

PREFACE TO AREAL LINGUISTICS, GRAMMAR AND CONTACTS, A SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE JOURNAL OF ESTONIAN AND FINNO-UGRIC LINGUISTICS

This special issue of the Journal of Estonian and Finno-Ugric Linguistics (ESUKA – JEFUL), entitled *Areal Linguistics, Grammar and Contacts* contains a selection of articles based on presentations given at the international graduate conference of the same name held in Tartu, Estonia from 4 to 6 May 2012. The conference was organized jointly by the *Keelering* ('language circle') student society and the Graduate School of Linguistics, Philosophy and Semiotics. There were 55 presentations given over the span of three days, with three of them plenary talks by distinguished scholars. Graduate students and junior researchers of 27 different academic institutions from 14 countries spoke at the event.

This special issue consists of 12 articles that approach the theme of language contact from a variety of angles. All of the selected articles went through the regular double blind review process of the journal. Pelin Onar Valk and Ad Backus investigate the variety of Turkish spoken in the Netherlands, focusing on how it forms subordinate clauses. They use data from spontaneous conversations and sentence recall tasks, coming to the conclusion that Dutch Turkish speakers clearly prefer to use finite subordinate clauses – argued to be a Dutch influence – in contrast to the predominantly non-finite subordination in Standard Turkish. Li-Fang Lai and Huiju Hsu present a study on sound change in Yami, an endangered Austronesian language spoken on Orchid Island, Taiwan. They argue Mandarin Chinese influence to be the cause, based on a study of sociolinguistic variables related to the usage of Mandarin, which appear to correlate with sound change in spoken Yami. Daria Bahtina-Jantsikene discusses the usage of *lingua receptiva*, a multilingual communicative mode in which speakers use their own respective languages, yet have enough proficiency to understand each other. Her study is based on data from experiments with speakers of Estonian and Russian. Brigita Séguis investigates the role of parenthetical verbs in the emerging Polish-Russian mixed code in Lithuania. She concludes that although the wholesale replacement of one system by another has not taken place, the speakers no longer maintain a consistent separation between the Polish and Russian systems of parentheticals.

Sofia Oskolskaya and Natasha Stoynova debate the origin of the suffix *-la* in Nanai (Tungusic), which, on the one hand, resembles the Russian past tense marker, while on the other, can be interpreted as a Nanai verbalizing suffix. They come to the conclusion that the suffix

is maintained due to links with both of these sources. Ksenia Shagal's paper investigates two classes of verbs in the Naikhin dialect of Nanai and claims that they demonstrate certain instability with respect to their argument structure due to contact with Russian, the dominating language of the region. Inna Kaysina's paper analyzes the role of Russian in the development of coordinate and subordinate structures in Udmurt, making use of the framework of code-copying.

Maria Volkonskaya explores the way in which loanwords become incorporated into a recipient language, using the example of a Middle English poem from the 14th century, the time where there was an influx of French words into English. Natalia Zevakhina aims to establish pragma-semantic features of exclamations and exclamatives in her paper, and proposes five syntactic strategies of exclamatives based on examples from a sizeable sample of 45 different languages. Zsuzsanna Renkó-Michelsén explores the situation of Cornish (Celtic) in Cornwall, UK, and presents an analysis of revived Cornish based on Fishman's Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale. Finally, Roman Gaidamaško provides an overview of Finno-Ugric substrate appellatives in the Russian dialects of the Upper Kama, and proposes a number of tentative etymologies for Russian dialectal vocabulary. This issue also includes one regular paper, by Helena Metslang, who looks into the coding and behavioral properties of Estonian subjects, proposing a construction-specific approach to defining subjecthood in Estonian.

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