

Titel: BREV TIL: Charles Ernest Bazell FRA: unsure (1957-06-07)

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Anvendt udgave: Louis Hjelmslev og hans kreds

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Dear Bezell,

Thank you ~~ix~~ for your letter from May 5. -When I read my
last letter before sending it, I noticed that the tone sounded
offended, but I did not bother to change it, since there was
no reason for such feelings. By the way, I never feel offended,
I simply do not care.
Holt's ~~xxxx~~ content-analysis would be quite all right if Hjelms
lev had been right in maintaining (in earlier writings) that
the content consists of things. In this case the commutation
test in the case bull, cow etc. should take place in the Veteri-
nary High School.

I have just made a funny blunder myself. In a report for
Pop's survey of phonetic laboratories I wrote the following:
"Finselement on possède un nombre de valses phonographiques."
(Danish valse, French cylindre!!) - I managed to correct it
in the last proofs, it was almost a pity. - I advise you to
read the report from Strasbourg in this volume (which is going
to appear soon). It appears that in the laboratory in Strasbourg
they have such rare ~~ix~~ instruments as: "du coton hydrophile
, de la vaseline, une casserole" etc. You may also find a really
amusing article in Orbis by Gerhardt Schmidt, - we returned it
recently to him, who he wanted to publish it in Acta Linguisti-
ca. - He suggests e.g. that assimilations are more common
in hot climates -~~x~~, since the heat make the sounds ~~xxxx~~ rise. -

I should be very interested in seeing Hass's article,
particularly as I am going to write a review myself. But I am
afraid I have been so ~~xxxx~~ long in answering, that you have not
got it any more.

I have read Jakobson's Fundamentals. The book is better
than Preliminaries, but, as you write, he has not proved that
everything must be binary, and, by the way, I wonder whether
the binary description is always the most economic. - His
mathematic argument p. 46 presupposes that there is no system
at all, so that all distinctions are of different nature.
but p-t-k or i-e-s are ordered according to one quality,
and why should p-t-k be more complicated than ~~p-t~~ ?
b-d-g

~~xxxx~~

The "constant" feature is also a dubious thing. -
- ~~xx~~ In the phonetic description he has left out some of the
worst things from Preliminaries, but his description of tense-
lex and of rounding are still wrong.

By the way when Jakobson passed here some weeks ago
on his way to Russia, where he was invited to participate in the
planning of the next Slavic congress. It was the first time
in 40 years that he was going to Russia, and of course he was
very excited about it.

Best wishes
Yours sincerely