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***Linguistics*, the first fifty years . . . and a little more**

This special issue is a *very* special issue. It celebrates the journal's fiftieth anniversary, and to that purpose we are reprinting five of its most important articles, one for each decade. For its sixth decade we include an article that was going to be published, in a regular fashion, but in the end never was, because the author passed away. In Section 3 these six articles are put into a wider perspective. Sections 1 and 2 describe how the journal came into existence in the fifties and how it underwent a facelift in the late seventies.

1 How *Linguistics* started¹

In the early 1950s the circumstances were right to have a printing company in the Netherlands with a French name start publishing internationally in linguistics. One protagonist was Frederik Johannes Eekhout (1912–1968). Eekhout was the director of the printer Mouton, located in The Hague, taking its name from Martinus Mouton, who appears to have founded it in 1883 (maybe on the inspiration of his cousin Pierre Mouton, a seaman who was fond of beautiful printing [Hinrichs 2001: 82]). The printer occasionally also published under its own name, but only for a Dutch readership. In 1953 Eekhout considered the time ripe for international scientific publishing and the goal was purely commercial: “[p]ublishing was [. . .] meant as a side venture to support the main business, printing” (Hinrichs 2001:3). The scientific scope of Mouton was restricted to Slavistics and linguistics, initially more Slavistics with linguistics becoming dominant as years went by. This peculiar focus was due to the triumvirate of Peter de Ridder (1923–2009), Cornelis Hendrik van Schooneveld (1921–2003) and Roman Jakobson (1898–1982). Since the end of the Second World War, Peter de Ridder had been an employee at the publisher Brill. He had organized publications in Slavistics for Brill, but when Brill decided not make this a priority and Mouton showed an interest, de Ridder moved to Mouton. The visionary talent of de Ridder joined with the scientific ambitions of van Schooneveld and Jakobson. The Dutch Slavist and linguist van

¹ This section is based on Hinrichs (2001) and on conversations with Dick Coutinho, Ad Foolen (Nijmegen) and Flip Droste (Leuven). Dick Coutinho worked for Mouton in the early seventies, after which he set up his own publishing house.

Schooneveld spent his undergraduate years in Leiden and defended a doctoral thesis on *A Semantic Analysis of the Old Russian Finite Preterite System* under Jakobson at Columbia University in 1949. Van Schooneveld held various professorships in the United States (most prominently Stanford University and Indiana University at Bloomington), but between 1952 and 1959 he held a chair in Leiden. It was during in this period that he became interested in editing and publishing, contacted first Brill but then set course with Mouton, with the support of Jakobson. In due time book series and journals were set up, often with van Schooneveld as editor and Jakobson in the background. Thus from 1954 the book series *Slavistic printings and reprintings* appeared, followed by *Janua Linguarum* in 1956,² both under the editorship of van Schooneveld, and 1959 saw the launching of the *International Journal of Slavic Linguistics and Poetics* “founded by Roman Jakobson” and counting van Schooneveld among its editors. Both also contributed as authors, with e.g., Jakobson together with his pupil Morris Halle starting off *Janua Linguarum* with *Fundamentals of Language* (Jakobson and Halle 1956). They also brought in authors through their connections. Coauthor Halle already illustrates this, but the most prominent illustration of this is Noam Chomsky with *Syntactic Structures* (1957), initially accepted with some trepidation (Hinrichs 2001: 7–9), but its publication would consolidate the fame of Mouton and the royalties would – said with jocular exaggeration – help pay for van Schooneveld’s farmhouse in the Haute-Savoie (Hinrichs 2012). Mouton continued expanding its publication schemes and perhaps in part because director Eekhout was a Francophile, Mouton entered the French market and even set up an office in Paris (in order to attract French subsidies).³

2 Originally, this was one series. It was later split up into subseries, most of which were edited by van Schooneveld. The title *Janua Linguarum* ‘the gate of languages’ was suggested by Jakobson (Hinrichs 2001: 5; Jakobson 1956: v) and refers to *Janua linguarum reserata* ‘the gate of languages unlocked’ (1629), an influential textbook by the Czech humanist Johann Amos Comenius (1592–1670). Why this link was made is not fully clear – the allusion to Comenius’ “numerous fruitful ideas which now again capture the attention of linguists” (Jakobson 1956: v) is not very convincing. Perhaps Jakobson saw some similarities between Comenius and himself. Both had a broad intellectual outlook, not restricted to language, both put their interest in language in a very wide intellectual horizon, both were very mobile scholars with formative years in what is now the Czech Republic, and they both had a link with Harvard University (Comenius is believed to have been asked to be Harvard’s first president (Morison 1935: 245) and for Jakobson Harvard was his university from 1949 until 1967).

3 In 1958 Mouton also printed the first Russian original of Boris Pasternak’s *Doktor Živago* (Finn and Couvée forthc.). The book was forbidden in Russia and Pasternak was not allowed to accept the Nobel Prize later that year. Jakobson feared that “Mouton’s stupid involvement in the mess” (letter to van Schooneveld; [Hinrichs 2001: 77]) would jeopardize collaboration with colleagues from Eastern Europe.

It is in this climate that 1963 saw Mouton launching a general journal in linguistics, appropriately called *Linguistics*, with as subtitle *An International Review*. According to Dick Coutinho (p.c.) the idea came from Peter de Ridder and he initially managed it himself until he hired Paul M. Waszink, a Leiden Slavist who was later to write a doctoral dissertation (Waszink 1988). There was no official editor or editorial board. The fact that there was no editorial board was not unusual. *Lingua*, the North-Holland counterpart, started in 1948, initially had just Albert Willem de Groot (1892–1963) and Anton J.B.N. Reichling (1898–1968), both at the University of Amsterdam at the time of the founding of the journal. *Folia Linguistica*, the Mouton journal of the *Societas Linguistica Europaea*, founded in 1968, initially also lacked a board and only had an editor. The fact that there was no publicly visible editor at all was unusual, however. In practice, it must have been de Ridder and especially Waszink who did the work, and it would appear that the latter did sign at least some letters with “Editor *Linguistics*”.⁴ It is somewhat curious that neither van Schooneveld nor Jakobson were officially affiliated with the journal, though given their close ties with de Ridder, they will have monitored the project from the sidelines. With respect to editing, this seems to have been Jakobson’s preferred role, and van Schooneveld much preferred editing monographs to editing journals. The journal did not have annual volumes and the number of issues varied from year to year. Thus 1963 had 2 issues, 1964 had 7, and 1965 had 9. The journal definitely featured international authors, some established and some very promising. Among the contributors of these first three years we find such linguists as Dwight Bolinger, R[obert] M. W. Dixon (in discussion with Jerrold Katz and Jerry Fodor), Werner Winter, Robert Longacre, Nicolas Ruwet, Richard Hudson, Herbert E. Brekle, Kenneth L. Pike, Joseph Greenberg, and Ferenc Kiefer. Most of these were also authors or editors of Mouton books.

The late sixties up to 1971 appear to have been Mouton’s most successful period. In 1970 Mouton was publishing no less than 26 periodicals (Hinrichs 2001: 21, 16). In that year Mouton became part – the most important one – of a larger publisher called *Edicom* (Hinrichs 2003: 14). But by 1972 the business had begun to decline (Hinrichs 2001: 28). There is more than one reason. One is that the French operation was not a success (Hinrichs 2001: 12–13) and another one is that Mouton published too much, a situation captured by the phrase *Mouton mange tout* ‘Mouton eats everything’, attributed to Claude Lévi-Strauss (Hinrichs 2001: 24). Publication plans were downsized, de Ridder left the company in 1974 (and with the help of Jakobson he started the Peter de Ridder Press, also specializing in

⁴ This is documented on <http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/scriptorium/wlm/prostitute/>, (accessed on June 11, 2013), an archive containing the text of an article that Waszink rejected.

linguistics and Slavistics) (Hinrichs 2001: 30), and in 1977 most of the Mouton operations underwent a double sale. First, the Edicom publisher was sold to Elsevier, but “since the Mouton publications [were] not in line with Elsevier’s long-term policy” (letter of Edicom’s director P. A. F. van Veen to van Schooneveld [Hinrichs 2001: 114]), Elsevier resold Mouton to “a more suitable publishing house”, which turned out to be Walter de Gruyter (or just “De Gruyter”), headquartered in Berlin.

2 How *Linguistics* changed

Mouton brought to De Gruyter both its strength and weakness. The strength was an international, predominantly English language visibility, especially in linguistics, something which De Gruyter lacked and wanted (Ziesak 1999: 259–260). The weakness was the above sketched *Mouton mange tout* policy, which the managing director of De Gruyter, Dr. Kurt-Georg Cram phrased as *Masse statt Qualität* ‘mass instead of quality’ (Hinrichs 2001: 37). Some of the series were discontinued. The collaboration with van Schooneveld decreased and was eventually discontinued (1983). *Linguistics*, which came to Walter de Gruyter together with most of the Mouton journals, also changed. In 1978 Paul Waszink asked Flip G. Droste, professor of general linguistics in Leuven, to “take over the journal” (Flip Droste, p.c.). In his view the journal needed a public editor and an editorial board. As a result a new *Linguistics* set sail in 1979 with a new subtitle (*An Interdisciplinary Journal of the Language Sciences*, motivated with an editorial statement), the desired board, and an editorial assistant. The board had the following 7 members: Brian Butterworth (Cambridge), Bernard D. Comrie (Los Angeles), Östen Dahl (Göteborg), Norbert Dittmar (Berlin), Flip G. Droste (Leuven), Jaap van Marle (Amsterdam) and Jürgen Weissenborn (Nijmegen) – the affiliations are those of 1979. Rosamina Lowi was the editorial assistant and there was also a large board of consulting editors. Interestingly, there was no official editor-in-chief in the years of the rebirth, but it was Brian Butterworth who assumed that role until he left the journal in the middle of 1982. In that year Arie Bornkamp (1917–1997), the Mouton manager who had come over to De Gruyter, was succeeded by the Dr. Stefan Grunwald, but he stayed for less than a year (Hinrichs 2001: 35–36). These shifts are symptomatic of the fact that the transition was not in all respects a smooth one, to the extent even that Butterworth negotiated with Blackwell’s, but De Gruyter’s Dr. Cram was adamant that *Linguistics* was to stay with De Gruyter (Ö. Dahl p.c.). It is in the first issue of 1983 that *Linguistics* would start with Wolfgang Klein (Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen) as the new editor-in-chief, this time, officially, a position he held until the end of 2005. The

board would, of course, also change. The following linguists served the journal as board members in between the first and the current board: Greville Corbett, Gerald Gazdar, Aditi Lahiri, and Wolfgang Sternefeld. The editorial staff had Olaf Eckert, Flora McGechan, Amanda Pounder, Marion Smith, and Brian Wenk, with pride of place to Elizabeth Krijgsman, “managing editor” between 1983 and 2003, and to Ann Kelly, assistant editor from 1990 to the present. In 2013 the membership is the following: Östen Dahl, Hans-Martin Gärtner, José Hualde, Wolfgang Klein, Beth Levin, and Johan van der Auwera (editor-in-chief). The imprint and the place of publication also changed. Initially, even after De Gruyter had acquired Mouton, the publisher was Mouton Publishers, The Hague, Paris, and New York. In mid 1981 this changed to Mouton Publishers, Berlin, New York, and Amsterdam, turning into Mouton de Gruyter, Berlin, and New York for the 1986–2009 period, to De Gruyter Mouton, Berlin, and New York in 2010, and finally De Gruyter Mouton, Berlin, and Boston in 2011. Through the 80s and 90s the journal increasingly flourished with 6 regularly appearing issues for annual volumes of 1200 pages. In 2010 the publisher allowed an increase to 1400 pages.

3 The impact of *Linguistics*

Linguistics was and is a general journal of linguistics, taking care of both core linguistics and of “hyphenated linguistics.” In core linguistics there was and is no association with any particular “school”, and this openness is reflected in the membership of the board. To reflect a half-century of linguistic scholarship, we should really list all tables of contents. My predecessor, Wolfgang Klein, looked at a good number of these and it made him both happy and sad.

When I went, with a lot of nostalgia, through these old issues, I was overwhelmed by two impressions: first, how much good work was published over all of those years, and second, how much of that work has gone more or less unnoticed; there must be something deeply wrong with our way to do research, if we can afford such a waste.

Yet no small amount of the good work *did* get noticed. To give *some* indication of the journal’s impact I used Harzing’s Google Scholar based *Publish or Perish* (scholar.google.com; <http://www.harzing.com/pop.htm> [accessed on March 22, 2013]) and identified for each decade the one article that registered most citations. These five articles are the following:

- Fishman, Joshua A. 1964. Language maintenance and language shift as a field of inquiry: A definition of the field and suggestions for its further development, *Linguistics*, volume 2, issue 9, 32–70.

- Poplack, Shana. 1980. Sometimes I'll start a sentence in Spanish Y TERMINO EN ESPANOL: Toward a typology of code-switching, *Linguistics*, volume 18, issue 7/8, 581–618.
- Biber, Douglas. 1989. A typology of English texts. *Linguistics*, volume 27, issue 1, 3–43.
- Vallduví, Enric and Elisabet Engdahl. 1996. The linguistic realization of information packaging. *Linguistics*, volume 34, issue 3, 459–519. [Special issue: *A Key Concept for Translation Theory*, edited by Monika Doherty]

and

- Loebell, Helga and Kathryn Bock. 2003. Structural priming across languages. *Linguistics*, volume 41, issue 5, 791–824. [Special issue: *Perspectives in Language Production*, edited by Daniel Glatz and Christiane von Stutterheim]

Interestingly, the articles by Poplack and Fishman also head the De Gruyter list of the journal's most downloaded articles (<http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/ling> [accessed on June 18, 2013]). With these articles and many more *Linguistics* had an impact on linguistics and as a celebration of the journal, we reprint these five articles in this issue. Each article is furthermore accompanied by a commentary of the authors.

The selection of these five articles is, of course, somewhat arbitrary, both the decision to choose just one article for every decade and the choice of the *Publish or Perish* bibliometrics. Even more arbitrary and certainly subjective is a small list of some of the favorites of the current board members, listed in chronological order.

- Dahl, Östen. 1979. Typology of sentence negation, *Linguistics*, volume 17, issue 1/2, 79–106.
- Sasse, Hans-Jürgen. 1987. Thethetic/categorical distinction revisited, *Linguistics*, volume 25, issue 3, 511–580.
- Bowerman, Melissa. 1990. Mapping thematic roles onto syntactic functions: Are children helped by innate linking rules? *Linguistics*, volume 28, issue 6, 1253–1289.
- Gerdts, Donna B. 1993. Mapping Halkomelem grammatical relations, *Linguistics*, volume 31, issue 4, 591–621.
- Blume, Kerstin. 1998. A contrastive analysis of interaction verbs with dative complements, *Linguistics*, volume 36, issue 2, 253–280.

- Bybee, Joan and Joanne Scheibman. 1999. The effect of usage on degrees of constituency: the reduction of don't in English. *Linguistics*, volume 37, issue 4, 575–596.
- Rialland, Annie and Stéphane Robert. 2001. The intonational system of Wolof. *Linguistics*, volume 39, issue 5, 893–940.

Favorite special issues include

- Levinson, Stephen C. and John B. Haviland (eds.). 1994. Space in Mayan languages, *Linguistics*, volume 32, issue 4/5.
- Lindner, Katrin and Annette Hohenberger (eds.). 2009. Current Approaches to Language Learning, *Linguistics*, volume 47, issue 2.

A special place in this celebration issue is taken up by the publication of a paper by the late Anna Siewierska (Lancaster). Her paper on “Local pronouns in ditransitive scenarios: Corpus perspectives from English and Polish” was submitted to the journal, but the author’s untimely death in the summer of 2011 meant that the reviewing of this paper had to be stopped. We include it as a beacon for the journal’s sixth decade and as a tribute to the author, in recognition of her scholarly eminence. We are also particularly grateful to her husband Dik Bakker (Amsterdam and Lancaster) and to Piotr Stalmaszczyk (Łódź), one of the original reviewers of the submitted manuscript, for carrying this project to a good end.

Meanwhile, we have in effect started the sixth decade, one in which the technological developments of previous years will continue to change the nature of scholarly publishing, with all its opportunities and challenges. What will not change is our open-mindedness and commitment to quality.

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