

Titel: notes, [Whitfield] 016-0020

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Anvendt udgave: Louis Hjelmslev og hans kreds

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Hjelmslev's scholarly writings and thoughts.

Risking to bore this group of learned scholars with facts that are probably only too familiar to you I wish to begin by repeating how it came about that FW translated the works of Louis Hjelmslev into the English language.

Let me quote his own description of this beginning from a (FIW) letter he wrote to E.F.Konrad Koerner, on Dec. 10, 1991:

[? quote:]

It was a review of *Recherches structurales* that aroused my interest in Hjelmslev's work. [I assume that it is either the exceptionally long and informative review by Rulon S. Wells in *Language* or Paul Garvin's from *International Journal of American Linguistics*, both from 1951]

He goes on:

Although I knew no Danish, I ordered a copy of *Omkring sprogteoriens grundlæggelse* and found the going not too rough as I wrote down a translation for my own use. When they learned of what I had done, André Martinet and the late János Lotz suggested that I send a copy to Hjelmslev. He received it on March 9, 1952, and, a month later, expressed an interest in its being used as a text [and in the letter Whitfield here quotes Hjelmslev:]--"on the clear understanding that it had not been authorized by me for general circulation" [end of quote]--in his Linguistic Institute course on Structural Analysis of Language. By the end of April, we had agreed to meet in Indiana to work together on correction and revision of the translation.

I well remember that when I arrived in Bloomington and met Hjelmslev