

Titel: Notes, [MTG] 125-1540

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Anvendt udgave: Louis Hjelmslev og hans kreds

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AN OUTLINE OF GLOSSMATICS: Prøvesider.

1 trykt side (i fortrykket) = 4 skrevne halvark.

As particularly emphasized by F. de Saussure, language is form, not substance. Language is the form through which the physical substance and the substance of ideas, which are in themselves amorphous, are made to correspond to each other as expression and content respectively. Consequently, all linguistic analysis must be morphological and cannot be achieved through a mere description of the substances. As the linguistic form does not necessarily coincide with any other known form, this morphology must be immanent.

A language consists of three concentric parts (cf. L. Hjelmslev, *La catégorie des cas I*, *Acta Luthlandica VII*, 1, 1935, p. 51, 88): A central part, the system, i. e. the elements arranged in a pattern

of mutual relations; the norm, i. ex. a set of rules based on the system and fixing the limit of variability for each element; the usage, i. ex. a set of rules based on the norm and fixing the limit of variability tolerated in a given community at a given time. It is necessary to distinguish between language as an institution, and the use to which it is put by the individual speaker; this is called the practice (Saussure's *parole*).

The limit of variability fixed by the norm is based on the extensional definitions of the elements given in the norm, whereas the limit of variability fixed by the usage are narrower than those fixed by the norm. Thus the English norm allows various pronuncia-

tions of the element *r*, while each usage (Scottish, Northumbrian, Southern English, etc.) demands one particular variety.

System and norm are more constant than the usage; it is possible to have a change of usage without a corresponding change of system or norm, and two languages or dialects may differ as to usage and yet have a common norm and system. That a community has one language, means that the members of the community conform to a common highest usage, within which there may be usages of more special application. The norm is found by abstraction from a usage or usages; the more usages taken into consideration, the more abstract, less specified, the common norm will be. Thus a norm

comprising a group of languages is more abstract, and contains fewer rules, than a norm comprising only one language or dialect. The most abstract norm possible is the one which is common to all languages, known and unknown. To recognise and describe this norm is the chief object of general linguistics.

Form elements are called *glossemes*, and the branch of linguistics which deals with *glossemes* (the theory of system and norm) is called