

Titel: BREV TIL: Stephen Anderson FRA: Eli Fischer-Jørgensen (1985-11-23)

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Anvendt udgave: Louis Hjelmslev og hans kreds

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Dear Steve,

(Stephen Anderson)

Thank you very much for sending me your book on Phonology in the Twentieth century. - I am sorry I did not react to your manuscript. The reason was that first I was terribly busy and somewhat overworked because I had promised much too much after I retired, thinking that I would get plenty of time. I worked about 60 hours a week, which was perhaps not very wise. When I got ill, and since then I have had to restrict my working hours very much, and moreover I thought I had to give preference to making order in my papers and books, and curves etc. In case I should get an infarct, I did not like to leave anything in a mess. Now everything is in order except my correspondence. --And I am feeling OK when I do not do too much. -

This time I have tried to react quickly. I also received a copy from your publisher, who asked whether I could make a statement for their advertisement. This copy I have given to Richel who is writing a book about linguistics in the twentieth century and who was very eager to read your book. - I thought the best thing I could do was to write a review (probably for Phonetica), and send a copy to your publishers, who could then extract a couple of sentences for their use. But before

sending the review I would like to show you a first draft. I may have misunderstood you on some points, and would be glad to have your reactions. - As you can see from the enclosed draft I think your book is well-written, competent and interesting, but of course I have a few objections, and that is why I would like to hear your reaction. -- To what I write about the definition of languages. I should like to add, that I find one of the differences between European structuralism and American linguistics (particularly transformational grammar) is that for European structuralism the system of relations and the aim is to describe this system - which of course can only be done on the basis of an analysis of texts. For transformationalists the system (called by them the grammar) is a means to specify an infinite set of well-formed sentences (which they call the language) -- For both the system is essential, but the perspective is slightly different. (see e.g. my "Trends 9.3) ---

I did not look for misprints, but I found, of course, a few. (My book was proof read by three persons, and there is quite a number of misprints left) -- I found, however, only two disturbing cases: p. 44, 19 I think "unpredictable" should be "predictable", and on p. 106, 3 from below some words seem to be missing: "If the opposition between / the members of / a particular pair is missing"

The others are trivial, but I just give the references for the use of a second edition: p. 8, 28, 9, 27, 26, 10, and 6, 29, 6 from below, 30, 1, 49, 21, 52, 15, 59, 14, 75, 14 f. below, 84, 23, 113, 21, 124, 20, 164, 9, 164, 19, 190, 8, 224, 6 from below, 258, 26, 298, 13, 299, 7, 314, 12

I hope you are OK, and perhaps working on a new book. I wrote quite a lot before I got ill. Since then I have not finished anything, but I hope to finish a paper on thested (from a phoneic point of view) during the spring, and I have promised a review of Zwirner's Grundfragen der Phonetik (2nd edition)