

Introduction

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**Scientific and Humanistic Dimensions of Language:
Festschrift for Robert Lado . On the Occasion of his 70th
Birthday**

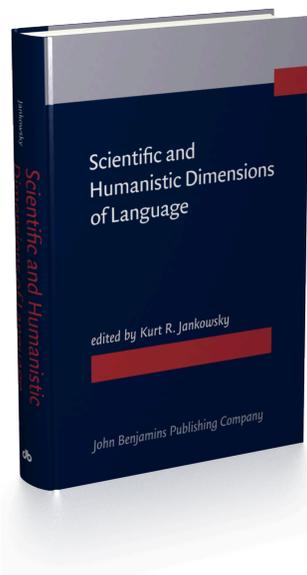
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The 70th birthday of Dr. Robert Lado on May 31, 1985 offers a most welcome opportunity to express thanks and appreciation to a most distinguished scholar and educator for decades of extremely successful work as a teacher, researcher, and academic administrator.

The 62 scholars whose contributions are incorporated in this Festschrift come from all four corners of the world. There was no need for a laborious lobbying effort to secure their cooperation. The invitation to participate, extended to a select group of colleagues with strong personal and/or professional links to Robert Lado, resulted in an overwhelmingly enthusiastic response. To publish excerpts from the extensive correspondence over the last 2 1/2 years would amount to a small Festschrift in itself. It is regrettable that those numerous expressions of admiration for Lado's many achievements cannot be shared with the large number of friends and colleagues in all six continents who continue to take an active interest in both the work and the personal development of the Festschrift recipient.

To those privileged to have observed Dr. Lado's activities since his arrival at Georgetown in 1960, it will always be an enigma where he found the time, energy, and unflinching enthusiasm to carry out the voluminous duties he set himself.

Fascinating as his many professional accomplishments have always been, they were matched by the excellence of his personal qualifications. He served as an inspiring model to students and faculty alike through his unwavering sense of duty and his high level of commitment to his School, the University, and the teaching profession in general. The sum total of what he did always was, and will remain, a tough act to follow.

The wide range of topics dealt with in the 60 papers adequately reflects the wide range of interests which Robert Lado has pursued in teaching and in his research efforts throughout his career. Grouping the papers into 9 sections seemed much more meaningful than mere alphabetical listing by author, although it also proved to be somewhat problematic. While the chapter titles accurately reflect Dr. Lado's teaching and research activities as well as the general content of the individual papers, a certain amount of overlap both in the chapter headings and in the assignment of particular papers to particular groups was unavoidable.

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The volume has been written by a great variety of scholars and educators. Not only are the authors literally from all four corners of the world; they also represent, in spite of the large body of shared professional viewpoints and objectives, many different, even diverging, approaches, methodologies, and preferences. This is undoubtedly one of the strengths of the collection. On the other hand, it logically follows that the volume cannot, and does not want to, address itself to a homogeneous readership. It is unlikely that a particular reader will derive equal satisfaction from every contribution in the Festschrift, but I am convinced that the volume does not contain a single paper without a strong appeal to a large appreciative clientele. While this is not unique for an anthology of more than several dozens of contributors, it is especially true for a cooperative effort of world-wide dimension.

It would take many pages to express appropriately my sincere gratitude to the many helpers and supporters of the Festschrift project over a time span of almost three years. First and foremost, thanks are due to Dr. James E. Alatis, Dean of Georgetown's School of Languages and Linguistics, for his continuous encouragement and generous support in all phases of the undertaking. From the very first moment when I placed the idea of a Lado Festschrift before him, he not only showed his great interest but also made it clear that I could count on his advice and concrete help wherever and whenever it was needed.

I am also particularly grateful to our Linguistics Department and especially to the Festschrift Advisory Committee, consisting of Dr. Alatis (Chairman), Father Francis P. Dinneen, S.J., Dr. David Harris, Dr. Charles Kreidler, and Dr. Roger Shuy. They all were approached by me, several times in group meetings, numerous times individually, with problems ranging from the selection of contributors to assistance in securing a world-wide representation of Lado well-wishers for the *Tabula gratulatoria*. When the time for proof-reading came I again could rely heavily on the effective cooperation of the Committee. In several respects, David Harris was most frequently approached for help and advice. He always responded in the best possible way.

I am further indebted to the following colleagues at Georgetown for their editorial help: Drs. Fred Bosco, Wallace Ervin, Peter Lowenberg, Michael Zarechnak, and most particularly, Assistant Dean John Staczek.

Assistant Dean Richard Cronin was my never-failing resource person whenever technical help was required, mostly in connection with the word-processor and materials supply.

The list is by no means complete. Many other colleagues, too numerous to be mentioned here, from various departments showed their genuine interest and lent a helping hand on the many occasions when urgent needs arose.

Soliciting proof-reading help was not restricted to the faculty. From early on I got students involved. At least 10 graduate students did extensive volunteer work in that they each read several manuscripts at various stages of production. They made valuable suggestions and deserve my gratitude.

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A very special service was supplied by Mr. Gregory Kitsock, M.A., currently writing his Ph.D. thesis in German. He read every manuscript twice: in the initial phase of word-processing and when the papers were in their semi-final form. His stylistic expertise has been truly beneficial.

Help was also sought and obtained outside the University. Two important sources of assistance were Mrs. Elke Fischer, who proof-read more than half of the manuscripts, and Ms. Laurence Selim, who acted as the official calligrapher of the FS project. She provided the majority of the drawings and put the diacritics in their proper places. My thanks to both of them.

The contract with the publisher, John Benjamins, Amsterdam, called for the supply of (what turned out to be) 666 manuscript pages in camera-ready copy. In this day and age of the sophisticated word-processor such a task may seem quite easy to manage--to the non-initiated, that is. Word-processors, especially those available to the Georgetown faculty, are truly magnificent machines, but the precision work they can and actually do produce, as any practitioner is quick to realize, will to a very large extent depend upon the amount of precision which the operator brings to the job and is capable and willing to sustain. All of the word-processing was done by students. It would have been unrealistic to expect any of them to have mastered the intricacies of word-processing at the time when they started their work. On the other hand, the nature of the job at hand required a high degree of professionalism.

Three of the eight students employed at various times started out with remarkable word-processing skills, the rest with almost no previous experience. Within a very short time, however, all of them had developed a level of proficiency comparable to that of true professionals.

During the first and experimental phase of several months, Ms. Sabina Byrnes from the very beginning displayed an expertise which proved hard to match. She typed 28 papers at a time when the final format was still elusive. Subsequently, Mr. Joseph Gwara, now a Ph.D. student at Oxford University, took over. He, too, had ample previous exposure to large-scale word-processing work. He finished typing most of the remaining papers and started the lengthy revision process. Of his three successors, Ms. Moira Howard, Ms. Katherine Langley, and Ms. Theresa Dyer, Theresa was able to stay the longest. Her tenure largely coincided with the "refinement phase", a difficult period full of surprises and great challenges in which she performed admirably. During the 1984-85 Christmas vacation and in the early part of 1985 Mr. Scott Pender joined the project for several weeks. An accomplished typist, he mastered word-processing in a minimum time and contributed significantly to the final evolution of a standard format for all the papers. Last, but not least, came Mr. Robert Masek. He had been helpful long before he started actual work by providing word-processing instruction to two of his predecessors. Robert saw the project to its very end, spending countless evenings and many weekend hours at the word-processor. His performance reached truly masterful proportions. For a shorter period of time Ms. Debbie

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Raphaelson also provided helpful services both at the keyboard and at the printer.

To all those students I would like to express my sincerest thanks and gratitude. I fully realize and appreciate the significant role they played in bringing the ambitious project to a successful conclusion.

My ample contacts, through personal meetings, lengthy telephone conversations, and extensive correspondence, with the many contributors were a highly rewarding experience. I am immensely gratified by the superb cooperation which they have accorded me. Even though most of them are overburdened by ongoing projects and by their regular work load of teaching and administrative duties, they nevertheless accepted the invitation to participate and made good on their promise to furnish their papers on time. My heartfelt appreciation to all of them.

A word of thanks is also due to the John Benjamins Publishing House, Amsterdam, notably to Mrs. Claire Benjamins, whose cooperation and helpful suggestions greatly facilitated the completion of this volume.

My wife Ellen participated actively in all stages of the Festschrift project through her constructive advice and most welcome help in numerous ways, including extensive proof-reading work.

From the very beginning I undertook to establish a secret line of communication to members of the Lado family. They graciously supplied me with much-needed personal and bibliographical information and helped me keep the project secret in the Lado residence.

KURT R. JANKOWSKY, Editor