Proceedings published in paper format or electronically through the year 2006 comprise over 50 volumes.²⁰

8. The Core Countries Represented in NAL

As the Nordic countries are knit together by multitudinous geographical, historical, political, cultural, linguistic, and personal bonds, they constituted a virtually self-evident frame for the new Association when it went into operation. It should be noted, though, that, in the wider North European context, especially Estonia has longstanding and intimate linguistic, cultural and other ties to Finland as well as many connections to Sweden. But, in the 1970s, when linguists in the Baltic countries were still largely cut off from intensive contacts with the West, the question of seeking cooperation with Baltic colleagues did not arise. Nowadays, however, the independence of the Baltic nations and the open borders would in principle allow for exploring opportunities for greater collaboration, not only with Estonian, but also with Latvian and Lithuanian linguists.²¹

¹⁹ On Chomsky's lecture at SCL 6 at Røros in 1981, see Elert (1981).

²⁰ Like in the case of the Journal, in order to facilitate for interested readers to find their way into all these materials and to retrieve articles on specific topics, a cumulated bibliography with title, author, and subject indexes would be helpful. This could, e.g., be achieved in the form of a searchable electronic database that is updated as new proceedings are published.

²¹ Among numerous possible research topics, there is, e.g., a range of issues relating to the languages of northern Europe. Linguistically, the Nordic countries, much of the Baltic states and the north-western rim of Russia constitute a continuous geographical area with 'small' indigenous languages (all below 10 million speakers) that—with the main exception of Belorussian (ca. 7.5 million)—is almost entirely surrounded by 'big' national or supranational languages: English in the British Isles (some 57 million), German in Germany, Austria and Switzerland (93 million), Polish in Poland, the Ukraine and Belorus (38 million), and Russian in Russia and adjacent regions (some 135 million) (speaker figures are very rough

9. The Name of the Society

Throughout the entire preparatory phase, the question of how to name the new society attracted much interest. Most suggestions converged on an English name. A few scholars favored a Latin designation such as *Societas Linguistica Nordica*, perhaps on the pattern of *Societas Linguistica Europaea*. In particular, given the ambiguity of the terms (cf., e.g., Vikør 1993: 15), the choice between 'Nordic' and 'Scandinavian' was intensely debated. In those days, the term 'Scandinavian' was decidedly much more familiar to English speakers, yet the term 'Nordic' won out in the end, due to its clearer reference (not least in the Nordic languages themselves!) to all the five Nordic countries. At the 1976 Texas meeting, the name *Nordic Association of Linguists* (NAL) was thus finally laid down and has remained unchanged since then. NAL carries no 'official' name in the individual languages of the Nordic area. Possible translations into some of these would be:²²

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Danish: | Den Nordiske Lingvistforening |
| Dano-Norwegian (Bokmål): | Nordisk lingvistforening |
| New Norwegian (Nynorsk): | Nordisk lingvistforening |
| Swedish: | Nordiska lingvistföreningen |
| Icelandic: | Norræna málfraðingafélagið, or |

estimates only, based on Haarmann 2001; cf. also, e.g., Janich & Greule 2002). In fact, as Jussi Niemi (p.c., 9/17/08) reminds me, "during the last few years in Nordic science policy, the term 'Nordic' has come to cover, in addition to the traditional Nordic area, the three Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as well as north-western Russia (the Leningrad oblast) (see, e.g., the web page of NordForsk, the joint Nordic Research Board at <http://www.nordforsk.org/index.cfm>). The NordForsk homepage states: "Many NordForsk activities are open to all countries in the Nordic region, which in addition to the Nordic countries includes the three Baltic countries Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania as well as North-Western Russia"

(<http://www.nordforsk.org/text.cfm?id=353&path4,21>; accessed 12/6/08). Another option is to use the designation "Northern European" in this broader sense (cf., e.g., fn. 32 on the Northern European Association for Language Technology).

²² I thank the following persons for supplying or verifying translations or giving advice on capitalizations: Hans Götzsche and Ole Ravnholt (the latter of the Dansk Sprognævn) (Danish), Jostein Stokkeland (Språkrådet, Oslo, Bokmål, Nynorsk), Ari Páll Kristinsson (Íslensk málnefnd, Icelandic), Marius Staksberg (Føroyska Málnevndin, Faroese), Erling Wande (Meänkieli, Finnish), Laila Palojevri (Sámi giellalávdegoddi, North, Lule, and South Sámi), and Carl Chr. Olsen (Oqaasilerifí, Kalaallisut).

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| | Norræna málfræðifélagið |
| Faroese: | Norðurlenska málfrøðingafélagið |
| Finnish: | Pohjoismainen kielitieteellinen yhdistys |
| Meänkieli: | Pohjoismainen kielentutkijoiden förenki |
| North Sámi: | Davviriikkaid lingvistasearvi |
| Lule (or Julev) Sámi: | Nuorttariikkaj lingvisstasiebrre |
| South Sámi: | Noerhteelaanti lingvistesiebrre |
| West Greenlandic: | Avannaamioqatigiinni Oqaasilerisut |
| | Peqatigiit |

In a nutshell, these varying designations provide a glimpse of major linguistic affinities and diversities of the area.

10. The Main Working Language of NAL

Such linguistic diversity constantly brings forth the question what the working language or languages of various Nordic organizations and bodies should be. A number of official Nordic national languages exist (even more today than thirty-four years ago, as additional official languages have since been recognized), but no Pan-Nordic lingua franca with roots in the region is available. Turning specifically to linguistics, while to the British LAGB and the German DGfS, the choice of English and German, respectively, was virtually self-evident, the situation in regard to NAL differed radically. What language or languages should have the priority in the publications, at the conferences, and in much of the running business of the Association: the major Nordic languages, these and English, or basically English alone? Some individuals, especially Einar Lundebj, expressed well-founded fears of promoting English-dominated scholarly publishing to the detriment of scholarship in the national languages. Nevertheless and, perhaps, rather ironically, even in linguistics, the problem of writing in minor mother tongues is all-too-familiar. Linguistic studies of general interest, but written in a minor language, may be read only by a handful of people or perhaps even be completely ignored, sharing the fate of several studies in the past whose language was not easily accessible to a cross-national or international public. Thus, Hovdhaugen et al. (2000: 139) claim that in earlier eras “many Nordic contributions to linguistics passed unnoticed simply because they were written in a Nordic language”. An additional consideration is that scholarship presented in minor tongues may contribute less to the international recognition of a geographically restricted field. As an illustration of 19th century concerns with this prob-

lem, Hovdhaugen et al. mention the correspondence of two Finno-Ugrists (ibid.):

In ... letters exchanged between the Hungarian scholar József Budenz and the leading Finnish Finno-Ugrist August Ahlqvist, numerous complaints were made about how much Finnish and Hungarian scholars published in their exotic languages (Finnish and Hungarian) and how damaging this was to the future and international status of Finno-Ugric studies.

This problem would perhaps particularly concern scholarship in Sámi, Kalaallisut, etc. More generally, however, for quite tangible, practical reasons, an auxiliary lingua franca for NAL publications and conferences was required. In actual practice, the complex language situation in Norden, and especially the fact that so few non-Finnish linguists know Finnish, left NAL with little other choice but to accept English as its lingua franca or back-up language.

For the official running of conference activities, this decision was also in essential agreement with Benediktsson's (1970: 8) policy for the first ICNGL: “The official language of the Secretariat of the Conference was English”. Nevertheless, he adds, “[c]ommunications at the Conference were permitted in any language, at the discretion of each member” (ibid.).²³ Given the variegated Nordic linguistic landscape, the issue of conference languages is not likely to be definitively settled, though. From time to time, it is being aired anew, as the following example from SCL 17 suggests (Minutes 1998: 4):

The question of conference languages was raised: should conference organisers insist on the use of a Nordic language? Since it is desirable to keep the conferences open for participants from outside Scandinavia, the meeting agreed that papers in any of the four languages Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, and English would be acceptable.

²³ Cf. that the SLE conference languages include English, French, German, Spanish, and the language of the host country, but the latter with the warning that too many papers in a minor language might deter international scholars from participating. The SLE all-European *Folia Linguistica*, now put out by Mouton that favours an English-only policy, is deliberately issued in English (“Contributions are to be in the English language only” (<http://www.folialinguistica.com/contributors.html>; accessed 08/31/08)) rather than in a variety of major European languages, excluding even German, French and Spanish as well as Italian and Russian. On some of the general issues relating to the use of English in academia, see now Gnutzmann (2008).

As will be noted, this formulation excludes also German, reflecting maybe to some extent the diminishing familiarity with this language on the part of Scandinavian general linguists.

Contributions to NJL have normally been in English, only quite exceptionally in other languages. For example, for the twenty-year period 1978-1997, there are a total of 225 papers and reviews in English (97.4%), only 4 are in German (1.8%), one each is written in Norwegian (0.4%) and Swedish (0.4%), and none in Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Faroese, or French. In response to a suggestion at the 1982 Business Meeting to leave the choice of language up to the author(s), Fred Karlsson, then NJL Editor, pointed out that "we might lose non-Nordic subscribers if we published too many papers in Scandinavian languages", with Ole Tøgeby adding that "most Nordic linguists have access to other journals where they can publish papers in Scandinavian languages" (Minutes 1982: 1).²⁴

The language of the published conference proceedings, finally, is predominantly English. Table 2 displays the proportions between English and the 'other languages' in the ten ICNGL proceedings, including those of the joint ICNGL/SCL conference in Gothenburg in 1993.

²⁴ For the North-Germanic languages, these journals include *Arkiv för nordisk filologi* (Lund), *Norsk lingvistisk tidsskrift* (Oslo), *Maal og Minne* (Oslo), *Språk och stil* (Uppsala), *Íslenskt mál og almenn málfræði* (Reykjavík), and *Orð og tunga* (Reykjavík). *Virittäjä* (Helsinki) puts out contributions in Finnish (articles with summaries in English, German or French), whereas *Finnisch-Ugrische Forschungen: Zeitschrift für finnisch-ugrische Sprach- und Volkskunde* (Helsinki) publishes articles in English or German. The more informal *Fenno-Ugrica Suecana* (Uppsala), with contributions in Swedish, Finnish, English, and German, was discontinued in 1994, but may be resurrected soon in digital form (Erling Wande, p.c., 2008). Among local publications, we may mention *Nordica Bergensia*, an outlet primarily for students and faculty of the Nordic Department of the University of Bergen, that publishes mostly in Norwegian. On still other language journals in the Nordic countries, see Hovdhaugen et al. (2000: 317-321, 502-504). In addition, Enkvist et al. (1992: 99-102) furnish a listing of Swedish monograph series, working papers, etc., in various branches of language study, several of which accept contributions in Swedish.

The Nordic Association of Linguists

| | Place | Type of paper | English | Danish | Norwegian | Swedish | German | French | Plenaries total | Section total | Plenaries + section |
|----|--------------------|-----------------|---------|--------|-----------|---------|--------|--------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Reykjavík 1969 | Plenaries, etc. | 9 | | 1 | | | | 10 | | |
| | | Section papers | 17 | | | | 3 | | | 20 | 30 |
| 2 | Umeå 1973 | Plenaries | 8 | | | | 1 | | 9 | | |
| | | Section papers | 21 | | | | 7 | 1 | | 29 | 38 |
| 3 | Austin, Texas 1976 | Plenaries | 24 | | | | | | 24 | | |
| | | Section papers | 30 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | 35 | 59 |
| 4 | Oslo 1980 | Plenaries | 10 | | 2 | | | | 12 | | |
| | | Section papers | 16 | | 2 | 1 | | | | 19 | 31 |
| 5 | Århus 1983 | Plenaries | 2 | 2 | | 2 | | | 6 | | |
| | | Section papers | 11 | 10 | 4 | 3 | 3 | | | 31 | 37 |
| 6 | Helsinki 1986 | Plenaries | 3 | 1 | | | | | 4 | | |
| | | Section papers | 23 | | | 4 | 2 | | | 29 | 33 |
| 7 | Tórshavn 1989 | Plenaries, etc. | 5 | | | 1 | | | 6 | | |
| | | Section papers | 33 | 6 | 2 | 8 | | | | 49 | 55 |
| 8 | Gothenburg 1993 | Plenaries | 2 | | | | | | 2 | | |
| | | Section papers | 91 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | 95 | 97 |
| 9 | Oslo 1995 | Plenaries | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | | 4 | | |
| | | Section papers | 6 | | 9 | 5 | | | | 20 | 24 |
| 10 | Reykjavík 1998 | Plenaries | 2 | | | | | | 2 | | |
| | | Section papers | 22 | 1 | | 1 | | | | 24 | 26 |
| | | | 337 | 21 | 25 | 28 | 18 | 1 | 79 | 351 | 430 |

Table 2. Language choice in plenary and section papers published in the ICNGL Proceedings (prefaces, etc., not included). As ICNGL 8 was merged with SCL 14, the papers of the latter are included in the above count.

As Table 2 shows, of a total of 430 published papers in the sample, 337 (78%) are in English, while 93 papers (22%) are in other languages. Of the latter, almost 6% are in Norwegian, 6.5% in Swedish, barely 5% in Danish, and 4% in German. In spite of the fact that the respective conference organizers have usually left the choice of language—at least among the major ones in the area—more or less open, the dominance of English is thus rather overwhelming. It should be remembered, however, that not few presenters came from outside Norden. No contributions to the ICNGL volumes, published so far, are in Faroese, Finnish, or Icelandic. Even frontispiece matter in the various proceedings is normally in English or in a ‘major’ Scandinavian language. Exceptionally, the “Formæli” (‘preface’) of the Tórshavn ICNGL 7 Proceedings is in Faroese.²⁵

11. The Composition of the NAL Executive Committee

Turning now briefly to some organizational matters, a remark may be in order in regard to the composition of the NAL Executive Committee. A practical reason for having nine members on the board was that it would allow the four larger countries Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden normally to have 2 representatives each, while the smaller Iceland would have one. Furthermore, in order to ensure renewal as well as continuity, the elections to the Committee are staggered. According to the original version of the NAL Bylaws, one third of its members were to be elected or re-elected each year by the Business Meeting or by mail.²⁶ The normal term of office is three years with the option of being re-elected once.²⁷ After two three-year periods, a member has to step down for at least one year before being eligible for the Committee again.

To some extent as a consequence of the way in which the Association came into existence (having been formally proposed to and founded by the general assemblies of the Scandinavianist-dominated ICNGL), the proportions of general linguists and individual-language specialists elected to the

²⁵ Also in the newsletter, business meetings, and minutes, English is very prominent.

²⁶ In the latest version of the statutes (§ III:2), the word “annually” has been dropped.

²⁷ Exceptionally, the first Executive Board served for four years. In addition, as a practical means to achieve the desired staggering of terms, the 4th NAL Business Meeting in Oslo in 1980 re-elected two members for only one and elected three for only two years (cf. Minutes 1980, NLB 4.3-4, 1980: 102f.). A tabulation of the officers in the early years (1977-1985) is found in NLB (9.3, 1985: 29). For the next few years through 1987, see NLB (11.1, 1987: 36).

Executive Committee were initially much in favor of the language-specialists, more precisely, Scandinavianists. The first complete operative Executive Committee in 1979 included no less than six scholars with a strong orientation towards Scandinavian language history and the description of individual Scandinavian languages (Benediktsson, Saari, Lundebj, Ringgaard, Thors, Widmark), one English specialist (Ellegård), one Finnish specialist (Wande), and only one person from a general linguistics department (Eliasson). In contrast, the research emphases of the members of the 2008 Executive Committee (Niemi, Thráinsson, Dimitrova-Vulchanova, Karlsson, Lars-Olof Delsing, Hans Götzsche, Jørgen Chr. Bang, Gjert Kristoffersen, Urpo Nikanne) are largely different. While the synchronic description of the major languages in Norden (Icelandic, Faroese, Norwegian, Danish, Swedish, Finnish) continues to be well covered by this group, Scandinavian language history occupies a more modest position as compared to the situation in the late 1970s. Instead, areas such as syntactic theory, computational linguistics, and neurolinguistics are clearly visible. Moreover, Finnish is now much better represented in the Committee.

Gender and minority representation on the NAL Executive Committee is another facet that may be considered. In order to get off the ground, NAL had at the beginning to rely on people who had reasonably secure positions in the Nordic academia. Reflecting gender imbalances at the universities at the time, the first NAL Executive Committee was heavily male-dominated with only two members out of nine being women (Mirja Saari, Gun Widmark). Later, this glaring imbalance was gradually rectified. In 1985, the board included four female scholars (Inge Lise Pedersen, Auli Hakulinen, Marit Christoffersen, Elisabet Engdahl), in 1995 four (Caroline Liberg, Marja Leinonen, Kersti Börjars, Elisabeth Ahlsén), and in 1999 five (Kersti Börjars, Þóra Björk Hjartardóttir, Marja Leinonen, Hanne Gram Simonsen, Helena Kangasharju) (NLB 9.3, 1985; 19.3, 1995; 23.3, 1999, inside front covers). The matter of an adequate representation on the Committee by researchers working on Nordic minority languages still persists, however.

On a few occasions in the early years, the issue of non-Nordic representation on the Executive Committee was broached. A comparison with the policies of LSA, LAGB and DGfS seems natural here. The statutes of these organizations state no residential restrictions, but in practice the organizations seem generally to engage individuals or residents from the respective countries (or groups of countries) on their executive boards. Neither do the NAL statutes require officers of the Association to be residents of a Nordic country. When the Association was being launched, it

was advantageous, however, to be able to rely on Executive Committee members and a Journal Editor who had a good knowledge of, and easy access to, a variety of Nordic institutions and funding organizations. Similarly, the management of the NAL funds and the publication of NLB were handled more smoothly from inside the Nordic countries than from the outside. Moreover, at least at that time, tending to certain formal matters such as fulfilling the function of legally responsible NLB publisher (distinct from the task as NLB Editor) was simpler under a Nordic residency. Finally, it is easier for the Executive Committee to meet when needed, if its membership is not spread out still further, especially as NAL cannot provide general coverage of travel expenses. After the consolidation of NAL, however, residents from outside the Nordic countries have occasionally served on the Executive Committee, as when the Swedish-born Kersti Börjars (Manchester) was the President of the Association during the years 1999–2002 and Katrin Hietam (Manchester) NLB Editor. Likewise, because the NJL Editors are co-opted for the Executive Committee with respect to issues concerning the Journal, we should add that, since 2001, Catherine O. Ringen (Iowa, USA) is one of the Editors of NJL.

12. NAL in the Context of Other Linguistic Associations

A sample of major international, European, or non-Nordic national linguistics organizations of interest to linguists in Norden is:

| Name | Acronym | Founded |
|--|---------|---------|
| Societas Linguistica Europaea | SLE | 1966 |
| Association for Computational Linguistics | | |
| European Chapter | EACL | 1982 |
| Association for Linguistic Typology | ALT | 1994 |
| International Phonetic Association | IPA | 1886 |
| Association Internationale de Linguistique Appliquée | AILA | 1964 |
| European Second Language Association | EUROSLA | 1989 |
| Generative Linguistics in the Old World | GLOW | 1977 |
| Society for Endangered Languages (Gesellschaft für bedrohte Sprachen) | GBS | 1997 |
| Linguistic Society of America | LSA | 1924 |
| Linguistics Association of Great Britain | LAGB | 1959 |
| Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft | DGfS | 1978 |

The linguistic umbrella organization for Europe is the SLE, devoted in principle to all branches of general linguistics. The major association for computational linguistics is the EACL, formally announced in 1982. In

contrast, the *International Committee on Computational Linguistics* (ICCL) is not a regular association, but was formed in the mid 1960s as a permanent organ for running international computational linguistics conferences (COLINGs). However, the ACL assists the ICCL by distributing the COLING proceedings. The ALT, with members worldwide, devotes itself specifically to typology and universals research. The oldest society in the above list, the IPA, addresses itself particularly to the needs of linguistic phoneticians and descriptive phonologists. The AILA—the creation of which was originally decided upon in Stockholm in 1963 and which was formally constituted at the Université de Nancy, France, in 1964—had a second start at the Second International Congress of Applied Linguistics at the University of Cambridge in 1969. The AILA affiliates in the Nordic Countries are the *Association Suédoise de Linguistique Appliquée* (Svenska föreningen för tillämpad språkvetenskap, ASLA, founded in 1964 and formally constituted in 1966 (Gorosch 1979: 10)), the *Association Finlandaise de Linguistique Appliquée* (AFinLA, founded in 1970), and the *Association Norvégienne de Linguistique Appliquée* (ANLA, with statutes from 1969), while no AILA affiliate is currently active in Denmark.²⁸ The European-based EUROSLA deals specifically with research on second language. As its name suggests, the GLOW group is strongly generatively oriented, while the GBS takes on the cause of endangered languages, an issue of importance also to the Nordic-Baltic region. The internationally most prominent national organization of linguists is, of course, the LSA with numerous foreign members. The LAGB, is the national organization for Great Britain, but likewise with a broad international appeal.²⁹ The German DGfS founded in 1978 (also reported in NLB 2.1, 1978: 23f.), which besides general linguistics gears strongly to German linguistics, has since 1988 also a special “Sektion Computerlinguistik” with separate meetings.³⁰ For the most part, none of these miscellaneous organizations

²⁸ The Danish *Association Danoise de Linguistique Appliquée* (ADLA) has been dissolved and Danish applied linguists may join AILA through the German *Gesellschaft für Angewandte Linguistik* (GAL) (Antje Wilton, AILA Secretariat, p.c., 7/7/08). Similarly, the Nordic co-operation committee of applied linguists, *Comité de Coopération des Associations Scandinaves de Linguistique Appliquée* (AScLA), founded in 1965, no longer exists. General information on AILA is found under:

<http://www.aila.info>. On the history of AILA, see:

<http://www.aila.info/about/history/index.htm>. AILA affiliates are listed under:

<http://www.aila.info/members/affiliates/index.htm>. The ASLA link is:

<http://www.nordiska.su.se/asla>, the ANLA one: <http://www.hf.ntnu.no/anla>.

²⁹ For its history, see Hudson (2009).

³⁰ On DGfS, see: <http://www.dgfs.de/cgi-bin/dgfs.pl>.

maintain formalized, regular co-operation with each other, nor, for that matter, is NAL formally involved with any of them. Contacts occur primarily at the individual level.

Within the Nordic countries themselves, in 1977, in the wake of the planning for a Nordic organization and one year after the foundation of NAL, some Finnish linguists set up the *Suomen kielitieteellinen yhdistys* (SKY; in Swedish: *Språkvetenskapliga föreningen i Finland*; in English: *The Linguistic Association of Finland*) with aims reminiscent of those motivating NAL, but directed towards the Finnish context.³¹ Following a suggestion by Paavo Siro, Fred Karlsson and Auli Hakulinen laid the groundwork for the society and wrote up the draft for statutes (Fred Karlsson, p.c., 9/30/08). Kalevi Wiik (Turku), from 1974 onwards a member of the Committees for Nordic Linguistic Cooperation, served as the first SKY chairman (NLB, *ibid.*; Hovdhaugen et al. 2000: 500). In 1979, three years after the foundation of NAL, Icelandic linguists set up *Íslenska málfræðifélagið* (*The Icelandic Linguistic Society*) (cf. NLB 4.2, 1980: 65). In the Nordic countries, there are also several, strictly specialized societies that represent some specific sub-branch of general linguistics.³² NAL, however, is the only cross-national, general linguistic organization in the Nordic countries.

³¹ The aims of SKY were (NLB 2.1, 1978: 22):

- a) to advance linguistic research and education in Finland, especially as regards general linguistics, by nearing scholars representing particular languages and general linguistics to each other, by arranging meetings, symposiums, lectures, and courses, and by disseminating information about ongoing research in Finland and abroad;
- b) to create and promote international relations to organizations with similar aims.

³² An example is *Nordisk forening for leksikografi* (NFL, *Nordic Association of Lexicography*), established in 1991, with biannual conferences and, since 1994, the annual journal *LexicoNordica*. The Northern European Association for Language Technology (NEALT) serves the Nordic and Baltic geographical area as well as north-western Russia; starting in 2009, it will publish the open-access, on-line journal *Northern European Journal of Language Technology* (NEJLT), accepting publications in English (<http://www.nejlt.ep.liu.se/>; accessed 12/4/08). Other specialized, national, societies are *Suomen kognitiivisen kielitutkimuksen yhdistys* (*The Finnish Association of Cognitive Linguistics*, FiCLA), founded in Stockholm in 1999, and *Svenska Sällskapet för Språk och Kognition* (SSSK) (*Swedish Association for Language and Cognition* (SALC)), established in Umeå in 2006.

13. Linguistic Schools in NAL

As with Benediktsson's 1969 initiative, one of the several objectives of NAL was to try to bring linguistic theoreticians and individual language specialists across the Nordic countries closer together. The interdependence of theoretical and empirical concerns seemed fundamental. Nevertheless, a certain tension between theoretical, when understood as dealing excessively with abstract constructs and formal machinery, and empirical aspects of linguistic research has sometimes been noticeable, particularly in connection with the NAL conferences. Ringgaard (1984: 5), discussing the ICNGL, hints at this (transl. SE):³³

the conferences ... are a forum, where Scandinavianists and linguists can meet for mutual inspiration. Too rudely and a bit offensively expressed: linguists may now and then need to be pulled a bit closer to the ground and to be confronted with facts from well-known and well-investigated languages just as well as Scandinavianists may at times need to be lifted up into thinner strata of air and notice the wind blowing ...

The issue of theory-focused vs. data-oriented research turns somewhat more complex when theory construction is intermingled with the claims of specific linguistic schools. By the 1970s, the 19th century Neo-Grammarians tradition had, of course, lost its grip even in its most steadfast strongholds like Uppsala, Lund, or Helsinki.³⁴ Structuralism, which had once gained a firm foothold in linguistic studies at several Nordic universities, foremost of these Copenhagen, was also in decline, although, in the

³³ Kristian Ringgaard (1918-1998), Danish dialectologist and historical linguist, was professor of Scandinavian languages at the University of Århus. In the Danish original:

"konferencerne ... er et forum, hvor nordister og lingvister kan mødes til gensidig inspiration. For groft og lidt fornærmende udtrykt: lingvisterne kan af og til godt behøve at blive trukket lidt nærmere jorden og blive konfronteret med fakta fra velkendte og veludforskede sprog, lige såvel som nordisterne til tider kan trænge til at blive hævet op i tyndere luftlag og mærke vinden blæse."

Note, incidentally, that in the subtitle of the edited Proceedings from his conference, Ringgaard replaced Hreinn Benediktsson's original formulation "Nordic and General Linguistics" by the expression "Nordic Languages and Modern Linguistics", thereby perhaps alluding to the difference between data- vs. theory-oriented research. Later conference organizers resumed the previous usage.

³⁴ Cf., e.g., miscellaneous historical accounts in Carlsson (1976). In Finland, the change took place around 1965 (Fred Karlsson, p.c., 9/30/08).

Nordic countries, it had not been exposed to the shrill attacks that were launched in the US in the late 1950s and the 1960s. Even the generative enterprise, in the very late sixties-early seventies so successful also in Norden, had begun to be questioned.³⁵ Nevertheless, the inclination of Nordic theoretical linguists after the generation of Louis Hjelmslev, Paul Diderichsen, etc., was to adhere strongly to non-Nordic theoretical models. In his review of the papers of SCL 4, Haugen (1979: 11) remarked:

The papers of this congress [SCL 4] ... bear witness to the rise of a new generation of internationally oriented scholars, eager to explore new horizons. They are diligently reading and discussing their Anglo-American prophets, spiced by German and French epigones. Their apprenticeship is taking them through one linguistic school to another, while some continue to embrace well-established paradigms.

To some, generative tenets may at times have played too strong a role. The organizers of SCL 13 in 1992, Lars Heltoft and Hartmut Haberland, appear to allude to such a sentiment in the following quote (Haberland & Heltoft 1996: 5):

The 1992 conference differed from earlier and subsequent conferences in this series in at least one respect. It was not dominated by any particular trend in linguistics, not even by any school of grammar. On the contrary, the intention of the organisers was exactly to open a new forum for debate and exchange of ideas in Scandinavian linguistics. Thus, a number of papers on grammar represent functional or functionally oriented traditions, especially the Copenhagen School of functional grammar. Another group represents formally oriented traditions, some GB, some LFG, some still others.

The only general session featured Professor Peter Eisenberg of Berlin (now Potsdam). In the view of the editors, Peter Eisenberg has a message for both sides: for formalists that syntax is not just form (expression), but has a content aspect as well — to functionalists that not just any content description will do: Content analysis depends on what is linguistically relevant, that is, on what is expressed in the language under investigation.

To others, generative grammar probably did not have the place it ought to be entitled to. Comparing two NAL syntax workshops, the one at

ICGNL 8 /SCL 14 in 1993 and the earlier one at SCL 9 in 1986, Hedlund & Holmberg write (1994: vii):

Five of the contributors to the present volume were represented also in the 1986 volume At the time they were all students, except [one]. Now they all hold relatively high academic positions. Does this perhaps reflect an improvement of the status of generative grammar in Scandinavia, and/or that working with generative grammar pays off in Scandinavia, if you are stubborn enough? In fact the position of generative grammar within linguistics in Scandinavia has improved since 1986, but not dramatically. It is still almost nonexistent in Denmark, highly marginal in Finland, somewhat less marginal in Sweden and relatively strong in Norway and Iceland. ...

On the other hand, Hedlund & Holmberg (*ibid.*) record successes in placing Scandinavian generative syntax on the agenda within the international generative camp:

Of the remaining contributors [to the 1994 volume], four are non-Scandinavians This is a nice illustration of the fact that since 1986 Scandinavian syntax has definitely become an international concern. This is perhaps especially true of Icelandic, but the Mainland Scandinavian languages, too, seem to have now entered the family of household languages within generative grammar, on a par with, say, Irish, Chinese, and Chichewa.

Speaking of the ICNGL in general, Hovdhaugen et al. (2000: 497) suggest that generativists did not always feel at ease in that setting: "The development of generative grammar is reflected in the later meetings and proceedings of these conferences, although generativists have sometimes either boycotted the conference or held separate parallel sections and produced a separate publication." Neither has Optimality Theory—"THE Linguistic Theory of the 1990s" (Archangeli 1997: 1)—assumed any predominant position at the NAL conferences and in the resulting proceedings. On the whole, like in SLE, theoretical plurality has been accepted.

14. The Norden Languages, Sociolects, and Dialects as Pools of Empirical Data

Whereas, e.g., the German DGfS draws the bulk of its members from an indigenously predominantly monolingual area (excepting Schleswig Danish, North and East Frisian as well as Upper and Lower Sorbian), NAL attracts most of its membership from a linguistically much more varied territory. Culturally relatively homogeneous, this vast geographical region

³⁵ In Britain, at an early point, Lyons (1970: 116) even submitted: "we must at least envisage the possibility that Chomsky's theory of generative grammar will be dismissed one day, by the consensus of linguists, as irrelevant to the description of natural languages".

(ca. 1,561,000 square kilometres, not counting glaciers and water) harbors numerous indigenous or long-established languages. These include Greenlandic (Greenlandic Inuktitut, or Kalaallisut), half a dozen Sámi languages (South, Ume, Pite, Lule, North, and Inari Sámi, but also the Skolt Sámi of speakers resettled from the Soviet Union during World War II), Kven, Meänkieli (or Tornedalsfinska), Romany, and Yiddish, alongside the major standard languages Icelandic, Faroese, Nynorsk, Bokmål, Danish, Swedish, and Finnish. Kalaallisut, furthermore, has close connections to continental American Inuktitut, Finnish to other Fennic (or Baltic-Finnic) languages in Estonia, Latvia, and Russia (Livonian, Estonian, Võru, Votic, Ingrian, Veps, Karelian), and Sámi in Norway, Sweden and Finland to Sámi languages spoken or once spoken on the Russian Kola Peninsula (Skolt, Akkala, Kildin, and Ter Sámi).³⁶ In addition, like in western European nations generally, recent immigration has brought in speakers of very many new languages such as Spanish, Serbian/Croatian/Bosnian, Russian (especially in Finland), Turkish, Kurdish, Hindi/Urdu, Somali, Tigrinya, and so forth.

The broad Nordic spectrum of languages is partially reflected in the NAL publications, yet in no way to the extent that might be expected. Haugen (1979: 5f.) counted what language the contributors to the Proceedings of SCL 4 had selected as their source of data. Leaving out here the non-Nordic presenters, of the remaining 56 Nordic contributors, about 39% had chosen data from their native tongue (10 authors Danish, 5 Norwegian, 5 Swedish, and 2 Finnish), some 23% of the Scandinavian authors dealt with English, 19.6% with other languages, while about 18% of the papers were general. Notably, two of the Nordic contributions dealing with other languages than the author's own mother tongue focused on Canadian and Greenlandic Inuktitut, respectively, both of these authors being members of the Institute of Eskimology at the University of Copenhagen. On the other hand, Sámi, Meänkieli, and Kven as well as Icelandic and Faroese were missing. The seven volumes of Proceedings from the 1993 SCL 14/ICNGL 8 in Gothenburg, all in all comprising well over 1350 printed pages, may serve as another example. Although many of these contributions are hard to classify, of a total of 97 papers, close to one third are general. Many papers are linguistically mixed, that is, they resort to data from several different languages, also from Norden. Perhaps about a quarter of the 97 papers might be classified as having Swedish or Norwe-

³⁶ On the linguistic situation in Norden, see Vikør (1993), on Sámi also Sammal-lahti (1998). I thank Michael Rießler (Freiburg im Breisgau) for a helpful comment on the Skolt Sámi.

gian as their prime source of data. Danish, Icelandic, and Meänkieli as prime data languages are only very meagrely represented. Moreover, no paper at all in these volumes draws on a body of data from Kalaallisut, Faroese, or the Sámi languages. Thus, as the lacunae in the NAL conference proceedings suggest, large pools of empirical data within relatively easy reach of linguistics departments in Norden are still waiting to be explored for general linguistic purposes. A special task of NAL might be to attempt to stimulate and promote the description of the minority languages and the endangered languages in the region.

15. Conclusion

In contrast to the all-European SLE, the national/international LSA, or even the largely national LAGB and DGfS, the *Nordic Association of Linguists*, which represents linguists in a region of merely 25 million inhabitants, can never aspire, by international standards, to be a large linguistics association. Also, within their respective countries, the LSA, LAGB and DGfS have the numerical force and financial resources to represent linguistics also in national public contexts. Like the multi-nationally based SLE, NAL does not have this function. Nevertheless, in the Nordic countries, it fulfils a not unimportant role as a common forum for linguists and language scholars. From the start reflecting a broad non-sectarian consensus, the NAL activities were carried on through the joint, devoted efforts of a large number of individuals from all Nordic countries and many different areas of linguistics. Through its meeting structure and through its journal, NAL has contributed significantly to maintaining inter-Nordic contacts and communication in linguistics. By and large, its structure has proven viable, as attested by the maintenance of uninterrupted publication schedules and regular conference activities for over thirty years. The establishment of the Association seems also to have stimulated innovation elsewhere on the Nordic linguistic scene, not least in regard to journal publishing and perhaps also in the formation of some national linguistic groups. For the future, the work in NAL will hopefully go on, continuing to serve common linguistic endeavours in northern Europe.

References

- Archangeli, Diana. 1997. Optimality theory: An introduction to linguistics in the 1990s. In: Diana Archangeli & D. Terence Langendoen (eds.), *Optimality theory. An Overview*. Oxford, UK & Malden, Mass.: Blackwell Publishers, 1-32.

- Benediktsson, Hreinn. 1970. Introduction to the Conference. In: Hreinn Benediktsson (ed.), *The Nordic Languages and Modern Linguistics. Proceedings of the International Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics*, University of Iceland, Reykjavík, July 6-11, 1969. Reykjavík: Vísindafélag Íslendinga, 24-27.
- Blackwell [1992]. *Studia Linguistica. 1993 Relaunch*. Information leaflet. 4 pp. Oxford, UK & Cambridge, Mass.: Blackwell.
- Carlsson, Lennart (ed.). 1976. *Faculty of Arts at Uppsala University. Linguistics and philology*. (Acta Universitatis Upsaliensis. Uppsala University 500 Years, 6.) Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell International.
- Chomsky, Noam. 1981. *Lectures on government and binding. The Pisa lectures*. Dordrecht: Foris Publications.
- Dyvik, Helge. 1993. The future of The Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics and The Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics. In: NLB 17.3, 1993:3-4.
- . 1994. The Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics and The Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics. In: NLB 18.1, 1994: 2.
- Dyvik, Helge et al. 1993. The future of the NAL conferences. In: NLB 17.4, 1993: 1-7.
- Elert, Claes-Christian. 1981. Noam Chomsky at the 1981 linguist conference at Røros. In: NLB 5.3-4, 1981: 4-10.
- Eliasson, Stig. 1975. En internordisk lingvistförening och lingvistiktidskrift? Interimsrapport från Kommittéerna för nordiskt lingvistiskt samarbete. Report read at SCL 2, Lysebu, Oslo, April 19-20, 1975. Typescript, 5 pp. Uppsala: Department of Linguistics, Uppsala University.
- . 1976. Rapport till Nordisk Kulturfond om de nordiska lingvistkommittéernas verksamhet. Nordisk Kulturfond J Nr 55-21-113. 4 pp. with 24 attachments. København: Nordisk Kulturfond.
- . 1977a. Editorial note. In: NLB 1.1, 1977: 3.
- . 1977b. The Nordic Association of Linguists: A note on its background and purpose. In: NLB 1.1, 1977: 4-5.
- . 1997. Einar Haugen (1906-1994). In: Stig Eliasson & Ernst Håkon Jahr (eds.), *Language and its ecology. Essays in memory of Einar Haugen* (Trends in Linguistics. Studies and Monographs, 100.). Berlin & New York, v-xi.
- Fjeld, Ruth Vatvedt, Kjartan G. Ottósson & Arne Torp. 1996. Preface. In: Ottósson, Fjeld & Torp (1996: 7).
- Gnutzmann, Claus (ed.). 2008. *English in academia: Catalyst or barrier?* Tübingen: Gunter Narr Verlag.

- Gorosch, Max. 1979. ASLA:s tillblivelse och tio första år. In: *ASLA Information* 5.3, 1979: 10-13.
- Haarmann, Harald. 2001. *Kleines Lexikon der Sprachen. Von Albanisch bis Zulu*. München: C.H. Beck.
- Haberland, Hartmut & Lars Heltoft. 1996. Preface. In: Lars Heltoft & Hartmut Haberland (eds.), *Proceedings of the Thirteenth Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics* [January 9-11, 1992]. Roskilde: Department of Languages and Culture, Roskilde University, 5.
- Haugen, Einar. 1979. Review of *Papers from the Fourth Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics*. In: NLB 3.4, 1979: 4-11.
- Hedlund, Cecilia & Anders Holmberg. 1994. Preface. In: Cecilia Hedlund & Anders Holmberg (eds.), *Proceedings of The XIVth Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics and The VIIIth Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics, August 16-21 1993. Special session on Scandinavian syntax*. (Gothenburg Papers in Theoretical Linguistics, 70.) Göteborg: Department of Linguistics, University of Gothenburg, vii.
- Hovdhaugen, Even. 1975. Rapport til Norges almenvitenskapelige forskningsråd om reise til Sverige og Danmark i forbindelse med planene for opprettelse av et nytt skandinavisk lingvistidsskrift. October 17, 1975 with attachment. Typescript. Pp. 5 + 2.
- . 1978. Editorial statement. In: NJL 1: 1-2.
- Hovdhaugen, Even, Fred Karlsson, Carol Henriksen & Bengt Sigurd. 2000. *The history of linguistics in the Nordic countries*. Helsinki: Societas Scientiarum Fennica.
- Hudson, Richard. 2009. A history of the LAGB: The first fifty years. In: *Journal of Linguistics* 45: 1-30.
- Janich, Nina & Albert Greule (eds.). 2002. *Sprachkulturen in Europa. Ein internationales Handbuch*. Tübingen: Gunter Narr.
- Karlsson, Fred. 2004. Preface. In: Fred Karlsson (ed.), *Proceedings of the 20th Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics in Helsinki, January 7-9, 2004*. (University of Helsinki, Department of General Linguistics, Publications, No. 36.) Helsinki: University of Helsinki, Department of General Linguistics. Published online at <http://www.ling.helsinki.fi/kielitiede/20scl/proceedings.shtml>.
- Lyons, John. 1970. *Chomsky*. London: Fontana/Collins.
- Martinsson, Anders. 1973. Geologin — ett experimentfält för vetenskaplig publicering / Nordic geology and the new deal in scientific publication. In: *Svensk Naturvetenskap* 1973: 123-132.
- Minutes 1973 = Minutes of the Business Meeting. June 19, 1973. (Recording Secretary: Veronica Bonebrake.) 1973. Ms. 4 pp. Umeå: Pro-

- gram of General Linguistics, University of Umeå. [Cf. also Resolutions 1973.]
- Minutes 1976 = Minutes. In: John Weinstock (ed.). 1978. *The Nordic Languages and Modern Linguistics / 3. Proceedings of the Third International Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics, The University of Texas at Austin, April 5-9, 1976*. Austin, Texas: The University of Texas at Austin, [vii-viii]. [A longer draft exists only in manuscript form.]
- Minutes 1980 = Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Nordic Association of Linguists. Held in connection with the 4th International Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics, Oslo June 26th 1980. (Recording Secretary: Bernt Fossetøl.) In: NLB 4.3-4, 1980: 102-104.
- Minutes 1982 = Minutes from NAL's business meeting 1982. (Recording Secretary: Höskuldur Thráinsson.) In: NLB 7.1, 1983: 54-57.
- Minutes 1998 = Nordic Association of Linguists. Minutes of the 1998 Business Meeting. (Recording Secretary: Marja Leinonen). Ms. 5 pp.
- Minutes 2004 = Minutes from the NAL business meeting, held at the 20th Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics in Helsinki, Jan. 9th [2004, SE]. (Recording Secretary: Mila Dimitrova-Vulchanova.) Ms. 4 pp.
- Minutes 2008 = Nordic Association of Linguists (NAL). Business Meeting, held at the 23rd Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, Uppsala, 2 October 2008. (Recording Secretary: Michael Rießler.) Ms. 2pp.
- NJL = *Nordic Journal of Linguistics*. Volumes 1ff. 1978ff.
- NLB = *Nordic Linguistic Bulletin*. Published by the Nordic Association of Linguists. Volumes 1-28, 1977-2004.
- Ottosson, Kjartan G. 1996. The study of Nordic language history since 1969. In: Ottósson et al. (1996: 117-134).
- Ottosson, Kjartan. 2002. Introduction. In: Hreinn Benediktsson, *Linguistic studies, historical and comparative*, edited by Guðrún Þórhallsdóttir, Höskuldur Þráinsson, Jón G. Friðjónsson & Kjartan Ottosson. Reykjavík: Institute of Linguistics, University of Iceland, xvii-lxvii.
- Ottósson, Kjartan G., Ruth V. Fjeld & Arne Torp (eds.). 1996. *The Nordic Languages and Modern Linguistics 9. Proceedings of the Ninth International Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics, University of Oslo, January 11-12, 1995*. Oslo: Novus Forlag.
- Resolutions 1973 = Resolutions. Adopted at the Business Meeting, June 19, 1973. In: Karl-Hampus Dahlstedt (ed.). 1975. *The Nordic Languages and Modern Linguistics 2. Proceedings of the Second International Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics, University of Umeå, June 14-19, 1973*. Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell International, 42-44.

- Ringgaard, K[ristian]. 1984. Forord som er et forsvar for konjunktionen 'og'. In: K[ristian] Ringgaard & Viggo Sørensen (eds.), *The Nordic Languages and Modern Linguistics 5. Proceedings of the Fifth International Conference of Nordic Languages and Modern Linguistics in Århus, 27/6-1/7 1983*. Århus: Nordisk Institut, Aarhus universitet, 5-6.
- Sammallahti, Pekka. 1998. *The Saami languages. An introduction*. Kárášjohka: Davvi Girji.
- Trampe, Peter af. 1973. Rapport från Konferens angående lingvistikens uppläggning, framtidsutsikter m.m., torsdagen den 17 maj 1973. Ms. 5 pp. Stockholm: Department of Linguistics, Stockholm University.
- Vannebo, Kjell Ivar. 1996. The Ninth Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics in retrospect. In: Ottósson et al. (1996: 66-69).
- Vikør, Lars S. 1993. *The Nordic languages. Their status and interrelations*. (Nordic Language Secretariat, Publication No. 14.) Oslo: Novus Press.

APPENDICES

A. NAL Bylaws:³⁷

The Bylaws of the Nordic Association of Linguists (as adopted by the Fourth Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics at Hindsgaul Castle, Middelfart, Denmark on January 7, 1978, and amended by the 21st Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, NTNU, Trondheim, June 3, 2005)

I. Name and purpose

1. This society shall be known as the Nordic Association of Linguists (abbreviated NAL).
2. Its aim shall be to advance linguistic research and study, especially in the Nordic Countries. It proposes to attain this aim
 - (a) by publishing a journal, the Nordic Journal of Linguistics (NJL),
 - (b) by arranging the International Conferences of Nordic and General Linguistics and the Scandinavian Conferences of Linguistics at regular intervals, and
 - (c) by any other appropriate means as may be decided by the Association in due course.

II. Membership and Subscription

1. Individual voting membership in the Association is open to any person working in the field of linguistics or related areas of research.
2. Any institution concerned in any capacity with linguistics can be admitted to non-voting membership.
3. The membership fee is due on or before January 31 of each year. The amount of the fee is fixed by the Executive Committee. Members in default will not receive the publications of the Association. A member who has been in arrears for two years shall be dropped from membership.

III. Officers of the Executive Committee and Elections

1. There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of nine members, a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and five other members of the Association. There shall be no deputies. The Editor of the Journal shall be called in as a voting member of the Executive Committee when questions relating to the Journal are being discussed.

³⁷ The Bylaws were drafted by Stig Eliasson. The first published, preliminary, version appeared in NLB 1.1, 1977: 10-12; the version adopted at SCL 4 in 1978 was published in NLB 2.1, 1978: 41-43, NLB 4.1, 1980: 65-68, and NLB 10.3, 1986: 7-10.

2. The election of members to the Executive Committee takes place at the Business Meeting or, alternatively, by mail. Only individual members of the Association in good standing may vote and hold office.

3. The members of the Executive Committee shall be elected for a period of three years, three members being elected each year. Their term of office begins on January 1 of the year following the one in which they were elected. No member of the Association is eligible for immediate re-election more than once.

IV. Operating Procedures of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall convene at least once each year, if possible. Notice of the meetings of the Committee shall be sent out to its members a month in advance at the latest. The Committee forms a quorum if at least five of its members are present. In the case of a tie, the President shall have the casting vote. The Committee shall have the power to take any action that the Association itself could take, but all its acts must be reported to the Association at its next Business Meeting. The Committee has the right to make decisions by mail, when necessary. There shall be an annual audit by two auditors elected at the Business Meeting or, alternatively, by an outside Certified Public Accountant.

V. Business Meetings of the Association

All individual members of the Association shall be given due notice of the Business Meeting of the Association, which shall be held in conjunction with the International Conferences of Nordic and General Linguistics or the Scandinavian Conferences of Linguistics. A quorum shall consist of those present at the Business Meeting. Between Business Meetings, the Executive Committee may on its own initiative, and shall at the request of no less than ten members of the Association, ask the members of the Association to vote upon specific proposals by mail. A quorum consists of the votes received within two months from the date of the letter to the members.

VI. The Editor of the Journal and the Editorial Board

The election of the Editor of the Journal takes place at the Business Meeting or by mail. The Editor, in consultation with the Executive Committee, shall appoint the Editorial Board. The Journal shall be published in accordance with the rules set forth in special instructions for the Editor and the Editorial Board.

VII. Amendments

These Bylaws can be changed on the proposal of the Executive Committee or at least ten individual members of the Association if the proposal is adopted by the Business Meeting and if, at a subsequent mail vote to the entire membership, the membership so decides by a two-thirds majority of the incoming votes.

B. NAL Officers, NJL and NLB Editors

Presidents

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 1977-1980 | Stig Eliasson (Uppsala) |
| 1981-1983 | Stig Eliasson |
| 1984-1986 | Fred Karlsson (Helsinki) |
| 1987-1989 | Jens Allwood (Gothenburg) |
| 1990-1992 | Jens Allwood |
| 1993-1995 | Helge Dyvik (Bergen) |
| 1996-1998 | Helge Dyvik |
| 1999-2001 | Kersti Börjars (Manchester) |
| 2002 | Kersti Börjars |
| 2003-2005 | Jussi Niemi (Joensuu) |
| 2006-2008 | Jussi Niemi |
| 2009-2011 | Juhani Järvi (Joensuu): President elect |

Vice-Presidents

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 1977-1980 | Hreinn Benediktsson (Reykjavík) |
| 1981 | Hreinn Benediktsson |
| 1982-1984 | Even Hovdhaugen (Oslo) |
| 1985-1987 | Even Hovdhaugen |
| 1988-1990 | Thorstein Fretheim (Trondheim) |
| 1991-1993 | Thorstein Fretheim |
| 1994-1996 | Peter Harder (Copenhagen) |
| 1997-1999 | Lars Heltoft (Roskilde) |
| 2000-2002 | Hanne Gram Simonsen (Oslo) [term of office uncertain] |
| 2003-2005 | Possibly vacant; available records incomplete |
| 2006-2008 | Höskuldur Thráinsson (Reykjavík) |
| 2009-2011 | Höskuldur Thráinsson: Vice-President elect |

Secretaries

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 1977-1980 | Alvar Ellegård (Gothenburg) |
| 1981-1982 | Höskuldur Thráinsson (Reykjavík) |
| 1983-1985 | Höskuldur Thráinsson |
| 1986-1988 | Eiríkur Rögnvaldsson (Reykjavík) |
| 1989-1991 | Kristján Árnason (Reykjavík) |
| 1992-1994 | Halldór Á. Sigurðsson (Reykjavík) |
| 1995-1997 | Halldór Á. Sigurðsson |
| 1998-2000 | Þóra Björk Hjartardóttir (Reykjavík) |
| 2001-2003 | Jóhannes Gísli Jónsson (Reykjavík) |
| 2004-2006 | Mila Dimitrova-Vulchanova (Trondheim) |

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 2007-2009 | Mila Dimitrova-Vulchanova |
| 2010-2012 | Anju Saxena (Uppsala): Secretary elect |

Treasurers

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 1977-1980 | Mirja Saari (Helsinki) |
| 1981-1982 | Inge Lise Pedersen (Copenhagen) |
| 1983-1985 | Inge Lise Pedersen |
| 1986-1988 | Hans Strand (Stockholm) |
| 1989-1991 | Hans Strand |
| 1992-1994 | Caroline Liberg (Uppsala) |
| 1995-1997 | Caroline Liberg |
| 1998 | Caroline Liberg |
| 1999-2001 | Gjert Kristoffersen (Bergen) |
| 2002-2004 | Gjert Kristoffersen |
| 2005-2007 | Fred Karlsson (Helsinki) |
| 2008 | Fred Karlsson |
| 2009-2011 | Stefan Werner (Joensuu): Treasurer elect |

NJL Editors with Co-editors or Review Editors

| <i>Years</i> | <i>Vols.</i> | <i>Editor(s)</i> | <i>Co-editor. From 1990: Review Editor</i> |
|--------------|--------------|---|--|
| 1978-80 | 1-3 | Even Hovdhaugen (Oslo) | Cathrine Fabricius Hansen (Oslo) |
| 1981-83 | 4-6 | Fred Karlsson (Helsinki) | Marja Leinonen (Helsinki) |
| 1984-89 | 7-12 | Eva Ejerhed (Umeå) | Robert Jarvella (Umeå) (vols. 7-10.1) |
| 1990-92 | 13-15 | Thorstein Fretheim (Trondheim) | Jan Terje Faarlund (Trondheim) |
| 1993-96 | 16-19 | Åke Viberg (Stockholm, later Lund) | Maria Koptjevskaja-Tamm (Stockholm) |
| 1997-99 | 20-22 | Urpo Nikanne (Oslo) | Jan-Ola Östman (Helsinki) |
| 2001- | 23- | Catherine Ringen (Iowa) & Sten Vikner (Århus) | Cecilia Falk (Stockholm) |

NLB and NLB-ENEWS Editors

Stig Eliasson (interim NLB Editor, vols. 1-2, 1977-1978), Erling Wande (Uppsala, vols. 3-5, 1979-1981), Sven Strömquist (vols. 6-8, 1982-1984), Olli Blåberg (Helsinki, vols. 9-11, 12.1, 1985-1988), Jussi Niemi (Joensuu, vols. 12.2[?]-3, 13-15, 1988-1991). Subsequently, a succession of editors in Bergen: Anne Lindebjerg, Arne S. Svindland, Lars G. Johnsen, Sjur Nørstebø Moshagen, Martha Thunes, and Benedicte M. Irgens. Later, Torgir Solstad (Oslo), and finally, Katrin Hiiteman (Manchester).

C. NJL Thematic Issues and Guest Editors

- | | | |
|--------|------|---|
| 11.1-2 | 1988 | Computational linguistics Eva Ejerhed |
| 12.2 | 1989 | Pragmatics and discourse studies in Scandinavia Per Linell |
| 13.2 | 1990 | First language acquisition Sven Strömquist |
| 14.2 | 1991 | Semantics Jens Allwood |
| 15.2 | 1992 | Sign language Thorstein Fretheim |
| 16.2 | 1993 | Neurolinguistics Jussi Niemi, Matti Laine & Jürgen Tesak |
| 17.2 | 1994 | Linguistic typology Maria Koptjevskaja-Tamm |
| 18.2 | 1995 | Cognitive linguistics Peter Harder |
| 19.2 | 1996 | Language contact and language change Åke Viberg |
| 20.2 | 1997 | Adjuncts Riitta Korhonen & Maria Vilkkumäki |
| 21.2 | 1998 | Argument structure Helge Lødrup |
| 22.2 | 1999 | Optimality theory Kersti Börjars |
| 23.2 | 2000 | Cognitive approaches to language Urpo Nikanne |
| 24.2 | 2001 | The lexicon in linguistic theory Per Anker Jensen |
| 25.2 | 2002 | Negation Anders Holmberg |
| 26.2 | 2003 | Language change Cecilia Falk & Tomas Riad |

- | | | |
|------|------|---|
| 27.2 | 2004 | Comparative Nordic semantics Elisabet Engdahl & Robin Cooper |
| 28.2 | 2005 | Dialects and linguistic theory Øystein Alexander Vangsnes & Curt Rice |
| 29.2 | 2006 | Grammaticalization Lars Heltoft & Henrik Rosenkvist |
| 30.2 | 2007 | Aspect and Aktionsart Heidi Harley, Raffaella Folli & Britta Jensen |
| 31.2 | 2008 | The syntax of nominals and noun phrases Kersti Börjars & Lars-Olof Delsing |
| 32.2 | 2009 | Sociolinguistics Frans Gregersen & Unn Røyneland |

D. List of NAL Conferences

International Conference of Nordic and General linguistics (ICNGL)

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|-----------|------|------|------------|------|------|
| 1st | Reykjavík | July | 1969 | 6th | Helsinki | Aug. | 1986 |
| 2nd | Umeå | June | 1973 | 7th | Tórshavn | Aug. | 1989 |
| 3rd | Austin, Texas | April | 1976 | 8th | Gothenburg | Aug. | 1993 |
| 4th | Oslo | June | 1980 | 9th | Oslo | Jan. | 1995 |
| 5th | Århus | June-July | 1983 | 10th | Reykjavík | June | 1998 |

ICNGL 8 and SCL 14 were combined into one conference. ICNGL 9 was immediately followed by SCL 15 (cf. also NLB 18.2, 1994: 10). The venue for ICGNL 11 will probably be Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany.

Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics (SCL)

| | | | |
|------|--------------|-----------|------|
| 1st | Kungälv | March | 1974 |
| 2nd | Lysebu, Oslo | April | 1975 |
| 3rd | Hanasaari | Oct. | 1976 |
| 4th | Hindsgavl | Jan. | 1978 |
| 5th | Frostavallen | April | 1979 |
| 6th | Røros | June | 1981 |
| 7th | Hanasaari | Dec. | 1982 |
| 8th | Copenhagen | Aug.-Sep. | 1984 |
| 9th | Stockholm | Jan. | 1986 |
| 10th | Bergen | June | 1987 |
| 11th | Joensuu | Aug. | 1988 |
| 12th | Reykjavík | June | 1990 |
| 13th | Roskilde | Jan. | 1992 |
| 14th | Gothenburg | Aug. | 1993 |
| 15th | Oslo | Jan. | 1995 |

| | | | |
|------|-----------|------|------|
| 16th | Turku | Nov. | 1996 |
| 17th | Nyborg | Aug. | 1998 |
| 18th | Lund | May | 2000 |
| 19th | Tromsø | Jan. | 2002 |
| 20th | Helsinki | Jan. | 2004 |
| 21st | Trondheim | June | 2005 |
| 22nd | Aalborg | June | 2006 |
| 23rd | Uppsala | Oct. | 2008 |
| 24th | Joensuu | Aug. | 2010 |

E. NAL Proceedings

Proceedings of the International Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics

1. Benediktsson, Hreinn (ed.). 1970. *The Nordic Languages and Modern Linguistics. Proceedings of the International Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics, University of Iceland, Reykjavík, July 6-11, 1969*. Reykjavík: Vísindafélag Íslendinga.

2. Dahlstedt, Karl-Hampus (ed.). 1975. *The Nordic Languages and Modern Linguistics 2. Proceedings of the Second International Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics, University of Umeå, June 14-19, 1973*. Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell International.

3. Weinstock, John (ed.). 1978. *The Nordic Languages and Modern Linguistics / 3. Proceedings of the Third International Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics, The University of Texas at Austin, April 5-9, 1976*. Austin, Texas: The University of Texas at Austin.

4. Hovdhaugen, Even (ed.). 1980. *The Nordic Languages and Modern Linguistics. Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics in Oslo 1980*. Oslo: Universitetsforlaget.

5. Ringgaard, K[ristian] & Viggo Sørensen (eds.). 1984. *The Nordic Languages and Modern Linguistics 5. Proceedings of the Fifth International Conference of Nordic Languages and Modern Linguistics [sic] in Århus, 27/6-1/7 1983*. Århus: Nordisk Institut, Aarhus universitet.

6. Lilius, Pirkko & Mirja Saari (eds.). 1987. *The Nordic Languages and Modern Linguistics 6. Proceedings of the Sixth International Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics in Helsinki, August 18-22, 1986*. Helsinki: Helsinki University Press.

7. Louis-Jensen, Jonna & Jóhan Hendrik W. Poulsen (eds.). 1992. *The Nordic Languages and Modern Linguistics 7. Proceedings of the Seventh International Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics in Tórshavn, 7-11 August 1989, I-II*. (Annales Societatis Scientiarum Færoensis, Supplementum XVIII.) Tórshavn: Føroya Fróðskaparfelag.

8. Allwood, Jens, Bo Ralph, Paula Andersson, Dora Kós-Dienes & Åsa Wengelin (series eds.). 1994-1995. *Proceedings of The XIVth Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics and The VIIIth Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics, August 16-21 1993*. Vols. 1-7. (Gothenburg Papers in Theoretical Linguistics, 69-74.) Göteborg: Department of Linguistics, University of Gothenburg. [For the individual volumes, see below under the heading Proceedings of the Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, 14.]

9. Ottósson, Kjartan G., Ruth V. Fjeld & Arne Torp (eds.). 1996. *The Nordic Languages and Modern Linguistics 9. Proceedings of the Ninth International Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics, University of Oslo, January 11-12, 1995*. Oslo: Novus Forlag.

10. Thórhallsdóttir, Guðrún (ed.). 2000. *The Nordic Languages and Modern Linguistics 10. Proceedings of the Tenth International Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics, University of Iceland, June 6-8, 1998*. Reykjavík: Institute of Linguistics, University of Iceland.

Proceedings of the Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics

1. Dahl, Östen (ed.). 1974. *Papers from the First Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, Kungälv, March 30-31, 1974*. Göteborg: Department of Linguistics, University of Göteborg, 1974.

2. Hovdhaugen, Even (ed.). 1975. *Papers from the Second Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, Lysebu, April 19-20, 1975*. Oslo: Department of Linguistics, University of Oslo.

3. Karlsson, Fred (ed.). 1976. *Papers from the Third Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, Hanasaari, October 1-3, 1976*. Turku: Text Linguistics Research Group, Academy of Finland.

4. Gregersen, Kirsten (ed.), Hans Basbøll & Jacob Mey (co-eds.). 1978. *Papers from the Fourth Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, Hindsgavl, January 6-8, 1978*. (Odense University Studies in Linguistics 3.) Odense: Odense University Press.

5. Petterson, Thore (ed.). 1979a. *Papers from the Fifth Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, Frostavallen, April 27-29 1979. Part I: Section papers*. (Acta

Universitatis Lundensis. Sectio 1, Theologica, juridica, humaniora, 30.) Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell International.

Pettersson, Thore (ed.). 1979b. *Papers from the Fifth Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, Frostavallen, April 27-29 1979. Part II: General sessions.* (Acta Universitatis Lundensis. Sectio 1, Theologica, juridica, humaniora, 31.) Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell International.

Pettersson, Thore (ed.). 1979c. *Aspectology. Workshop at the Fifth Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, Frostavallen, April 27-29 1979.* Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell International.

Hyltenstam, Kenneth & Moira Linnarud (eds.). 1979. *Interlanguage. Workshop at the Fifth Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, Frostavallen, April 27-29 1979.* Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell International.

6. Fretheim, Thorstein & Lars Hellan (eds.). 1982. *Papers from the Sixth Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, Røros, June 19-21, 1981.* Trondheim: Tapir.

7. Karlsson, Fred (ed.). 1983. *Papers from the Seventh Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, Hanasaari, Finland, December 17-19, 1982, 1-2.* (Publications [of the Department of General Linguistics, University of Helsinki], 9-10.) Helsinki: University of Helsinki, Department of General Linguistics.

8. Tøgeby, Ole (ed.). 1985. *Papers from the Eighth Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, 1-2.* København: Københavns Universitet, Institut for Nordisk Filologi.

9. Dahl, Östen (ed.). 1986. *Papers from the Ninth Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, Stockholm, January 9-11, 1986.* Stockholm: Institute of Linguistics, University of Stockholm.

Dahl, Östen & Anders Holmberg (eds.). 1986. *Scandinavian syntax. Workshop at the Ninth Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, Stockholm, January 1986.* Stockholm: Institute of Linguistics, University of Stockholm.

10. Rosén, Victoria (ed.). 1988. *Papers from the Tenth Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, Bergen, June 11-13, 1987, 1-2.* Bergen: Department of Linguistics and Phonetics, University of Bergen.

11. Niemi, Jussi (ed.). 1989. *Papers from the Eleventh Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, 1-2.* (Kielitieteellisiä tutkimuksia, Joensuun yliopisto, Humanistinen tiedekunta / Studies in Languages, University of Joensuu, Faculty of Arts, 14-15.) Joensuu: Joensuun yliopisto, Humanistinen tiedekunta.

12. Sigurðsson, Halldór Ármann (ed.), Þorsteinn G. Indriðason & Eiríkur Rögnvaldsson (assoc. eds.). 1991. *Papers from the Twelfth Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, Reykjavík, June 14-16, 1990.* Reykjavík: Linguistic Institute, University of Iceland.

13. Heltoft, Lars & Hartmut Haberland (eds.). 1996. *Proceedings of the Thirteenth Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics* [January 9-11, 1992]. Roskilde: Department of Languages and Culture, Roskilde University.

14. Allwood, Jens, Bo Ralph, Paula Andersson, Dora Kós-Dienes & Åsa Wengelin (eds.). 1994. *Proceedings of The XIVth Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics and The VIIIth Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics, August 16-21 1993. General session.* Vols. 1-2. (Gothenburg Papers in Theoretical Linguistics, 69.) Göteborg: Department of Linguistics, University of Gothenburg.

Hedlund, Cecilia & Anders Holmberg (eds.). 1994. *Proceedings of The XIVth Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics and The VIIIth Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics, August 16-21 1993. Special session on Scandinavian syntax.* (Gothenburg Papers in Theoretical Linguistics, 70.) Göteborg: Department of Linguistics, University of Gothenburg.

Jokinen, Kristiina (ed.). 1994. *Proceedings of The XIVth Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics and The VIIIth Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics, August 16-21 1993. Special session on pragmatics in dialogue management.* (Gothenburg Papers in Theoretical Linguistics, 71.) Göteborg: Department of Linguistics, University of Gothenburg.

Allwood, Jens, Frank Gregersen, Jussi Niemi, Dennis Day & Sture Ureland (eds.). 1994. *Proceedings of The XIVth Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics and The VIIIth Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics, August 16-21 1993. Four special sessions: Spoken language, Neurolinguistics, Anthropological linguistics, Language contacts across the Baltic.* (Gothenburg Papers in Theoretical Linguistics, 72.) Göteborg: Department of Linguistics, University of Gothenburg.

Junefelt, Karin (ed.). 1995. *Proceedings of The XIVth Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics and The VIIIth Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics, August 16-21 1993. Special session on activity theory.* (Gothenburg Papers in Theoretical Linguistics, 73.) Göteborg: Department of Linguistics, University of Gothenburg.

Strömquist, Sven (ed.). 1994. *Proceedings of The XIVth Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics and The VIIIth Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics, August 16-21 1993. Special session on language development.* (Gothenburg Papers in Theoretical Linguistics, 74.) Göteborg: Department of Linguistics, University of Gothenburg.

15. Moen, Inger, Hanne Gram Simonsen & Helge Lødrup (eds.). 1995. *Papers from the XVth Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, Oslo, January 13-15 January 1995*. Oslo: Department of Linguistics, University of Oslo.
16. Haukioja, Timo (ed.). 1998. *Papers from the Sixteenth Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, Turku/Åbo, November 14-16 1996*. (Turun yliopiston suomalaisen ja yleisen kielitieteen laitoksen julkaisuja/ Publications of the Department of Finnish and General Linguistics of the University of Turku, 60.) Turku: Turun yliopisto.
- Cuyckens, Hubert, René Dirven & John R. Taylor (eds.). 2003. *Cognitive approaches to lexical semantics*. (Cognitive Linguistics Research, 23.) Berlin & New York: Mouton de Gruyter. [Contains six papers from the SCL 16 Workshop on Cognitive Approaches to Lexical Semantics plus seven papers especially solicited for the volume.]
17. Lindberg, Carl-Erik & Steffen Nordahl Lund (eds.). 2000. *Papers from the 17th Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, Nyborg, Denmark, August 20-22, 1998*, 1-2. (Odense Working Papers in Language and Communication, 19.) Odense: Institute of Language and Communication, University of Southern Denmark.
18. Holmer, Arthur, Jan-Olof Svantesson & Åke Viberg (eds.). 2001. *Proceedings of the Eighteenth Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics* [May 18-20, 2000], 1-2. (Travaux de l'Institut de linguistique de Lund, 39:1-2.) Lund: Department of Linguistics and Phonetics, Lund University.
19. Dahl, Anne, Kristine Bentzen & Peter Svenonius (eds.). 2003. *Proceedings of the 19th Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, Tromsø, January 10-12, 2002: 1-2*. (= Nordlyd. Tromsø University Working Papers on Language & Linguistics 31, nos. 1-2. Published online only: <http://www.ub.uit.no/munin/nordlyd/>.)
- Dahl, Anne, Marit Richardsen Westergaard & Peter Svenonius (eds.). 2003. *Proceedings of the 19th Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, Tromsø, January 10-12, 2002: 3. Acquisition*. (= Nordlyd. Tromsø University Working Papers on Language & Linguistics 31, no. 3. <http://www.ub.uit.no/munin/nordlyd/>.)
- Dahl, Anne & Peter Svenonius (eds.). 2003. *Proceedings of the 19th Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, Tromsø, January 10-12, 2002: 4. Finnic*. (= Nordlyd. Tromsø University Working Papers on Language & Linguistics 31, no. 4. <http://www.ub.uit.no/munin/nordlyd/>.)
- Jørgensen, Jens Normann, Anne Dahl & Peter Svenonius (eds.). 2003. *Proceedings of the 19th Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, Tromsø, January 10-12, 2002: 5. Bilingualism*. (= Nordlyd. Tromsø University Working Papers on Language & Linguistics 31, no. 5. <http://www.ub.uit.no/munin/nordlyd/>.)

- Dahl, Anne & Peter Svenonius (eds.). 2004. *Proceedings of the 19th Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, Tromsø, January 10-12, 2002: 6. Supplement*. (= Nordlyd. Tromsø University Working Papers on Language & Linguistics 31, no. 6. <http://www.ub.uit.no/munin/nordlyd/>.)
20. Karlsson, Fred (ed.). 2004. *Proceedings of the 20th Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics in Helsinki, January 7-9, 2004*. (University of Helsinki, Department of General Linguistics, Publications, No. 36.) Helsinki: University of Helsinki, Department of General Linguistics. Published online at <http://www.ling.helsinki.fi/kielitiede/20scl/proceedings.shtml>. [The electronic proceedings contain 14 of the 48 section papers presented at the conference. The three plenary talks that were given at the meeting were not included.]
- [The papers from the 21st Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics in Trondheim, June 1-4, 2005, will not be published (conference co-organizer Tor A. Åfarli, Trondheim, p.c., 5/14/08).]
22. Götzsche, Hans (ed.). 2010. *Memory, Mind and Language*. [Proceedings of the 22nd Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, Aalborg, June 19-22 2006.] Newcastle, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.
23. Saxena, Anju & Åke Viberg (eds.). 2009. *Multilingualism. Proceedings of the 23rd Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, Uppsala University, 1-3 October 2008*. (Acta Universitatis Upsaliensis. Studia Linguistica Upsaliensia, 8.) Uppsala: Acta Universitatis Upsaliensis. Also: <http://urn.kb.se/resolve?urn=urn:nbn:se:uu:diva-110287>

F. NAL Links and E-Mail Addresses

NAL e-mail address:

nal@joensuu.fi

NAL website:

<http://cc.joensuu.fi/linguistics/nal.html>

NJL website:

http://uk.cambridge.org/journals/journal_catalogue.asp?mnemonic=NJL

Nordlingnet (Nordic languages and linguistics in the Nordic countries):

<http://mailman.uib.no/listinfo/nordlingnet>

Nordlingnet list administrator:

nordlingnet@uib.no (Helge Dyvik, Bergen)

Selection of past issues of NLB:

<http://helmer.hit.uib.no/nlb/arkiv>

Membership form:

<http://journals.cambridge.org/data/specialPage/NJLmembers2008.pdf>

CHAPTER TWO

LANGUAGE AS HISTORY AND MEMORY: CHALLENGES FOR HISTORICAL LINGUISTICS

HANS GÖTZSCHE

AALBORG UNIVERSITY

1. Introduction

“Why does language change?” is a question often rhetorically asked in textbooks on historical linguistics and in reviews of such books.¹ A spontaneous response might be: “Why do you ask this question the way you do?” Or, in other words, why have exactly these words been chosen? The basic problem is that the word *language* in the general context of theoretical linguistics, as a generic term, means ‘language as such’ in the kind of Kantian ontology of *das Ding an sich*. The logical problem is that if ‘language’ is such a Kantian entity, like for instance in the Hjelmslevian tradition when conceived of as an almost transcendental thing, then the expression *language change* is an almost contradictory phrase, or at least it expresses an inconsistent line of thought. If ‘language’ is a kind of autonomous self-contained entity then it should not be able to change while, anyhow, what we call ‘a language’ seems to have looked otherwise in the past and also seems to show signs of looking differently in the future. So it might be appropriate to alter our wording a little and ask instead: “Why do languages change?”

This formulation acknowledges the fact that there are different languages in the world, that they may be related in specific ways and that

¹ The question is not always asked explicitly. Campell (2004), for instance, asks: “What is historical linguistics? Historical linguists study language change.” (Campell 2004: 1) And his book comprises descriptions and explanations concerning language change. But in a review of Mark Hales *Historical Linguistics: Theory and Method* in the *Times Higher Education* “Textbook Guide” November 2007 Patrick Honeybone actually opens his remarks with the words “Why does language change?”

Memory, Mind and Language

Edited by

Hans Göttsche

**CAMBRIDGE
SCHOLARS**

P U B L I S H I N G

Memory, Mind and Language, Edited by Hans Göttsche

This book first published 2010

Cambridge Scholars Publishing

12 Back Chapman Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 2XX, UK

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data
A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Copyright © 2010 by Hans Göttsche and contributors

All rights for this book reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the copyright owner.

ISBN (10): 1-4438-1639-6, ISBN (13): 978-1-4438-1639-7

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----|
| Preface | ix |
| Part I: History, Language and Linguistics (Historical Linguistics). | |
| Introductory Remarks (<i>Hans Götzsche</i>) | 2 |
| Chapter One..... | 4 |
| The Nordic Association of Linguists: The Preparatory Phase and the First Thirty Years (1977-2006) <i>Stig Eliasson</i> | |
| Chapter Two | 55 |
| Language as History and Memory: Challenges for Historical Linguistics <i>Hans Götzsche</i> | |
| Part II: Mind, Brain and Language (Cognitive Linguistics) | |
| A State of the Art..... | 78 |
| <i>Susanne Annikki Kristensen</i> | |
| Chapter Three | 81 |
| A Research Method to Reveal the Relationship between Simultaneous Interpreting and Working Memory <i>Attila Farkas, Dezso Nemeth, Claudia Sándor and Csaba Pleh</i> | |
| Chapter Four..... | 89 |
| Language Production: A Window to the Mind? <i>Gaëtanelle Gilquin</i> | |
| Chapter Five | 103 |
| Language and Mind: A Biocognitive View <i>Alexander V. Kravchenko</i> | |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Chapter Six | 125 |
| The Internal Structure of the Concept of Soul in the Anglo-Saxon Language <i>Tatyana Solomonik-Pankrashova</i> | |
| Part III: Language Structures (General Linguistics) | |
| A State of the Art..... | 136 |
| <i>Susanne Annikki Kristensen</i> | |
| Chapter Seven..... | 149 |
| Adverb Placement in English VP Ellipsis Constructions <i>Eva Engels</i> | |
| Chapter Eight..... | 163 |
| Anaphoric and Non-anaphoric Uses of the Norwegian Adverb <i>først</i> (‘first’): A Pragmatic Analysis Based on a Univocal Lexical Meaning <i>Thorstein Fretheim</i> | |
| Chapter Nine..... | 179 |
| Danish <i>ville</i> and English <i>will</i> : Two Futures with a Similar Past, but a Different Present <i>Martin Hilpert</i> | |
| Chapter Ten | 193 |
| On the Referential Properties of Estonian Pronouns and Demonstratives <i>Elsi Kaiser and Virve-Anneli Vihman</i> | |
| Chapter Eleven | 206 |
| To Mind or Not to Mind <i>Susanne Annikki Kristensen</i> | |
| Chapter Chapter Twelve | 221 |
| On Ellipsis: Is Material that is Phonetically Absent but Semantically Present Present or Absent Syntactically? <i>Howard Lasnik</i> | |
| Chapter Thirteen..... | 243 |
| Behavioural Evidence for the Paradigmatic vs. Extraparadigmatic Distinction in Morphology <i>Jussi Niemi, Matti Laine and Juhani Järvikivi</i> | |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Chapter Fourteen | 252 |
| Word-Order Typology and the Tripartite Typology of Morphemes | |
| <i>Martin Prior</i> | |
| Chapter Fifteen | 269 |
| Linguistics in Text Interpretation | |
| <i>Ole Togeby</i> | |
| Chapter Sixteen | 283 |
| ‘Usage-Based’ Approach to English Prepositions with Special Reference | |
| to Semantic and Syntactic Differences between <i>to</i> and <i>in</i> | |
| <i>Shiro Wada</i> | |
| Chapter Seventeen | 296 |
| A Plea for a Simple Solution: What a Performative Theory of Illocutions | |
| Really Looks Like | |
| <i>Peter Widell</i> | |
| Contributors | 309 |

PREFACE

This book has been a long time under way. In 2006, Center for Linguistics, Aalborg University, organised a conference under the auspices of The *Nordic Association of Linguists*, and the theme of the conference was *Brain, Mind and Language*. The contributions in this book constitute a selection of the papers presented at the conference, but it has two additional features: the volume was also to signify a celebration of the 30th anniversary of The *Nordic Association of Linguists* (NAL) in 2007. This was not achieved by then, but instead the book will, hopefully, become a historical document both, on the one hand, telling the story about how Nordic linguists organised their efforts during the last decennia of the 20th century and, on the other hand, illustrating the diversity and the skills of Nordic and other linguists at the beginning of the 21st century. The other additional feature is the fact that history has come more in focus in the book; on two accounts: as mentioned, it is a narrative on the history of NAL; and, less flattering, it has taken a long time to finish the book.

The background of the long process of production is, firstly, that bringing together electronic manuscripts—often including diligently elaborated figures, tables, and other illustrations, and text formats I had never heard about—has been a fairly laborious task and, secondly, that I have done all the editing alone. I am the only one to blame for the longevity of the task but, on the other hand, I have no regrets concerning decisions made by me as an editor—even though they may have delayed the book unduly—and I have no apologies if these decisions have slowed down the process of editing. I only hope that the end result has become better than if I had made a hasty compilation of papers.

The book is dedicated to all linguists of the past and those of the future.

HANS GÖTZSCHE
(EDITOR)
AALBORG UNIVERSITY
OCTOBER 2009

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

HANS GÖTZSCHE

AALBORG UNIVERSITY

The Historical Linguistics part of this volume of conference proceedings contains two rather different contributions: one is a detailed narrative on how linguists in the Nordic countries acknowledged their common interests and founded an association (in the original meaning of the word, viz. that they—as a group of people—organised for a joint purpose), the other is an article taking up some basic theoretical problems in Historical Linguistics.

Both deal with history. The history of NAL (The Nordic Association of Linguists) is a description of a mental process as well as an organisational one, in that the society was, in fact, a manifestation of common acceptance of common interests. Theoretical, or General, Linguistics came, in the second half of the 20th century in focus among scholars in the Nordic countries—in parallel with other western regions—and scholars in this minor academic field united with scholars in the traditional fields of national Philologies in order to pursue common goals, viz. to study language as well as languages. One vital step was the organizing of the *International Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics* (ICGNL) in Reykjavík in 1969 by the Icelandic scandinavianist and linguist Hreinn Benediktsson, and less than ten years later NAL was founded in Austin, Texas, in 1976 and went into operation in 1977. In retrospect, the history of NAL reflects the very long perspective of Nordic history intertwined with the history of the Nordic languages. In the outset, so we think we know, the Nordic area was one, extremely outspread, culture with one language, albeit with dialectal variation. Then came the Catholic Church and Low-German, and then a landslide of language changes (by some called development), the most extreme of which are found on the peninsula of Jutland in Denmark, making the Nordic languages still harder for mutual understanding. From the Middle Ages and up till the 19th century the main kind of relationship between the Nordic countries—in essence: Denmark and Sweden—was warfare, but now this has been exchanged with Nordic collaboration; and so in the language sciences. And the peaks of early modern Nordic linguistics were the (to some extent united)

achievements of Historical Linguistics in the 19th century; which may be ironical since Nordic linguistics of today covers all kinds of language science, from phonetics and grammars of vernaculars to discourse analysis and sociolinguistics. Where Nordic linguistics will bring us from this palette of academic subjects, only the future will tell.

The other contribution is, as mentioned, an article that queries the traditional notion of ‘genetic relationship’ in Historical—or Comparative—Linguistics (the initials in the upper case signify traditions). The basic problem seems to be that we speak frankly about ‘language families’ and ‘language ancestors’ but, as opposed to the study of biological creatures, we as linguists know very little about the mechanism of linguistic inheritance. There seem to be two ways of escaping the predicament: one way is to say that it does not matter; we only use such words as descriptive means yielding informative patterns of similarities that apparently correspond to the history of cultures and countries. Another way is to take up the theoretical challenge and try to clarify which mechanisms may justifiably be said to work as ‘linguistic genes’, and the article follows the last path.

As mentioned, both contributions have to do with history, and whatever troubles linguists may have with becoming unanimous when debating scholarly matters in detail, we will, supposedly, agree on the claim that we would be out of work—and maybe nations and countries would not be there—if we as humans did not have language as a process and as a point of identity in time and history.