

Acknowledgments

A common quote touted by formal linguists – that has become a bit of a badge of honor validating the importance of their work – is that their research seeks to better understand empirical issues and structural phenomena that most others did not know were ‘problems’ in the first place. An additional confound that can stand in the way of formal analyses is the amount of detail and rigor required to arrive at a better understanding of what was initially perceived to be a ‘simple’ problem or ‘isolated’ phenomenon at first. These two descriptions most certainly apply to the book that you are currently reading – what began as a conference presentation and eventual write-up for the proceedings (*Penn Linguistics Colloquium* (PLC) 36, 2013) became an article in *The Linguistic Review* a year later (‘The emergence of middle voice structures with and without agents’, (2014), 31(2): 193–240) and has evolved into a monograph-length treatment of passives and middles in Mainland Scandinavian. We thank Mouton de Gruyter, and Harry van der Hulst, editor of *The Linguistic Review*, for permission to cite and build upon the initial aspects of this earlier work. Along each step of the way, mostly thanks to editors and reviewers’ comments as well as helpful and critical comments from colleagues, we realized that we had much more to say about this topic and that we just couldn’t call it quits. The empirical data and the microvariation that exists in the fascinating linguistic continuum of Mainland Scandinavian represent a challenge that formal analyses must come to terms with. It is our humble hope that the theoretical analyses put forward here provide a platform from which multiple strands of linguistic research can be carried out in future endeavors.

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