


Preface

 Susan C. Herring
Pieter van Reenen
Lene Schøsler

 <https://doi.org/10.1075/cilt.195.preface>

Pages vii–viii of

Textual Parameters in Older Languages

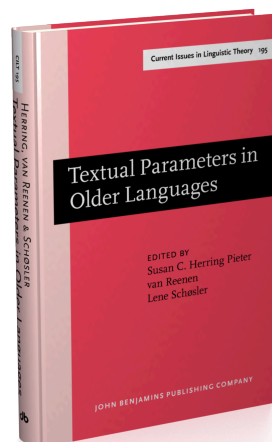
Edited by Susan C. Herring, Pieter van Reenen and Lene Schøsler

[Current Issues in Linguistic Theory, 195] 2000. x, 448 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 idea for the present volume was born at the 11th International Conference on Historical Linguistics, which was held at the University of California, Los Angeles in August of 1993. Several of the papers presented at that conference, although focusing on different linguistic phenomena from different theoretical perspectives, seemed to be making the same point: linguistic analysis of an older language may depend crucially on variable properties of the textual data themselves. Moreover, while any one example could have been taken as an isolated cautionary tale, the ensemble of the evidence presented in the various papers suggested something more compelling — a need for a new methodological paradigm for working with older languages, and a potentially significant insight about language change.

Intrigued by this vision, the first editor approached the second and third editors and proposed a collaborative volume. Among the first papers invited for inclusion were those that had inspired the idea for the volume; thus roughly half of the chapters in this book are expanded versions of papers originally presented at ICHL XI. The other chapters were added subsequently as a result of invitations issued to scholars with a known interest in the topic of text-based variation in older languages. The result, some six-and-a-half years later, is the present volume.

Of the ICHL presentations that originally inspired this book, the most influential was a plenary talk by Suzanne Fleischman, which more than any other crystalized the vision of (and need for) a textual parameters approach. In addition to contributing her talk as a chapter of the book, Suzanne took part in early discussions that helped define the approach, and commented closely on the editors' introduction to the volume. For this guidance, and in recognition more generally of her pioneering contributions to the field of historical discourse analysis, we have dedicated this volume to her. Sadly, she did not live to see it published. On February 2, 2000, as this volume was in press, Suzanne succumbed after a long, courageous struggle to a blood disease that had turned into leukemia, at the age of 51. We are deeply saddened that this dedication, originally intended as a gesture of appreciation, must now be a posthumous tribute.

The delay in getting the volume to press in no way reflects the timeliness or cooperation of the authors or the publisher, which were exemplary, but rather was due to health problems (now passed) of the first editor. We wish to thank the authors for their patience. We also wish to thank Henning Andersen, ICHL XI organizer, for allowing us to publish papers based on presentations at that conference (i.e. those by Brinton, Fleischman, Gvozdanović, Herring, Kroch et al., Kytö, and van Reenen & Schøsler); Konrad Koerner, for accepting the volume for publication in the *Current Issues in Linguistic Theory* series; and the staff at John Benjamins for their pleasant cooperation and technical assistance. Thanks are also due to Mouton de Gruyter Publishers for granting us permission to reprint Laurel Brinton's chapter, which due to the delay in getting this volume to press, first appeared in print in her 1996 book *Pragmatic Markers in English: Grammaticalization and Discourse Functions*.

Finally, we wish to express our appreciation to Andreas Jucker, Peter Koch, John Paolillo and Nigel Vincent for their constructive and often thought-provoking comments on the introduction to this volume.

Susan C. Herring
Pieter van Reenen
Lene Schøsler

February 5, 2000