

Introduction to *Nordlyd* 31: *The Proceedings of the 19th Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics*

Thirty-seven kilometers from Tromsø, on the island called Kvaløya, some reflective and artistic individual carved pictures into a rock outcropping 4500 years ago. The journal *Nordlyd* is not quite that old, but nonetheless has an impressive history as a paper journal; it was published every year (sometimes in multiple volumes) from 1979 until 2001 by the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Tromsø, where it has functioned as a working papers in language and linguistics, distributing works of linguists affiliated in one way or another with the University as well as proceedings from conferences and workshops held here. Copies were sent to universities all over Europe, making *Nordlyd* available to a much broader readership than the rock carvings on Kvaløya were.

This issue marks not only a restart after a year's hiatus, but also a rebirth as an electronic journal; this new guise promises to increase *Nordlyd's* readership by another order of magnitude. The reincarnation comes at a fitting juncture, as the linguists at the University of Tromsø have just been reorganized into a large new Department of Linguistics, and so the responsibility for the journal naturally passes from the Faculty to the Department, which I hope can nurture the new incarnation as long as the Faculty did the old one. The staff at the University Library, in particular Stein Høydalsvik, have been instrumental in getting this electronic version off the ground and onto the ether.

This special five-volume edition is both *Nordlyd* number 31 and the Proceedings for the Nineteenth Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics. Here I provide a little background for the conference and the Proceedings.

SCL 19 was held in Tromsø on January 10–12, 2002, under the auspices of the Nordic Association of Linguists (NAL) and with support from the Nordic Academy for Advanced Study (NorFA), the University of Tromsø, the Faculty of Humanities, and the English Department at the University of Tromsø. The Center for Advanced Study in Theoretical Linguistics (CASTL) also contributed to the production of this Proceedings.

The conference was a terrific success, with eighty-three talks by speakers from eighteen countries. Travellers from lower latitudes were treated to Tromsø's special midwinter quirks: the sun did not rise at any time during the conference, and the Northern Lights made a spectacular appearance.

INTRODUCTION

The conference was organized by a small but determined army of employees and students at the Faculty of Humanities. Kristine Bentzen, Patrik Bye, Wilma ter Haar, Anders Holmberg, Mona Markussen, and Øystein Alexander Vangsnes worked especially hard in the planning and organizational stages, but we would never have pulled off a conference of this size without the assistance of the dedicated team in Tromsø who volunteered their time, including Marina Diakonova, Dave Gehl, Vyara Istratkova, Patrycja Jablonska, Maja Jensvoll, Laila Jonahi, Marit Julien, Tore Nettet, Eugenia Romanova, Margje Post, Curt Rice, Yulia Rodina, Kaori Takamine, Mai Tungseth, Concepcion Urbieto, and Marit Richardsen Westergaard. I apologize if I have inadvertently omitted anyone.

We were graced with the presence of six illustrious guest speakers, including Anders Holmberg (Tromsø/Durham): Paula Fikkert (Nijmegen), John Hawkins (USC), Kyle Johnson (UMass Amherst), Paul Kiparsky (Stanford), and Christer Platzack (Lund). Holmberg, Johnson, and Platzack also contributed articles to the Proceedings here.

In addition to the invited speakers' lectures, fifty speakers were selected by abstract for two general sessions held in parallel. The quality of the talks presented was outstanding. A selection of papers based on these talks appears here in volumes 1–2, edited by Anne Dahl, Kristine Bentzen, and myself. Furthermore, there were three thematic workshops.

Locals Marit Richardsen Westergaard and Kristine Bentzen adeptly ran a workshop on First Language Acquisition, and a selection of the papers from that workshop appears here as volume 3, edited by Anne Dahl, Marit Richardsen Westergaard, and myself.

Katrin Hietam of the University of Manchester and Elsi Kaiser of the University of Pennsylvania (now at Rochester) volunteered to manage a workshop on Generative Approaches to Finnic Languages, which they did with considerable success. Nearly all of the papers presented there appear here as volume 4, edited by Anne Dahl and myself.

Jens Normann Jørgensen of the University of Copenhagen organized a workshop on Bilingual Behavior in Teenage Groups; his group was so organized, in fact, that they produced a proceedings for their own workshop before the conference, and published it with the Danish University of Education in their *Copenhagen Series in Bilingualism* (Volume K11). A selection of the papers from that proceedings is reprinted here as volume 5. The editors for volume 5 were Jens Normann Jørgensen, Anne Dahl, and myself, and Jørgensen's introduction from the original proceedings appears there.

The editing process has taken a long time, and for that I apologize to all the authors who have had to wait so long. All papers were sent out to

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anonymous reviewers, who I thank for their time and energy. Authors were then given the opportunity to revise and resubmit. The formatting conditions were severe and the length limit was sadistic. Anne Dahl did a tremendous amount of copy-editing and formatting, Kristine Bentzen pitched in on short notice when it was needed the most, and the staff at the University Library created an electronic journal format tailored specifically for the new *Nordlyd*.

With this we relaunch a journal to be read far beyond the shores of Kvaløya. On behalf of all whose labor lies behind it, I hope you readers are as satisfied with the result as we are (and more numerous).

Peter Svenonius
Tromsø, December 2003