

# Preface

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**Historical Linguistics 2003: Selected papers from the 16th International Conference on Historical Linguistics, Copenhagen, 11–15 August 2003**

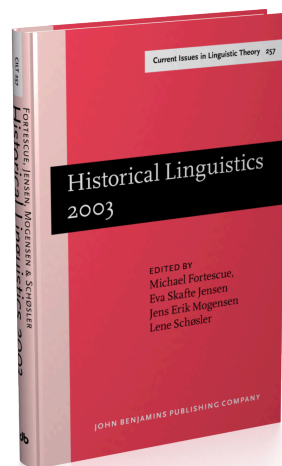
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## Preface

The XVIth International Conference on Historical Linguistics that took place in Copenhagen, 11–15 August 2003, gathered the largest number of participants, papers, and languages this conference has ever known. There were 370 participants from 35 countries and 5 continents.

Out of a very large number of abstracts submitted and reviewed, 246 were accepted and 236 actually presented. In addition to the general programme, 15 thematic sections were organized and there were between 7 and 9 parallel sessions each day. The sections were as follows:

1. North American and Siberian languages, organized by Una Canger and Michael Fortescue
2. Internal reconstruction in Indo-European: Methods, results and problems, organized by Jens Elmegaard Rasmussen
3. Latin and Greek, organized by Gerd V. M. Haverling
4. Different models of change organized by Ole Nedergaard Thomsen
5. Grammaticalization and reanalysis, organized by Jan Terje Faarlund
6. Language contact, bilingualism and change, organized by Jens Normann Jørgensen and Tore Kristiansen
7. Aboriginal languages, organized by William McGregor
8. Deliberate linguistic changes: when, how, and how often? organized by Sally Thomason
9. Historical pragmatics, organized by Maj-Britt Mosegaard Hansen and Corinne Rossari
10. Language and media, organized by Susan C. Herring
11. Old Germanic syntax, organized by Ulrike Demske and Ans van Kemenade
12. The diachrony of writing, organized by Søren Wichmann
13. Proto-Japanese, organized by Bjarke Frellesvig and John Whitman
14. From Old to Classical French: Parameters of linguistic change, organized by France Martineau and Mireille Tremblay
15. Romance variation and change in a comparative perspective, organized by Thomas D. Cravens and Fernando Tejedo-Herrero.

Separate publications are being prepared for papers selected from several of these sections.

As usual, plenary speakers were chosen to represent important methodological orientations within Historical Linguistics. They were linked thematically to a number of the sections. The speakers were:

Henning Andersen, UCLA, Los Angeles: Synchrony, diachrony, and evolution (Section on different models of change)

Joan Bybee, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque: The development of the category auxiliary in English (Section on grammaticalization and reanalysis)

William Croft, University of Manchester: Can an evolutionary model alter the way we do historical linguistics? (Section on different models of change)

Scott De Lancey, University of Oregon: The semantic transparency of Klamath bipartite stems (Section on North American and Siberian languages)

Michèle Fruyt, Université de Sorbonne, Paris IV: Grammaticalization in Latin with special regard to modality (Section on Latin and Greek)

Ricardo Otheguy, CUNY Graduate Center NYC: Change and persistence in bilingual and multidialectal communities: Pronominal variation and lexical borrowing in Spanish-English bilingualism in New York (Section on language contact, bilingualism and change)

Sally Thomason, University of Michigan: Can you change your language? The limits of historical determination in linguistic change (Section on deliberate linguistic changes: When, how, and how often?)

Diane Vincent, Université de Laval, Québec: The history of non-standard discourse markers (Section on historical pragmatics)

Prof. Jay Jasanoff, University of Harvard: Internal reconstruction and the PIE *bh*-cases (Section on internal reconstruction in Indo-European).

The Organizing Committee consisted of the following professors and Ph.D. students from the University of Copenhagen and the University of Roskilde: Una Canger, Michael Fortescue, Frans Gregersen, Jan Heegård, Kirsten Kragh, Xavier Lepetit, Anne Jensen, Eva Skafte Jensen, Jens Erik Mogensen, Maj-Britt Mosegaard Hansen, and Ole Nedergaard Thomsen.

Student assistants were:

Julie Andersen, Ea Feldfos, Marta G. Kirilova, Soon Trolle Nielsen, Ruben Schachtenhaufen, and Louise Torp-Pedersen.

Secretary and webmaster: Esben Lydixsen.

Three members of the Organizing Committee, Michael Fortescue, Eva Skafte Jensen, Jens Erik Mogensen, and the Conference Director, have prepared the present publication. All papers received have been reviewed and 19 papers selected – the criteria for selection were: quality, variety of methods, and variety of topics. They cover the domains of morphology, phonology, pragmatics, and syntax, and include studies on ethnolinguistics, grammaticalisation, language contact, sociolinguistics, and typology. Among the languages treated are: Brazilian, Chukchi, Korean, Danish, English, German, Greek, Japanese, Kok-Papónk, Latin, Newar, Old Norse, Romanian, Seneca, Spanish, and Swedish.

Lene Schøsler  
Conference Director

