

Editorial

The editors are pleased to welcome you to second issue of the fifth volume of FULL, an open-access international journal providing a platform for linguistic research on modern and older Finno-Ugric or other Uralic languages and dialects. FULL publishes comparative research as well as research on single languages. With comparison of just Uralic languages or comparison across family lines. We are interested in formal linguistic accounts as well as empirically oriented contributions.

The first article in the present issue is by Phil Crone, titled ‘Finnish first conjunct agreement and the direction of Agree’. It addresses the syntax of agreement, based on data mainly from Finnish. In first conjunct agreement, a crosslinguistically widely attested agreement pattern, some agreement-bearing element stands in agreement with the first conjunct of a coordinated nominal expression, rather than with the full conjoined nominal phrase. Showing that none of the previous analyses are able to adequately explain the Finnish data, a new analysis is proposed, which is crucially based on the notion that the syntactic Agree(ment) process operates not only “downward” within constituent structure, as traditionally assumed, but also “upward.” In addition to bearing on general theoretical questions related to the directionality and timing of syntactic Agree(ment), Crone’s paper demonstrates that an analysis drawing on bidirectional Agree(ment) is a promising candidate for the explanation of first conjunct agreement cross-linguistically.

László Varga’s paper titled The Intonation of Topic and Comment in the Hungarian Declarative Sentence presents an accessible overview of the intonation of attitudinally neutral simple Hungarian declarative sentences with specific reference to their bifurcation into topic and comment. The succinct yet comprehensive description, formalised using the terms of the contour-based approach, concentrates on those aspects of Hungarian intonation that have grammatical or information structural functions. It identifies the preparatory, scalar and terminal contours that are composed to yield the key declarative intonational patterns of the Hungarian sentence. Not only default patterns, but also optional rules of prosodic realization are covered. While some intonational generalizations apply across the board, other properties are specific to the topic or the comment status and/or to the syntactic position of the elements to which they apply. As such, Varga’s study will be of interest to students of the information structure–prosody interface and the syntax–prosody interface alike.

We take this opportunity to thank the anonymous reviewers who generously lent their time and expertise to FULL.

Our publications can be freely accessed and downloaded without any need for prior registration. At the same time, those who register, or have already registered, are provided with the benefit of getting notified of new issues, calls, etc. via the occasional email.

FULL welcomes manuscripts from all the main branches of linguistics, including phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics, employing a diachronic or synchronic perspective, as well as from first language acquisition and psycholinguistics. Whatever the theoretical or empirical orientation of the contributions may be, our leading principle is to maintain the highest international standards.

The Editors