

Even Hovdhaugen:

Editorial Statement

The transformation of the Norwegian Journal of Linguistics into the Nordic Journal of Linguistics (*NJL*) is intimately connected with the establishment of the Nordic Association of Linguists (NAL), which was founded by the Third International Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics in Austin, Texas on April 9, 1976. The editorial staff and the editorial policy of the *NJL* have been approved by the board of the NAL.

But the change in the title of the journal and its editorial policy also reflects some basic trends in the development of linguistics during the last 50 years. The number of scholars engaged in linguistics has increased in a way which would have seemed almost impossible then and linguistics has split up into a number of independent and partly isolated fields, each with a high degree of specialization.

Fifty years ago a linguist had little difficulty in finding time to read everything worth while published in general linguistics as well as most synchronic-descriptive and historical-comparative studies. Today few if any of us can claim even to have a complete overview of what is going on in our own special branch of linguistics, to say nothing of the field as a whole. The number of books and journals (general as well as specialized) increases exponentially every year, and new forms of publication like working papers have made the quantity (although not always the quality) of linguistic literature to be read even more terrifying.

When Professor Carl Marstrand founded *Norsk Tidsskrift for Sprogvidenskap* (from 1972 *Norwegian Journal of Linguistics*) in 1928 it was still possible to make a readable and attractive linguistic journal containing highly specialized articles covering such different and/or disconnected topics as runology, Norwegian dialectology, comparative Indo-European philology, general linguistics, Celtic, Caucasian, Finno-Ugric and Indo-Iranian languages.

Today few of us would be willing or able to spend our time and money on a journal of such a non-homogeneous character. To some extent this development has serious disadvantages, and both NAL and *NJL* represent a reaction against the accelerating speed of specialization, which is creating isolated and sometimes dogmatic branches within linguistics. They represent an attempt to stress the common factors and common interests of all linguists and the importance of cooperation at both the scholarly and the organizational levels.

To achieve these aims *NJL* will try to publish articles of general interest to most linguists no matter what their special field of research and interest may be. Articles will be selected on the basis of quality and no topic and no collection of data will be considered irrelevant, provided that the analysis presented and the conclusions drawn are of general interest. To ensure a high quality of the contributions published, the editor hopes to receive as many manuscripts as possible for consideration.

I hope that *NJL* will become a scholarly focus for linguistics in the Nordic countries and stimulate linguistic research in these countries, and also that it will promote the international status and reputation of Nordic linguistics.