

Preface

 <https://doi.org/10.1075/cilt.34.01pre>

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**Papers from the VIth International Conference on
Historical Linguistics, Poznań, 22–26 August 1983**

Edited by Jacek Fisiak

[*Current Issues in Linguistic Theory*, 34]

1985. xxiii, 622 pp.

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PREFACE

The 6th International Conference on Historical Linguistics took place in Poznań, Poland from August 22 to 26, 1983. The Conference was organized by the Department of English at Adam Mickiewicz University (Poznań) and was attended by 163 linguists from 26 countries. Unfortunately many colleagues who had already registered, cancelled their participation very late causing considerable inconvenience to the organizers, which can be easily inferred from the programme printed below.

Despite numerous cancellations enough papers were offered to require the organization of parallel sessions. The abstracts of papers presented at the conference were submitted for assessment to a committee (A. Ahlqvist, H. Andersen, L. Campbell, M. B. Harris, E. F. K. Koerner, A. G. Ramat, J. Fisiak) prior to the conference and the final decision as to which papers should be included in the programme was based on these recommendations.

The present volume contains a selection of papers read at the conference and two papers which were not presented but which had been sent earlier. (Their authors notified the organizers about their inability to participate and met all the financial obligations resulting from their decision.) The editor would here like to express his deep gratitude to all who have sent their comments on the papers included in the present volume, and in particular to E. F. K. Koerner for a prompt reaction in sending his own penetrating observations.

The Conference was preceded by a workshop on sociohistorical linguistics organized by S. Romaine and E. C. Traugott. Papers from this workshop will appear in a volume of *Folia Linguistica Historica*. The workshop was a great success and contributed meaningfully to promoting further this particular aspect of historical linguistics. The organizers of the 6th International Conference on Historical Linguistics are grateful to S. Romaine and E. C. Traugott for bringing the workshop to Poznań.

The 6th International Conference on Historical Linguistics could not have taken place without a substantial subsidy from Adam Mickiewicz

University. It is therefore our great pleasure to express our thanks to the Rector and the administration of the University for all the aid rendered to the conference organizers.

Last but not least our thanks go to all our colleagues from the Department of English for their invaluable help and personal involvement in the smooth running of the conference and in particular to Miss Barbara Płocińska and Mrs. Danuta Trawczyńska for their devotion to the cause of the conference running far above the call of duty.

Jacek Fisiak

Poznań, January 1984