

Preface

 <https://doi.org/10.1075/cilt.107.01pre>

Pages vii–viii of

**Historical Linguistics 1991: Papers from the 10th
International Conference on Historical Linguistics,
Amsterdam, August 12–16, 1991**

Edited by Jaap van Marle

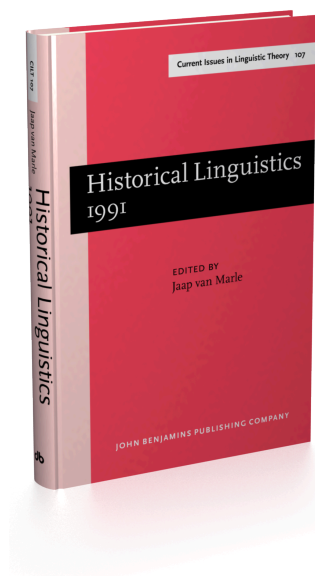
[*Current Issues in Linguistic Theory*, 107]

1993. xviii, 395 pp.

© John Benjamins Publishing Company

This electronic file may not be altered in any way. For any reuse of this material written permission should be obtained from the publishers or through the Copyright Clearance Center (for USA: www.copyright.com).

For further information, please contact rights@benjamins.nl or consult our website at benjamins.com/rights



Preface

The Tenth International Conference on Historical Linguistics (ICHL 10) was held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, from August 12 to August 16, 1991 under the auspices of the Vrije Universiteit. The conference was attended by more than 130 participants, coming from over 30 countries.

At the time of the Conference, the Executive Committee of the International Society for Historical Linguistics consisted of the following members: Henning Andersen (UCLA), Dorothy Disterheft (South Carolina), Suzanne Fleischman (Berkeley), Robert J. Jeffers (Rutgers), Paul Kiparsky (Stanford), and Dieter Stein (Giessen). The members of the Executive Committee made recommendations on a wide range of issues which came up both before and during the Conference. As the preparation of the Conference concurred with the Gulf Crisis and Gulf War, there was even question of cancelling the meeting. Fortunately, the decision was made to hold the Conference as scheduled.

As can be inferred from the Conference Programme which is included in the volume, the general programme consisted of approximately 95 papers. In addition, some 30 papers were presented in the three workshops which were held during the conference: workshop I on 'Null Subjects' organized by Ans van Kemenade, workshop II on 'The Origin and Development of Verbal Periphrases' organized by John Charles Smith, and workshop III on 'Medieval Dialectology' organized by Jacek Fisiak.

The present volume contains a selection of the papers read during the regular meeting of ICHL 10. The papers reproduced in the Proceedings clearly reflect the on-going interest in the general mechanisms of language change, the close relationship between present-day historical linguistics and linguistic theory, and the renewed interest in language contact. The selection was carried out by the members of the Executive Committee and the President. In this connection, a special word of thanks is due to Henning Andersen, Suzanne Fleischman and Dieter Stein who gave invaluable advice. In addition, I am very much indebted to my

colleagues Eric Hoekstra and, particularly, Caroline Smits for further suggestions, advice and help. The indices of this volume were prepared by Boudewijn Smid, and the technical work of editing the Proceedings was carried out by Ineke Meijer.

It would have been impossible to hold the Tenth International Conference on Historical Linguistics in Amsterdam had it not been for the generous support of several institutions. First of all, I would like to thank the Vrije Universiteit, which hosted the Conference. Furthermore, I am also particularly indebted to the Board of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences for their substantial subsidy. As a reflection of the important role the Royal Netherlands Academy played in supporting the Conference, the opening ceremony was held by Prof. P.W. Klein on behalf of the Board of the Academy. Moreover, the President of the Academy, Prof. P.J.D. Drenth, addressed the Conference at a joint reception of the Mayor and Aldermen of Amsterdam and the Royal Academy. The Faculty of Arts and Letters of the Vrije Universiteit offered the closing reception, while the opening reception of the Conference was organised by the Publisher of the ICHL Proceedings, John Benjamins Publishing Company, Amsterdam. The interest of the Faculty of Arts and Letters in the Conference is also clear from the fact that the Dean of the Faculty, Prof. G.E. Booij, addressed the Conference during the Opening Session as well. I am also grateful to the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Amsterdam for arranging a reception in one of the splendid museums in Amsterdam, the Amsterdams Historisch Museum. Finally, a word of thanks is due to the P.J. Meertens-Institute for Dialectology, Folklore/European Ethnicity and Onomastics of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences for arranging an informal get-together and for providing the Conference with all kinds of secretarial and administrative support.

Special thanks are due to all of the colleagues who helped me organize the Conference. I am much indebted to the staff of the Conference Service of the Vrije Universiteit and the staff of the P.J. Meertens-Institute, particularly H.J. Beekveldt, H. Phagoe and especially A.J. Wams-Verkerk for their invaluable collaboration and help.

Jaap van Marle
President ICHL 10
Amsterdam, January 1993