

Titel: BREV TIL: Francis James Whitfield FRA: Eli Fischer-Jørgensen (1968-10-30)

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Anvendt udgave: Louis Hjelmslev og hans kreds

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Dear Frank, thank you very much for your two letters from the end of September. I am sorry I have waited so long before answering. The reason was (at any rate the main reason,) that I passed your introduction on to Kiel's to hear his comments, and then I did not manage to get into touch with him for a fortnight. Thank you for your congratulations to my election to the Academy, and for all your kind words. As a matter of fact I do not think you are right. My own scientific contributions are modest, and what I have contributed to glossematics is perhaps rather negative. - I have contributed to art from the first years Louis did not profit from discussions. I think they rather hampered him in his own thinking, but it took many years before I realized this, because I find discussions inspiring myself.

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--- I was glad to get your letters just in time before the dead line for the applications. The summary also arrived all right. - I thought your introduction very useful and we have no objections. As for the comments I have also discussed the problem with Hans Chr. Sorensen and Togeby. We all understand that it will be a very difficult and almost impossible task to write interpretative comments. On the other hand the book would be much more useful if the reader could be referred, to applications and examples. So what we would suggest is the following: The index which Wett-Frederiksen once started, and of which I think you have a copy, should be controlled and revised and brought up to date, it should contain all technical terms found in the Summary (not on Terminology, also in rules etc) and possibly also all terms found in Prolegomena and not in the Summary, and the references should be made to all Hjelmslev's writings containing the same terms* This means that terms only found in other writings (and mostly out of date) should not be included, but Danish and French correspondences to the terms found in the Summary should be included in so far as they are found in some of Hjelmslev's printed works (including the ones in print) with a simple reference to the English translation. - If the term is applied in a different sense, a short note should be made (e.g. for 'usus' etc in Stratification) I hasten to add that the details of this are only in the suggestions by Niels and me, the committee only talked about making an index including all Hjelmslev's works. I think this would be extremely useful. And I include a few pages of Wett-Frederiksens index, where my +, * and ? indicate suggestions based on a quick glance down the pages.

This index could be made by a capable young candidate under your guidance. I suggest that you give him general principles, he could then work out the index (with question marks in cases of doubt) in the course of the spring, and you could talk about it when you come in the summer. I think we should be able to find a good man for it. Niels has no time, he must try to write something now. - We have applied for money for this purpose to the Carl Steerg Foundation. Moreover we have applied to the Uask-Ørsted Foundation for payment for the translation. It is of course ridiculous that you should get less for the

translation than the man gets for the index, but we must keep within the general financial rates, to get more for the purpose of the translation than '\

and as you see we have tried to be normal

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rates of the Hasle-Ørslev Foundation, answers as follows: the first half of December. -- In Kiel's copy you have two content lists, one rather brief, and; one more, detailed. I think they and that one should, include at any rate the briefer list.

We shall have the

are very useful

There is one thing which we missed in your introduction, that is a philological account of the basis of the edition. I think it is necessary to mention the number of existing manu-

scripts, the reasons for choosing one of them, the mistakes and the places where you have made corrections (apart from pure misprints). - I think this is necessary also because some of the corrections might be uncertain, e.g. a gloss is called a "variant", in that your first manuscript you wrote 'Variant', in the final draft Invariant but 'derivate', would also be a possibility (variant of course is wrong). - I think these cases must be mentioned.

I have compared your copy of the Danish texts, which Kiel has got from you, with the one I have from Spang-Thomsen, it is evident that his is a written copy of yours, since all handwritten corrections are included. It is also evident that your copy contains handwritten additions by Wett-Frederiksen and a few handwritten words (mostly headings) by Diderichsen. It may thus have been Diderichsen's copy. Where did you get it and did you have other copies? I brought Uldall's copy home, I think, and there must have been one belonging to Hjelmslev himself. I think we have talked about this, but I do not remember it any

more.

The necessity of philological notes has also become clear to me, because I miss them in the different editions of Prolegomena. I had to find out for myself all the places where e.g. substance had been changed to purport, where something had been left out etc. I think it is disturbing that these points have not been indicated. The worst thing is the addition of the lines about "discovery procedure", which according to Egehaas made some American linguists conclude that Jakobson invented this term. As for the letters in the margin, x, i, e, l, s and I propose that "'definition' is abbreviated and "rule" R (Kg is directly disturbing, except for those who know Danish or Katin of course) and that they are then placed in two different columns. Note for note could be placed in the same column as rule, but the notes should be set with small print, to make this six more clear.

finally I we should be very glad to know whether you will have time to translate Malmgren's papers for Essais before January, (or February at the latest) or whether you want somebody else to translate some of them.

Bech has left linguistics now, and a committee has been set up to find out what can be done. I am not a member of it. - Do you know anybody who could come for a couple of years or who is so old that it would not prevent younger Danish linguists to have a chance later? about Danish phonemics. I do not think this is a very good idea under the present circumstances. But if this is his main interest, it would probably not be good to advise him to do something in comparative linguistics. We have two working on Danish phonemics already (Rischel and Basbøl). By the way, I have just been elected to the new "Common Science foundation" which is going to replace Almindelig dansk videnskabsfond. I got money for my own research from videnskabsfonde, so now suppose I shall have to change to the Carlsberg foundation. Best wishes, also for Celina,

Niels wants to write

ours

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term "catalysis on catalysis" I see that it is a translation of a

a- d

X was struck by you looked it up in Prolegomena. "katalyse på katalyse", tout it is really possible to "on" in this sense in English? I asked Niels, and Sit was foreign to him. It is slightly emphatic and means "one after the other". sendte brev -på brev udsat at få svar" "gang på gang"

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