

## REVIEWS

Wladimir G. Admoni, *Grundlagen der Grammatiktheorie*. Übersetzt und mit einem Vorwort von Theodor Lewandowski. Heidelberg. Quelle & Meyer, 1971. 136pp.

This unpretentious little book by the outstanding Leningrad linguist and Germanist Admoni,<sup>1</sup> deserves to be read and reread by all linguists, particularly the young ones, as it will have an antidotal effect with respect to the multifarious monomethodological current approaches to linguistics, including that of generative transformational grammar. The publication represents itself as concerned with the foundations of grammatical theory, but Slavacists as well as Germanists will also gain deeper insight into problems regarding the analysis and description of Russian and German grammar. It may seem rather surprising that this stimulating work, which appeared in Russian as early as 1964 (Moscow and Leningrad), was not translated into a Western language until 1971, but the prevailing linguistic climate of the sixties could hardly take any great interest in a presentation of fundamental methodological tenets that run counter to the basic views of virtually all the schools of modern linguistics. In retrospect, one may conclude that the German translation appeared at the most opportune time, considering the truly chaotic conditions prevailing in most of what one in general refers to as linguistic schools. In fact, one is left with the feeling that Admoni should elaborate an extended version of his *Foundations*, one in which he took into account the more or less zigzaggy streams of linguistic reasoning in the post-*Aspects* years. There are few linguists around that would seem better equipped for giving a comprehensive critique of linguistics in the sixties than Wladimir Admoni.

In the preface (pp. 7-20), the translator gives a succinct but on the whole sufficiently perspicuous summary of major trends in linguistics from around 1940 upward, but not without tracing the avenues of theory and methodology that pioneers such as de Saussure, Trubetzkoy, Bloomfield and Hjelm-slev opened up. Especially the development of linguistics in the Sovjet Union since Marr is presented in an interesting way, but one will occasionally notice a certain nonacquaintance with or disregard of the linguistic discussion that went on in USA long before Šaumjan. When one for instance reads that in