

Preface

The 20th Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, Helsinki, January 7-9, 2004, sponsored by the Nordic Association of Linguists, was arranged by the Department of General Linguistics, University of Helsinki, on the downtown premises of the university. There were 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, USA.

The members of the Organizing Committee were Antti Arppe, Pia Brandt, Orvokki Heinämäki, Matti Miestamo, Urho Määttä, Kari Pitkänen, and Fred Karlsson (Chair).

The twentieth meeting in any series of conferences is an indication of a formative tradition where the previous meetings surely deserve collective mention: 1 Kungälv (1974), 2 Oslo, 3 Helsinki, 4 Hindsgavl, 5 Frostavallen, 6 Røros, 7 Helsinki (Espoo), 8 København, 9 Stockholm, 10 Bergen, 11 Joensuu, 12 Reykjavik, 13 Roskilde, 14 Göteborg, 15 Oslo, 16 Turku, 17 Odense, 18 Lund, and 19 Tromsø. Twenty meetings over thirty years means that the meetings have been arranged annually or biannually.

At the twentieth meeting in Helsinki 2004, 48 section papers were presented of which fourteen are published in these electronic proceedings.

Plenary presentations were delivered by professors Östen Dahl (University of Stockholm), John McWhorter (Manhattan Institute), and Geoffrey Sampson (University of Sussex).

Five workshops were arranged: Passive, Syntactic microvariation, On the necessity of experimental methods in semantics, Finnic arguments, and Information structure, discourse structure, and typology.

The 21st Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics takes place in Trondheim, June 1-4, 2005.

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December 28, 2004

Fred Karlsson
Chairman of the Organization Committee

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