

The Preface

The editors of FULL are pleased to announce the first issue of the journal. In our description of the journal's scope and focus we say that it is meant to provide a platform for linguistic research on modern and older Finno-Ugric and Uralic languages and dialects, comparative research as well as research on single languages, with comparison of just Finno-Ugric languages or comparison across family lines, with formally or empirically oriented papers. Our first volume, consisting of a double issue, contains five contributions, all dealing with issues in Finno-Ugric generative syntax, but representing a variety of different approaches within that domain.

Two of the papers have an explicitly comparative Finno-Ugric theme. Ora Matushansky's paper is on case and the structure of small clauses in Hungarian, Finnish and Estonian. The main idea is that surface case-marking is, universally, a diagnostic of syntactic complexity, which is confirmed by her findings from the three Finno-Ugric languages. Bácskai-Atkári and Gergely Kántor investigate ellipsis in comparative clauses also in Hungarian, Finnish, and Estonian, focusing on a kind of ellipsis found in these constructions but not previously investigated, called Comparative Verb Gapping. Diane Nelson's paper is also comparative, exploring properties of nominalised clauses in Saami and Finnish, compared with Turkish, in order to determine if, or in what sense, they behave like finite clauses. Katalin Gugán's short paper is on the history of the Hungarian negation (hence also comparative, as all investigation of language change) arguing that the standard Hungarian sentential negation word *nem*, despite appearances, is not an outcome of the Jespersen cycle. Lena Dal Pozzo's contribution is a report of an experiment testing Finnish speakers' expression of new information. The experiment is adapted from similar experiments made with speakers of Romance languages, testing their use of so called free inversion. The theoretical background is the assumed connection between free inversion and subject pro-drop, where Finnish is interesting as it is a partial null subject language.

The idea behind FULL is to stimulate research on Finno-Ugric and Uralic languages, and contribute to raising the level of knowledge and awareness of the results of Finno-Ugric linguistics globally, but also more specifically, contribute to raising the level of knowledge among experts on one Finno-Ugric language of the other languages in this family, and stimulate collaboration and comparative research. We are sitting on a gold mine which we have barely begun to exploit, of languages with complex historical and social relations to each other; very close relations among some of them, very distant relations among others, but still exhibiting common, family-specific characteristics, modified in intricate ways over the millennia. If we make the effort, there can be no doubt that this research, in a foreseeable future, will lead to a better understanding of the complex relationships among languages, the effects of time, cultural evolution, language contact and language acquisition, and ultimately contribute to a fuller understanding of the human language faculty and its interplay with other human cognitive faculties. We take the first issue of FULL to be a big step in that direction

We also say in the description of our aims that we welcome manuscripts from all the main branches of linguistics, including phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics, as well as from first language acquisition and psycholinguistics. The present issue has a distinctly syntactic orientation. We hope that future volumes will include papers from the other branches and fields as well. But whatever the theoretical or empirical orientation of the contributions may be, our leading principle is to maintain the highest international standards.

The launching of this new journal, and the publication of its inaugural double issue would not have been possible without the various forms of contributions made by various people and organizations. We would like to close this editorial by expressing our gratitude to them. Our first thanks go to Katalin É. Kiss for being involved both in shaping the conception of the journal from the very beginning, and in organizing the workshop together with Anne Tamm and Anders Holmberg, where the selected papers appearing in this first double issue were originally presented. We are grateful for the ad hoc financial support received from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of Pázmány Péter Catholic University to customize the open source OJS journal management software to the needs of FULL, and for the support received from TÁMOP grant 4.4.4/B-10/1-2010-0014, funded by the European Union, and from Pázmány University's Graduate School in Linguistics, which helped us produce the first volume. We thank all our colleagues serving as anonymous reviewers of the contributions submitted, from which the best have been selected to appear in the volume. Finally, we would like to express our personal gratitude to FULL's Editorial Assistant, Orsolya Tánczos, without whose conscientious collaboration with our contributors, consummately industrious work on the manuscripts, and enthusiastic dedication to the whole endeavor FULL could not have gotten off the ground.

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