

Titel: Various extracts and notes, [EFJ-DIDERICHSEN1] 033-0020

Citation: "Various extracts and notes, [EFJ-DIDERICHSEN1] 033-0020", i *Louis Hjelmslev og hans kreds*, s. 16. Onlineudgave fra Louis Hjelmslev og hans kreds:
https://tekster.kb.dk/catalog/lh-texts-kapsel_033-shoot-wacc-2005_0099_033_EFJ-DIDERICHSEN1_0020_p16_bP15_TB00018/facsimile.pdf (tilgået 28. juni 2024)

Anvendt udgave: Louis Hjelmslev og hans kreds

Ophavsret: Materialet kan være ophavsretligt beskyttet, og så må du kun bruge det til personlig brug. Hvis ophavsmanden er død for mere end 70 år siden, er værket fri af ophavsret (public domain), og så kan du bruge værket frit. Hvis der er flere ophavsmænd, gælder den længstlevendes dødsår. Husk altid at kreditere ophavsmanden.

WTS VIII 480 ff. makes a weak attempt to base the laws evolutives on some psychological theories). They urge, more or less, that these laws are exactly the same type as the laws of natural sciences, notwithstanding the serious difference that linguistic laws cannot be controlled by experiment. As they however confine themselves to solemn categorical declarations, and do not present any explicit arguments, no discussion proper is possible.

2. In some cases the "laws" seem to be directives for the most convenient description. Thus the "vowel-geometry" of Trubetzkoy may be regarded more modestly as advice for perspicuous arrangements of vowel-systems, which make the relevant oppositions appear in a very clear manner. As a matter of fact every vowel-system may be arranged either as a triangle, the outer sides of which show the same number of vowels, or as a rectangle, and the universality of the "law" might therefore be a mere reflex of this general possibility.

3. The only sound attitude, I think, towards most of these general laws, is to regard them as generalisations based on empirical material, which is in many cases scanty and heterogeneous & as to give secure predictions concerning future experiences, but certainly as worthwhile points of departure which may be kept in mind by further research in order to gather new material for corroboration, falsification, or modification.

and validity of the
 Grammatik we Frei admit that the so-called
 Lautgesetze are restricted both locally and temporally, but "dans les limites des temps et d'espace qui lui sont propres une loi phonétique vaut d'une manière absolue.. Si une articulation se transforme dans un seul cas, elle se transforme également partout ailleurs, sauf obstacle particulier. Les lois phonétiques n'ont pas d'exception qui ne puisse admettre une explication psychologique ou historique, parce qu'elles sont le produit de causes inhérentes au langage d'un temps et d'un lieu déterminés, et qu'il n'intervient dans leur action nulle volonté humaine." I don't know if it is necessary to comment on this manifest of the last great Junggrammatiker, but it may be due to my subject