

# EuroLinguistics Newsletter

No. 9 (April 2013)

The EuroLinguistic Circle of Mannheim (ELAMA, e. V.) on behalf of The EuroLinguistic Association (ELA)

## Editorial

Dear EuroLinguists,

This ninth issue of the Newsletter contains four conference reports:

First, we report on the First ELA Symposium 2012 in Heidelberg, Nov. 22-24, 2012 which was held at the *Institut für Übersetzen und Dolmetschen (IUED)* of Heidelberg University.

Second, we report on the 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics in Freiburg, Breisgau, May 18-20, 2012 at the University of Freiburg.

Third, we also report on the 45<sup>th</sup> SLE Meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, held at the University of Stockholm, Aug. 28-Sept. 1, 2012.

Fourth and finally, we also include a short report on the A.E.S. Convegno, Nov. 8-9, 2012, at the University of Calabria, Arcavacata di Rende, southern Italy.

These four reports reflect the major linguistic activities during 2012, where EuroLinguistic as-



Fig.1: *The conference room with interpreting facilities with auditors at IUED, Heidelberg University*

pects were directly or indirectly involved at the four different conferences, of which the first and fourth were explicitly called ‘EuroLinguistic’ by name. The report of the contents and programmes of the four conferences will start with the ELA Symposium on European minority languages held in Heidelberg, the introduction of which is here given in full and which was held by Prof. Sture Ureland, 1st Chairman of ELAMA/ELA, on the first evening at Hotel Ibis, Heidelberg after the arrival of participants and which also served as a

welcome speech for the conference participants:

## 1. The ELA Symposium in Heidelberg (Nov. 22-24, 2012)

### *Introduction*

Ladies and gentlemen!

On behalf of the EuroLinguistic Association I welcome you all to this symposium on “Minority languages in Europe” which is a joint undertaking between the Institut für Übersetzen und Dolmetschen (IUED) of Heidelberg University and the Philosophische

Fakultät of the University of Mannheim. This co-operation has been made possible thanks to Dr John Stewart and Prof. Óscar Loureda Lamas, Heidelberg and Prof. Sture Ureland, Mannheim. The invitation to hold the Symposium in Heidelberg made it possible to use the interpreting facilities available at the IUED and also to mobilize competent language students for simultaneous interpreting of the papers to be presented at the symposium (see Fig. 1). We are also grateful for the catering service provided by funds of Heidelberg University. Our thanks also go to Prof. Christian Schmitt, Hirschberg, and Diplomspsycholog Erhard Steller, Landau for assistance in planning the symposium.

## 2. Background of the ELA Symposium with Europe-wide activities

In the long series of EuroLinguistic events since the first two symposia held in Glienicke (1997) and Pushkin (1999), the EuroLinguistic Association (ELA) has made it a goal to create a European framework in describing the languages of Europe and, when necessary, also beyond. This overall continental perspective has remained



Fig 2: Victoria Jamshanova (St. Petersburg) and Sture Ureland (ELA-Chairman)

the objective among those linguists who were dissatisfied with the piecemeal treatment of structures and elements which was a characteristic of national philologies and structural linguistics in the post-war era after 1945. From the very beginning of EuroLinguistics, another much more dynamic and Europe-wide approach seemed necessary in the innovation of the science of language. This change of perspectives towards a European linguistic view was paralleled by the overall European view which was so characteristic of political, economic and cultural efforts to treat Europe as an entity after World War II which culminated in the passing of the Rome Treaties of 1957 and then followed by later treaties

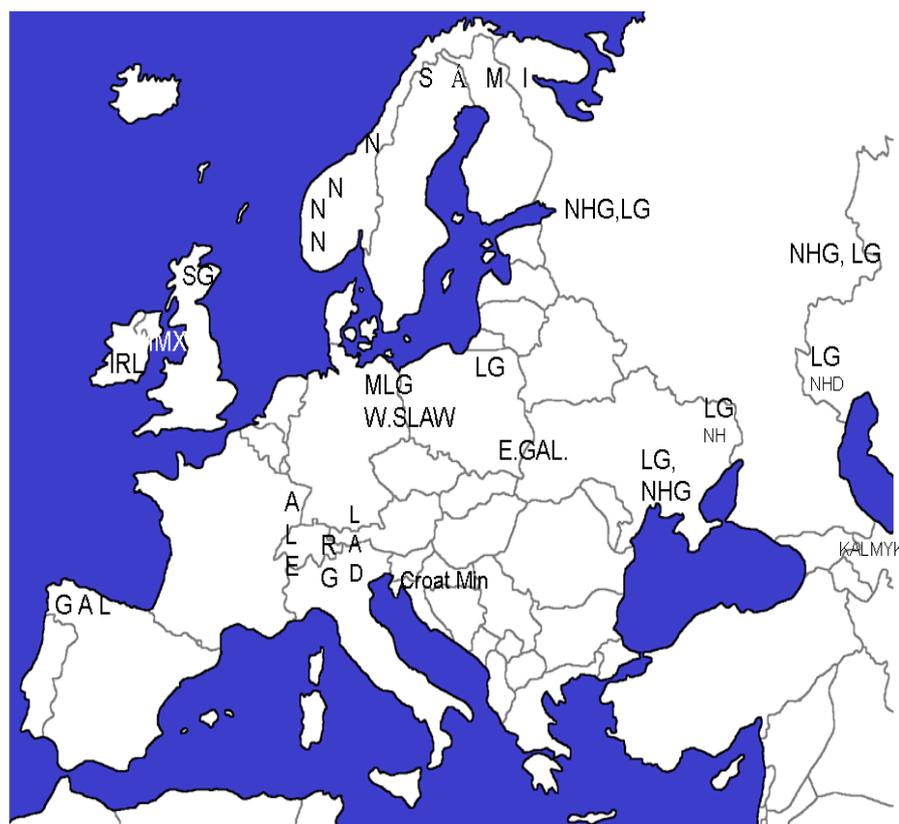
such as the Maastricht (1993) and Lisbon (2008) Treaties and which culminated in the immense enlargement with the EU Treaties of 2004 and 2007, adding 12 eastern, central and southern European countries to the European Union. After this enlargement the area of the EU comprises 23 official languages. An important step was also the formulation and legislation of linguistic rights as part of Human Rights as formulated in the 1992 *European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages* by the Council of Europe, the purpose of which was to “safeguard and protect” the so-called “lesser-used” languages.



The authors of the 1992 Minorities Charter were from the very beginning well conscious of the difficulties of defining them because of the great number of political, social and ethnocultural variables in dealing with the smaller languages in Europe, whether they are true minority languages or merely lesser-used languages in a geographical sense. The Charter does not explicitly define what they are, but leaves the responsibility to the member states themselves recommending that they ratify them legally as “regional” or “minority languages” (see the names of the languages enumerated acc. to EUROMOSAIC I (1992), II (2004) and III (2006) and also in Wikipedia 20.10.2008.<sup>1</sup>

### 3. Basic Map of Europe and some European minority languages

In planning the present symposium the organisers first wanted to discuss the relationship between established major languages in Europe and their rise to standard languages from underlying dialects and their dependency with



Map1: European minority languages in focus

minority languages. However, this focus turned out to be too ambitious and too broad a framework in that a sufficient number of speakers could not be found under this title only for a single symposium. Instead, the interest in the genesis and standardization of existing minority and regional languages in Europe today proved to be a better starting point and a more adequate topic for this ELA Symposium north of the Alps. Negotiations with another seat of learning and centre of dialectology in Romania (Cluj/Klausenburg) were unsuccessful. Instead, the ELA committee

decided to contact experts who had been successful in language planning in general and also specifically successful in standardizing European minority languages. This second alternative turned out to be a much better solution for obtaining spontaneous responses from our call-for-papers, as these minority experts were happy to share their experience with us. What we were looking for was active researchers and established organizations with long experience in fieldwork and in the financing of the huge costs of standardization and large-scale publication as found in the Celtic

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Weber (2009:123): *Kampf der Sprachen. Die Europäische Union vor der sprachlichen Zerreißprobe*. Hamburg: Krämer Verlag, 120-132.

League in Dublin; Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Inverness, Scotland; the Lia Rumantscha in Chur; Institut Ladin “Micurà de Rü in San Martin, South Tirol and René Schickele Gesellschaft in Strasbourg.

Our call-for-papers was therefore received with enthusiasm by these organizations against the backdrop of our motto of “Contact and Conflict” in the ELA Symposium programme which turned out to be a most appropriate subtitle.

Map 1 contains a number of such lesser-used languages which have successfully been standardized or modernized in our time since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and later. I am thinking of the block of standardized Goidelic Celtic languages still spoken or resurrected in the British Isles: New Irish (IRL) in Ireland (presented by Dónall Ó Baoill, Belfast and Desmond Fennell, Dublin), New Manx (MX) on the Isle of Man (George Broderick, Mannheim and Cristopher Lewin, Edinburgh) and New Scottish Gaelic (SG) in mainland Scotland and the Hebrides (Kenneth MacKinnon, Aberdeen)

In the second block of papers to be discussed in the Symposium was a paper on the rise, spread and migration of New

Norwegian (“Nynorsk”) by Arnstein Hjelde,

Sámi themselves but which have today un-



Fig. 3: J. Stewart, IUED, L. .Begioni, Lille and J. Weinstock (Austin, Texas)

Halden who dealt with Ivar Aasens’s successful creation in fieldwork, and also the spread and modernization of New Norwegian dialectal varieties (N) since the mid-1800s in the coastal areas of western Norway (Vestlandet) and parts of northern Norway, but also its emigration to North America more than a century ago and its survival there.

The third block depicted on Map 1 comprises standardized varieties of SÁMI in contact with Baltic Finnic dialects and languages in northern mountain areas of the Scandinavian peninsula and the Russian Kola Peninsula (John Weinstock, Austin, Texas), the existence of which is enigmatic to most Scandinavians and Rus-

dergone standardization and modernization to full-fledged media of communication including both radio- and TV-broadcasting as well as normal school teaching. This refers in varying degrees to the Sámi varieties from South Sámi (LpS), Middle Sámi (LpUm, LpP, LpL), North Sámi (LpN), East Sámi (LpE) and finally Kola Sámi (LpTer).

After this excursion into linguistic minorities and regional languages of EuroLinguistics West and EuroLinguistics North we turn south on Map 1 to the Alps (EuroLinguistics Centre), where Bernard Cathomas, Lia Rumantscha, Chur, describes a similar recent standardization which has taken place during the last forty-fifty years since WWII. I am

thinking of the small valleys in Kanton Graubünden/Grisons), where, a number of Romansh idioms like Sursilvan, Sutsilvan, Surmiran, Valader survive as minority idioms, side by side with regional Swiss German varieties (*Schwytzer Tütsch*). They are the

Italy in Provincia di Bolzano-Alto Adige (Südtirol), where a number of Ladin Dolomitan idioms spoken in the valleys of the Dolomites east and north-east of Bozen/Bolzano (Val Gardeina and Val Badia) have also formed the basis of a new official language thanks

versity; furthermore, by “Croatian minorities” on the Adriatic coast (Croat Min) by Lelija Sočanac, Univ. of Zagreb.

However, the socio-political status of the latter two minority languages is more peculiar than those mentioned above in the British Isles and northern Scandinavia and northern Russia, except for Galatian.

In order to put a historical dimension into Map 1, some non-recognized minority languages have also been indicated such as the West Slavic (W.SLAV) dialects and Middle Low German dialects (MLG) in Mecklenburg/West Pomerania (see e.g. the paper by Irene Fuß, Univ. of Mannheim) in the west, and from Lübeck to northern Russia (St. Petersburg area), on the eastern Volga down to the Black Sea southern areas, where (Middle) Low German (MLG and LG) and High German (NHG) were significant minority languages in the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries as migratory varieties of the German settlers in the east before WWII. This includes also the German dialects spoken in East Galicia, now in the Ukraine, during the Austro-Hungarian period up to WWI and later. On Saturday afternoon, the



Fig. 4: Reception at Fraternity House ‘Frankonia’: from left: W. Geisler, Markkleeberg, Guide: Dr Gerhard Berger with student members of ‘Frankonia

basic varieties which have served as inputs for the creation of the Romansh interregional *Romantsch Grischun* (RG) constructed as a roofing language for all Rhaeto-Romance idioms in the Grisons in the 1980s as standardized by Heinrich Schmid.

Furthermore, Map 1 depicts the area of another standardization and roofing language – *Ladin Dolomitan* – that is, the roofing Rhaeto-Romance variety in north-eastern

to standardization and modernization during the last 20 years, which is discussed by Paul Videssott, University of Bolzano.

Further examples of such minority languages are to be found on Map 1 as for instance “Elsässisch” (ALE) in Alsatia presented by Pierre Klein of the René Schickele Gesellschaft, Strasbourg, and “Galatian” (GAL) by Ignacio Urrutia, Heidelberg Uni-

programme contained a section on language policy, comparative lexicography and figurative phraseology (idioms). It was first presented under different headings of Contact+Conflict: EURO-LINGUISTICS EAST: The Russian Federation.

Victoria Iamshanova (Univ. of St. Petersburg) described in her paper the development of the complicated ethnopolitical policy in present-day Russia and the situation of the minority languages since 1945 such as e.g. those of Komi, Urdmut, Morova etc. but also that of the monolingual speakers of Russian in these areas.

Aisa Bitkeeva, Academy of Sciences, Moscow, continued the eastern treatment and dealt with

the situation of Oirad-Kalmyk, a minority language spoken between Mongolia and Europe and in an ethnic Mongol enclave in the Caucasus, but she also stressed its

China, Kyrgyzstan, USA etc.

Konstantin Krasukhin, Academy of Sciences, Moscow, continued with a treatment of ancient languages in Europe and



Fig 5: Coffee break at the ELA Symposium, from left: E. Piirainen, Steinfurt, I. Fuß, Mannheim and J. Stewart, IUED

diaspora throughout a large number of migration countries such as Russia,

beyond: Old English, Old Persian, Sanskrit, Latin and Old Greek by concentrating on a diachronic comparative study of the ancient passive constructions.

In the two last sections of the ELA Symposium the focus was less on minority languages but more on multi-lingual problems and aspects of EuroLinguistic lexicography, in which Vincenzo Merolle, University of Rome ‘Sapienza’ in co-operation with Helmut Schaaf, Univ. of Mannheim, expressed “the Euro-



Fig 6: ELA-Symposium participants, from left: T. Choparinova, Sofia, Desmond Fennell, Dublin and Aisa Bitkeeva, Moscow, E. Steller, Mannheim



Fig. 7: Farewell at the railway station in Heidelberg, from left: V. Merolle, Rome, A. Hjelde, Halden, D. Fennell, Dublin, L. Sočanac, Zagreb

linguist's pains in his laboratory" in publishing *The European Dictionary*, a comparative synchronic dictionary written in English with English as the point of departure in the description of the corresponding lemmas in Italian, French, Spanish and German with supplementing etymological information on Latin and Greek roots. The dictionary is now being printed by the Logos Verlag, Berlin.

The last paper of the symposium was by Elisabeth Piirainen, Steinfurt, who presented an in-depth and Europe-wide study of European idioms with figurative meanings in 62 different languages as exemplified by the underlying idiom in e.g.

*"a wolf in sheep's clothing"* signifying 'a dangerous person hiding a hostile intention behind a friendly manner'. This idiom has been found translated or copied throughout and beyond Europe which is illustrated with a large number of accompanying maps, including additional information on similar idioms in Turkish, Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese etc.

#### 4. Geographical spread of the holistic view of EuroLinguistics

After this summary of 22 papers on the geographic spread of European minority languages on Map 1 which were

discussed in the ELA Symposium 2012, we will also show the geographic spread of the EuroLinguistic events and European venues underlying them. They are here enumerated in Table 1, i.e. conferences/symposia, workshops and *convegni* throughout the European continent. The publications of the proceedings have been slow because of insufficient funding but nevertheless important for making such Euro-

linguistic events known in the period 1997-2012, that is, 15 years of Europeanization of linguistics. Through these activities the initial impetus to the holistic European view as conceived by Norbert Reiter was able to spread in the early 1990s and they helped to spread a new EuroLinguistic paradigm which we can now claim to be spreading throughout Europe, that is, the view of Europe as a continent with common convergent cultural and linguistic structures, phraseology and semantics as summarized in the following list:



## List 1: Places, years of events and publications of ELA Symposia and Convegni 1999-2013

| CONFERENCE CITY   | YEAR      | PUBLICATION |
|---|-----------|-------------|
| PUSHKIN, Russia<br><i>Studies in EuroLinguistics Vol. 1</i>       | 1999      | (2001)      |
| MANNHEIM, Germany<br><i>Studies in EuroLinguistics Vol. 2</i>     | 2001      | (2003)      |
| ZADAR, Croatia<br><i>Studies in EuroLinguistics Vol. 5</i>        | 2002      | (2005)      |
| ST. ANDREWS, Scotland<br><i>Studies in EuroLinguistics Vol. 6</i> | 2004      | (2007)      |
| UPPSALA, Sweden<br><i>Studies in EuroLinguistics Vol. 7</i>       | 2005      | (2010)      |
| BERLIN, Germany<br><i>Studies in EuroLinguistics Vol. 7</i>       | 2006      | (2010)      |
| LISBON, ROME, MOSCOW<br><i>Studies in EuroLinguistics Vol. 8</i>  | 2009-2011 | (2013)      |
| HEIDELBERG, Germany<br><i>Studies in EuroLinguistics Vol. 9</i>   | 2012      | (forthc.)   |
| ROME, Italy   | 2005-2011 | Convegni    |
| LIÈGE, France   | 2007      | Convegno    |
| MURCIA, Spain   | 2008      | Convegno    |
| ARCAVACATA di Rende<br>(Università di Calabria, Italy)            | 2012      | Symposium   |

This has been in the very centre of EuroLinguistic efforts and publications, whereby also the Pushkin Theses (1999) have contributed to the rise of the new paradigm and served as a descriptive framework and a point of departure. Without the European perspective of all the similarities and convergences between the European languages, we cannot adequately describe and explain the similarities and common trends in the EuroLinguistic developments. This means a clear development to a new type of EuroLinguistics, a holistic paradigm which implies a change from a descriptive-national and structural-synchronic type of

linguistics to a typological-international and ethno-historical paradigm in treating the cultures and languages of Europe from a holistic point of view, which has recently also been manifested by the publication of the *Handbuch der EuroLinguistik* (2010) edited by Uwe Hinrichs, Leipzig. The new handbook together with the EuroLinguistic events enumerated in List 1 is a clear signal that a new EuroLinguistic paradigm is rising to prominence and thus recognition. Such was also the whole atmosphere in which the ELA Symposium 2012 in Heidelberg was held and appreciated last year.

## 5. 11th International Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics, held in Freiburg, Breisgau, Germany, May 18-20, 2012

### 5. 1. Venues, goals and organization

The 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics (ICNGL) took place in Freiburg at the Albert-Ludwig Universität and was organized by the Institute for Advanced Studies of the university and supported by Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. It was the second time that the conference was held outside the



Nordic countries in the long series of Nordic conferences since 1969, when the first conference was initiated and organized by Prof. Hreinn Benediktson, Reykjavík, Iceland, after which later conferences were primarily held at Nordic universities: Umeå, Sweden (1973), Oslo (1978), Thorshavn, the Faeroes (1983), Göteborg (1993) etc. and even a trans-Atlantic conference in Austin, Texas (1976). The Nordic conferences have a smaller area of geographic coverage than that of EuroLinguistics in that they concentrate on EuroLinguistics North. Their goal is “to facilitate the exchange of ideas on Nordic (including Germanic, Finnic, Saamic and Greenlandic) and other languages between researchers from the Nordic countries and elsewhere” (cf. the Internet formulation under [www.ICNGL 11](http://www.ICNGL11)). The Freiburg conference was focused on “language contact” and was thus in conformity with the research goals of contact linguistics and EuroLinguistics. The local organizational committee consisted of Peter Auer, Janet Luke, Martin Hilbert, Christine Mertzlufft, Jan-Ola Östman and Michael Rießler.

## 5.2. Plenary speakers

A survey of the topics for the six plenary papers therefore showed clearly that the topics more or less were focused on languages in contact and change: e.g. language varieties in historical aspects of Nordic studies, cf. the following abbreviated versions of the Plenary lecture topics:

Language use, identities and social belongings (A. Sahrimaa, 18.04)

Language contact and language change (Lars-Olaf Delsing, 18.04)

Interaction and Comprehensive Grammar in Finnish (A. Hakulinen, 19.04) Sociolinguistics and linguistics in Nordic linguistics (Frans Gregersen, 19.04) Variation and change (Martin Hilpert, 20.04). Language contact and linguistic change (S. Thomason, 20.04)

A good bonus for the reception of each plenary paper was also the short presentation of each paper and speaker by the respective chairman.

## 5.3. Workshops on “theme sections”

The workshops were organized as “theme sections” which were very helpful for those participants interested in the following five themes:

Theme 1: Insular Nordic prosody (6 papers)

Theme 2: The left periphery in Scandinavian: a comparative perspective (8 papers)

Theme 3: Information structuring and typology of questions and answer pairs, e.g. Estonian and French compared (5 papers)

Theme 4: Experimental approaches and understanding across languages (6 papers)

Theme 5: Swearing in the Nordic countries (6 papers)

As a great advantage, the summary of each theme section was distributed and available beforehand on the Internet describing its goals and contents. The section papers were 48 in number and together with the six plenary papers and the other 25 workshop papers, the total number of papers presented at the ICNGL 11 was 78, which was a good example of a compact and well organized conference programme of which the interested participant could gain an overview during the three conference days. Concerning the historiography of the Nordic conferences since 1969, see the following abstract by Stig Eliason published in: Hans Göttsche (ed.) *Memory, mind and language*,



Newcastle upon Tyne.  
UK: Cambridge Scholars  
Publishing: 4-54.

### Abstract

*The Nordic Association of Linguists (NAL) is the linguistics society of the Nordic countries Denmark (with the Faeroes and Greenland; Finland (with Åland), Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Founded in Austin, Texas, NAL went into operation in January 1977. It is a major organizational platform for Nordic linguists and language scholars as well as linguists outside the Nordic countries working on the languages of this particular geographical region. Two series of international conferences are organized under its auspices: "The International Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics (ICNGL)" and "The Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics (SCL)." Although oriented towards modern linguistics, the former conference series has traditionally tended to place a greater emphasis on the historical and descriptive study of the Scandinavian (i.e. North Germanic) languages, whereas the latter has been more concerned with general linguistic and theoretical issues and wider range of languages.*

*Beside an impressive string of conferences proceedings the major scholarly outlet of the Association is the Nordic Journal of Linguistics (NJL) since the beginning of 2003 brought out by the Cambridge University Press. The journal is open to contributions from all branches of linguistics but gives priority to articles of a general theoretical and methodological nature and studies of the languages of the Nordic region. For a number of years (1977-2004) the Association also issued a news bulletin, the Nordic Linguistic Bulletin (NLB) until the spread of electronic communication made this form of news dissemination largely superfluous. This article traces the major issues and the main stages in the evolution of the Association: the first tentative airings of the idea in the early 1970s, the preparatory work in the years 1972-1976, the launching of the Association in 1977 and its subsequent development through 2006. Appendices provide supplementary details, a bibliographical listing of conference proceedings and thematic journal issues as well as internet links*

(A preview of parts of the article can also be found on the homepage of

Cambridge Scholars Publishing at:  
<http://www.osp.org./Flyers/MemoryMindandLanguageI-4438-1639-6.hlm>).

## 6. The 45<sup>th</sup> SLE Meeting 28.08-01.09, 2012 in Stockholm, Sweden

### 6.1. The size and background of the SLE Meeting

The 45<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea cannot be compared in size and breadth with the smaller Freiburg conference (or the ELA Symposium in Heidelberg), since the number of the SLE participants (450) was five times larger and it had more parallel sections (12) and workshops (12), but the same number of plenary speakers (5) as in Freiburg. We are here dealing with incommensurable numbers and an uneven distribution plus a much more overwhelming organization of the SLE Meeting, which is the consequence of the colossal recruitment of new SLE members (ca. 1000 in 2012) and a result of what one could call elephantiasis. This is quite different from the size and participant numbers of the early SLE Meetings, when Prof. Werner Winter, the founder, and



others were the organizers during the 1960s and 1970s. These were much smaller and much more manageable for both the participants and the organizers before the participant numbers exploded to today's obesity. The latter is certainly also a result of the growth of the number of EU members and the ensuing ambition to cover all the peoples and languages on the European continent without stressing the concept of Europe-wide linguistics, which belongs more to the ambition of the ELA symposia, convegni and conferences like the ones mentioned in the introduction by this author.



Fig 8: *The tower of the Town Hall of Stockholm*

**6.2 The sponsors and supporters of the 2012 SLE Meeting**

The SLE-Meeting 2012 in

Stockholm was a joint venture of a whole series of strong sponsors such as

the City of Stockholm together with the Royal Swedish Academy of



Fig 10: *View of The Old City of Stockholm*

Letters, History and Antiquities on the one hand, and, on the other, the University of Stockholm such as the following humanistic departments and research centres.

Centre of Research on Bilingualism, Dept. of Baltic Studies, Finnish and German, Dept. of English, Dept. of Scandinavian Languages, Dept. of Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies, Dept. of French, Italian and Classical Languages.

In order to create an effective organization the local committee of the SLE Meeting 2012 consisted of the following persons: Chair: Maria Koptjevskaja-Tamm and Secretary Susanne Vejdemo with five additional members of the local committee: Fredrik Heinat, Jenny Larsson, Matti Miestamo, Tomas Riad and Bernard Wälchli. Furthermore, a huge additional committee of so-called advisors (127 persons!) who could hardly have played an active and decisive role in the evaluation of the abstracts of the 450 papers selected for presentation. This is the clearest example of gigantism which is so typical of the SLE today and which stands in sharp



Fig 9: Reception at the Town Hall by M. Koptjevskaja-Tamm, Chair of the SLE Meeting 2012, and the Lord Mayor of Stockholm

contrast to the modest number of speakers and good quality papers in the early 1960s and 1970s, when the few papers announced could be presented as plenary papers. To a linguist on the large and beautiful Stockholm campus both the quality and descriptive adequacy of the SLE Meeting in Stockholm suffered from the massive number of papers which had been accepted in the hands of so many advisors. No red thread could be discerned.

### 6.3 Abstracts and the topics of the Plenary lectures

This became so much more evident for anyone who tried to read the abstracts, which were available and published in a book divided into

General Section papers, Poster Section papers and Workshop papers: *The Book of Abstracts* (395 pp. in small print) was handed out after the payment of the extremely high registration fee for participating (over 180 Euros!). A complete review of the contents or even an enumeration of the titles of this great amount of papers (450) would here, however, be a futile and boring undertaking. Suffice it here to mention and discuss only the titles of the five plenary papers which an attending linguist expected to offer some theoretical guidelines and ideas of what general linguistics is about in Europe today. However, the visiting linguist got quickly disappointed in listening to one plenary lecture after

the other, which he found too atomistic and not even very informative as far as the overall goal of the function of plenary papers is supposed to be: to provide guidelines and an overview of recent innovative trends in European linguistics, excepting here perhaps the lecture by Andrej Kibrik, who dealt generally with the problem of discreteness and non-discreteness in linguistic descriptions. However, Prof. Kibrik overestimated the public's capacity to follow such a highly technical problem in structural linguistics in such an exaggerated tempo. The other four plenary lectures were not very inspiring either in their treatment of rather trivial and well-known topics like the following here abbreviated versions:

- a) agreement and concord (Acuña Farina and Juan Carlos, Santiago di Compostella)
- b) cognition and typological generalization (Cinque Guglielmo, Venice)
- c) the status of analogy in linguistic theory (Olga Fischer, Amsterdam)
- d) interaction and variation in plurilingual lan-

guages (Carin Norrby, Stockholm)

- e) the challenge of non-discreteness (Andrej Kibrik, Moscow)

#### 6.4 Theoretical perspectives, presentation and approaches in Plenary lectures

proaches in general linguistics. I am thinking here of such progress which has seen the light during the 1990s and 2000s in contact linguistics and Euro-linguistics in describing the languages of Europe and beyond. This lack of information could also be seen from the book exhibitions of the main



Fig 11: J. Charles Smith (Oxford) and Lecturer C. Harmans

Although the 2012 SLE-Meeting in Stockholm was a perfectly organized event, both technically and geographically, and in the hands of a very competent local committee, there was nevertheless a noticeable lack of novel perspectives in the plenary papers. What was even more serious was the total lack of explicit presentations of current new methods and new theoretical ap-

publishing houses in Stockholm which did not contain information on standard works now available on contact linguistics and Euro-linguistics, the contribution and impact of which constitute some of the most interesting progress in general linguistics, e.g. the discovery of the new Eurasian research carried out in cooperation with experts on linguistic typology, the new language



classification of Eurasian languages and DNA research carried out in Germany, Russia and the United States. Such research will soon give rise to a new research paradigm introducing the scope of a Trans-Eurasian language block. The topics (a) through (d) above chosen by the SLE 2012 scientific committee for the plenary papers belonged more to elementary courses in grammar and linguistics, not to the assembled expertise on general linguistics.

## **7. Report on the A.E.S. Convegno at the Univ. of Calabria, Arcavacata di Rende, S. Italy, Nov. 08-09, 2012**

### *Symposium on campus*

*Eurolinguistics and the Challenge of Language Barriers in the Public Service* was the theme of the international conference that took place at the University of Calabria on the 8-9 of November 2012. Organized by the Department of Linguistics and the Faculty of Pharmacy and Nutritional Sciences in collaboration with Eurolinguistica Sud, its primary objective was to offer a forum for experts in the field of Eurolinguistics with an

interest in language barriers which impede the quality of public services in Europe. Experts from important Italian and foreign Universities were present. The rich program started with greetings from the authorities: Prof. Francesco Altimari, Director of the Dept. of Linguistics, Prof. Sebastiano Andò, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Prof. Giuseppe Gaetano Castorina, President of Eurolinguistica Sud / University of Rome La Sapienza, On. Giampaolo Chiappetta, Representative of the Regional Council of Calabria, On. Cesare Loizzo, Assessore alla Cultura, City of Rende and, in video-conference, Dr. Tobias Bargmann, Leiter des DAAD-Informationszentrums Goethe – Institut.

The plenary session, chaired by Anna Franca Plastina, hosted the keynote speaker, Srikant Sarangi (Director of the Health Communication Research Centre, University of Cardiff, UK), who conferred in detail on the theme “Mediating linguistic and cultural diversity in healthcare delivery: some discourse analytic insights from Europe and beyond.”

After the plenary speech, Serafina Filice inaugurated the first session of talks, Language Barriers in Institutional

Public Services, by introducing the following speakers: Virginia Allum, (Consultant in English for Nursing and Healthcare, UK), who talked about “Reducing potential for errors in medical communications when using English as a Lingua Franca”; Vanda Polese and Germana D’Acquisto (Università di Napoli Federico II) with a presentation entitled “Opening ‘the gate’: EU discursive strategies towards a mental well-being of citizens”; Giolo Fele (Università di Trento) highlighted real difficulties encountered in telephone conversations by emergency operators (118, 115, 113) in an interesting presentation entitled “Overcoming language barriers in emergency telephone calls”; likewise, Domenico Sturino, (University of Calabria) developed the topic “Language Barriers in Healthcare among Foreign Students at UNICAL”.

The second session, Language Barriers in Social and Professional Practices, chaired by Rossella Pugliese, included the following speakers: Raymond Siebetchu, (Università per Stranieri di Siena), who illustrated “Language barriers in sports: the case of professional football”; Elena-Cristina Ilinca and



Ana-Marina Tomescu, (Université de Pitesti, Roumanie) delivered their talk via skype on “*Aspects de la traduction des textes scientifiques du français vers le roumain*”; followed by Roberta De Felici, (Università della Calabria) who discussed the topic “*Écrire dans langue de l’autre*”; the session concluded on a reflective note proposed by Ivana Ferraro, (I.T.E.S. “V. Cosentino”, Rende) entitled “*L’art contemporaine est-il en mesure de franchir les limites territoriales et mentales? Quoi de neuf?*”

Language Barriers in Social and Professional Practices proceeded into the third session, chaired by Mario Benvenuto. The first talk was held by Luana Cosenza, Nadia Gallicchio, Luisa Salvati, and Chiara Buchetti (Università per Stranieri di Siena), who discussed the question “*Plurilinguismo vs. Inglese Lingua Franca. Quale via per l’internazionalizzazione delle PMI italiane? Il caso della Toscana*”; Rossella Pugliese (Università della Calabria) presented the issue “*Non trovo spazio in questa lingua consumata’. Il linguaggio dialogico nelle biografie letterarie come strumento di ricostruzione linguistica dell’identità*”; Rosita

Maglie (Università di Bari Aldo Moro), addressed the topic “*Crossing image and language barriers and connecting cultures in fashion advertising*”. The day concluded with Griselda Doka (Università della Calabria) who described “*Patterns conversazionali e strategie comunicative in albanese e in turco*”.

The second day of the symposium opened with the session Language Barriers in the Public Service of Education chaired by Michael Cronin. Gloria Branca (Università della Calabria), presented a talk about “*European and Arabic languages: challenging barriers in the educational context*”; followed by Fabrizia Del Vecchio (Università della Calabria), who discussed the topic “*Overcoming terminological barriers in the EMP classroom: A Lexical Approach*” and Kirsten Lawson (Università della Calabria), closed the session with a discussion on “*Speaking the same language: Italian University student perceptions of Native and Non-Native English-speaking teachers*”.

Manuela Cipri continued the session on Language Barriers in the Public Service of Education introducing the first speaker Anna Internò, (Università della Cala-

bria) who presented the topic “*Communicating with Immigrants: The Challenges of English Courses in HE Pharmacy Programs*”; Dino Selvaggi (Università della Calabria), reported on “*Educazione bilingue, code-switching e code-blending: strategie multi-codice contro le barriere socio-linguistico-culturali*”; finally Annamaria Mandoliti (Università della Calabria), examined the situation of immigrant children with her talk “*Immigrants’ children in Italian schools: implementing suitable strategies to foster social inclusion*”.

The sixth session, Language Barriers in Global Public Services, chaired by Domenico Sturino, put in evidence the importance of technology in modern life. Michael Cronin (Università della Calabria), illustrated “*Learning Ecologies and Intelligent Personal Learning Environments: An overview of the PerLe Unical Platform*”; Anna Franca Plastina, (Università della Calabria), developed the topic of an e-learning approach at University with a presentation entitled “*Inclusion in the Service of Higher Education: a dynamic approach to authoring e-language courses*”; finally, Franco Altimari, Eugenia Ma-



scherpa and Maria Caria (Università della Calabria), reported on bridging connections between Italy and Albania “*Un ponte tra Italia e Albania: l’e-tandem e il web documentario*”.

The symposium concluded with a newly formed special interest group on “LSP and Terminology” coordinated by Rossella Pugliese. Giuseppe Gaetano Castorina (President EuroLinguistica-Sud; Università La Sapienza, Roma), offered some “*Riflessioni sui Linguaggi Specialistici*” with particular emphasis on “*Terminologia Scientifica*”. Likewise, Mario Benvenuto examined the importance of some features of Spanish political language in his talk entitled “*Caratteristiche del Linguaggio Politico Spagnolo*”. Finally, Manuela Cipri (Università La Sapienza, Rome) and Serafina Filice (Università della Calabria) illustrated the value of assessing specialized terminology with the intention of overcoming linguistic barriers in domain specific areas by offering clarifications on the “Test of English for Specific Purposes” certification with their presentation “*Valutare le Competenze della Terminologia Specialistica: Certificazione TOESP*”.

During the two-day symposium, interesting

points of reflection emerged that need further research and insights into domain-specific languages which have inevitable effects on language barriers in the public services a stimulating challenge for the future of EuroLinguistics!

(Serafina Filice)

## 8. The Epitome of Complexity: Europe’s Languages Today – a summary of the ELA – Symposium 2012 in Heidelberg

Emerging distinctly from ELA’s (European Linguistic Association) recent symposium on “Minority Languages in Europe and Beyond – Results and Prospects” – at Universität Heidelberg November 22-24, 2012 and ably organized by John Stewart, Sture Ureland and Erhard Steller – was a picture of a seemingly small corner of the world where many languages are spoken, Indo-European and non Indo-European. A comparison with the United States is telling; though they contain roughly the same area, a tally of the languages is markedly different. In the U.S. there are English and Spanish for sure plus a handful of

surviving Native American languages and, here and there, small enclaves of other languages. Cross the pond to Europe and one finds an intricate and diverse pattern where languages do not always coincide with state boundaries, where some are spoken by millions with others on the verge of extinction, languages whose histories and relationships to other languages are never easy to sort out. Elisabeth Piirainen’s map, though far from complete, lists 32 “lesser-used” languages in Europe. A common feature of all of these languages as well as the forty odd major European languages is contact: no matter how far back one delves into the history and prehistory of human groups contact is readily apparent. One small example: Proto-Uralic from nearly 7,000 BP borrowed a number of Proto-Indo-European words. The only conceivable scenario for this to have occurred is contact. And implicit in contact is using language to communicate whether it be pidgins, creoles or something else.

Sture Ureland’s opening presentation was entitled “From Contact Linguistics to EuroLinguistics/Area Linguistics.” In it he traced contact studies and related



linguistic efforts over the past two centuries mostly by – but not limited to – European scholars. More recently the lens has widened to the languages of Europe as represented in the Pushkin Manifesto from 1999, twenty theses stressing a focus on multilingualism. Look at the European Union: 23 official languages plus Galician, Catalan, Basque, Scottish Gaelic and Welsh, the latter five virtually official in that they may be used in corresponding with EU institutions. Add to this some 150 other minority and regional languages eligible for support from the EU and the need for a focus on the languages and cultures of the European area is manifest.

ELAMA (Euro-linguistischer Arbeitskreis Mannheim e. V.) was founded in 1999 and morphed into ELA (Eurolinguistic Association) in 2007.

At the symposium scholars spoke about some of the myriad languages of Europe and beyond and the situations these languages are in, each unique but with lessons for other languages and perspectives. Take Croatia as an example: Lelija Sočanac reported that the Republic of Croatia Constitution lists 22 minorities from Roma, Albanians, Bos-

niaks to Macedonians. Granted the numbers are quite small and most of these languages are spoken elsewhere, but think of issues such as the language in elementary schools where they are spoken. Bernard Cathomas talked about Rätoromanisch (Rom-anish), one of four official languages in Switzerland: recently German has made inroads in some areas leaving Rätoromanisch divided into islands in the upper parts of valleys, hence the mobility factor has played a role. One could also include the Ladin area in Italy (Paul Videsott) since Ladin is quite close to Rätoromanisch. Moving just outside of Europe Aisa Bitkeeva talked about the Republic of Kalmykia near the Caspian Sea in southwest Russia where Kalmyk Oirat (a Mongolic language) is spoken and threatened with extinction, mainly because the originally nomadic Kalmyks were deported by Stalin in 1943 and not allowed to return to their homeland until 1957. Their linguistic past is as labyrinthine as their actual history of wars and migrations as far as to China.

George Broderick and Christopher Lewin spoke about the revitalization of the Manx language that died out in 1974. Young

children today are learning Manx in elementary school. Of course, the success of any attempt to revitalize a threatened language and provide it a long-term future depends more than anything on teaching children to speak the language and achieving enough prestige eventually to be able to use the language in daily communication and for it to be economically viable when these young people enter the workplace. This is also the case with several Sámi languages of Northern Europe where some initial successes have been achieved.

Ideally, one would wish a bright future for all languages; in practice, languages are dying out at a rapid rate or have already faded into oblivion. The ultimate goal is the survival of as many languages as possible. And if that is not possible then at least scholars could preserve the language via recordings, dictionaries and the like. These were a few of the many themes taken up and presentations made at the Eurolinguistics symposium, all of them vitally important especially in the European context.

(John Weinstock)



## I. UPCOMING EURO-LINGUISTIC CONFERENCES

### 9. The 2<sup>nd</sup> ELA Symposium: Glottogenesis and Conflicts in Europe and Beyond

Date: 23 – 25 September 2013

Location: Zadar, Croatia

Contact Person: Ivana Škevin  
Meeting e-mail: [elasymposium2@gmail.com](mailto:elasymposium2@gmail.com)

Website:

[www.unizd.hr/talijanski](http://www.unizd.hr/talijanski)

LINGUISTIC FIELD(S): Euro-linguistics, Contact Linguistics, Dialectology, Sociolinguistics

IMPORTANT DATES:

**Call Deadline:** April 2013

**Notification of acceptance:** May 2013

**Registration:** May-June 2013

MEETING

DESCRIPTION:

The 2<sup>nd</sup> ELA Symposium will be held on 23-25 September 2013 at the University of Zadar, Croatia. Since the Glienicke Symposium (Germany) in 1997, the Euro-linguistic symposia have brought together researchers interested in

investigating issues concerning language contacts and multilingualism in Europe and beyond. By looking upon and treating Europe as a common geographical, ethno-linguistic and cultural unit and as a product of common Euro-linguistic convergences and divergences, the focus of this symposium is on conflicts in the development of dialects to national languages with a set of specific glottogenetic factors. The interaction between dialects and standard languages is being focused upon, because influences between different dialect continua through contacts have had interrupting effects, so that political borders not only reflect standard language boundaries but they also cause break-ups (*Bruch-stellen*) between already existing historical dialect continua, e.g. as a result of the so-called roofing (*Überdachung*) and the formation of so-called *Ausbausprachen* in the sense of Kloss 1952: 21 and Goossens. (1971).

The committee would recommend speakers to start the symposium by concentrating first on the underlying factors leading to the rise of the major early standard languages of Classical Latin, Castilian, Tuscan Italian, Île de France French (Euro-

linguistics South) and languages of Britain/Ireland (Euro-linguistics West) and then, in a second approach, continue by describing the geographical spread of standardization in Central Europe and the Baltic States (Euro-linguistics Centre) and in the periphery, e.g. languages and dialects of the Pyrenean Peninsula, the Balkans (Euro-linguistics South East) and the Scandinavian Peninsula (Euro-linguistics North). The aim is not to deal with all these languages at a single symposium, but rather to deal with them selectively and as examples of glottogenesis according to the speaker's competence, in the way we proceeded with the minority languages in Heidelberg last year (2012).

CALL FOR PAPERS:

Abstracts are invited for 20-minute talks (plus 10-minute discussions). Papers may be delivered in English, Italian, German and French. Suggested topics can relate to but are not limited to the following:

- The role of dialects in the development of standard European languages
- European languages and dialects in



- contact and conflict
- Language policy and planning
- Language ideologies: language and power
- Language, dialect and identity
- Language, dialect and gender
- Language, dialect and prestige
- Language/dialect variation and change
- The role of regional languages in the past and today
- Dialect mixture and growth of new dialects
- Dialect levelling and koineization
- Urban dialects
- Languages and dialects in a globalized world
- The future of dialects

We warmly welcome you to discuss the above issues in EuroLinguistics and not only to rethink our present understanding of these topics but also to imagine their future development.

Abstracts of no more than 300 words should be sent to: [elasymposium2@gmail.com](mailto:elasymposium2@gmail.com). Please fill in the application form attached. The conference fee is 50 EUR, which covers con-

ference materials, coffee/snacks and a guided tour of Zadar. Information on the venue, registration, hotels and social activities can be found on the conference website at:

[www.unizd.hr/talijanski](http://www.unizd.hr/talijanski)

Organisers:

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## 10. MEETINGS

### 46th Annual Meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea

18 - 21 September 2013  
Split University, Croatia  
Italian and English Departments and the Center for Interdisciplinary Research *Studia Mediterranea*  
<http://www.societaslinguistica.eu/> The Societas Linguistica Europaea and the Italian and English Departments of the University of Split, Croatia, invite you to submit abstracts for workshop, poster or general session papers for

the next annual meeting SLE meetings provide a forum for high-quality linguistic research from all (sub)domains of linguistics. For more information on previous editions, see [SLE 2010](#), [SLE 2011](#) and [SLE 2012](#)

## II. PUBLICATIONS ON EUROLINGUISTICS

1. Kusmenko, Jurij (2008): *Der samische Einfluss auf die skandinavischen Sprachen. Ein Beitrag zur skandinavischen Sprachgeschichte*. In: *Berliner Beiträge zur Skandinavistik. Band 10*. Berlin: Nord Europa Institut.
2. Ureland, P. Sture & Iain Clarkson (eds.) (1984): *Scandinavian Language Contacts*. Cambridge: UnivPress. (Reprint 2009).
3. Kristin Otto (2009): *Eurodeutsch – Untersuchungen zu Europäismen und Internationalismen im deutschen Wortschatz*. In: *Studies in EuroLinguistics, Vol. 6*: (2009): Berlin: Logos Verlag.
4. Hinrichs, Uwe, Nobert Reiter and Siegfried



Tornow (eds.)(2009): *EuroLinguistik. Entwicklungen und Perspektiven*. In: *EuroLinguistische Arbeiten*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz.

5. Hinrichs, Uwe (2010): *Handbuch der EuroLinguistik*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz.
6. *Studies in EuroLinguistics Vol. 7* (2010): *From the Russian Rivers to the North Atlantic - Migration, Contact and Linguistic Areas* ed. by P. Sture Ureland, Berlin: Logos Verlag.
7. Ureland, P. Sture (ed.) (2013): *From Contact Linguistics to EuroLinguistics – A linguistic Odyssey across and beyond Europe*. In: *Studies in EuroLinguistics, Vol. 8* Berlin: Logos Verlag.
8. Piirainen, Elisabeth (2012): *Widespread Idioms in Europe and Beyond. - Toward a Lexicon of Common Figurative Units*. New York: Peter Lang.
9. Anna Idström & Elisabeth Piirainen (eds.): (2012): *Endangered Metaphors*, Amsterdam, Benjamins.

### III. Impressum

**Publisher ELAMA e.V.**

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Home page:

[www.elama.de](http://www.elama.de)

Layout:

[Oxana Oleinichenko](#)

### IV. APPENDIX

#### I. An outline of ELA: branches and structure of Oct. 2007 in Lille 2010

In the presence of 26 members of three different branches of EuroLinguistics convening at the Université Charles de Gaulle, in Lille<sup>2</sup>, a new umbrella association was founded whose primary aim is the cooperation between European branches to further EuroLinguistic studies and research.<sup>3</sup> This initiative

<sup>2</sup> This is an abbreviated version of my paper presented to the ELAMA workshop “Migrating words and concepts between languages in and outside Europe” held at the International Conference on “Sémantique et lexicologie des langues d’Europe: des aspects théoriques aux applications”, Université Charles-de-Gaulle-Lille 3, Oct. 22-23, 2007.

<sup>3</sup> For a complete wording of ELA Articles 1-11 and the Pushkin Theses see the ELAMA homepage [www.elama.de](http://www.elama.de).

to create an international and interdisciplinary Europe-wide association was supported and welcomed by members of the following three organizations already in existence: ELAMA e.V. (*EuroLinguistischer Arbeitskreis Mannheim*), A.E.S. (*Associazione EuroLinguistica Sud*) and ENSE (*EuroLinguistic Network South East*).<sup>4</sup>

### II. Comments on ELA statutes

It was suggested that ELA be a non-profit organization under the direction of a Board of Directors, the present seat of which would be Mannheim, Germany. However, ELA will not be registered, but may become so, if the Board of Directors decide it necessary (see Articles 1-2).

It is “a network of regional organizations” for promoting EuroLinguistics, e.g. *ELAMA e.V.* (Mannheim, Germany); *EuroLinguistica Sud* (A.E.S.) (Rome, Italy) and *ENSE* (Zagreb, Croatia) (Article 3:1); it is open for membership of other regional EuroLinguistic associations and may have the loose structure of a network and be founded upon initiative of the ELA

<sup>4</sup> Until such a Board of Directors has been appointed, ELAMA e.V. will act on behalf of ELA (see Figs 1 and 2).



Board of Directors (for more details see Article 2:1). Furthermore, adherence to the *Pushkin Theses*<sup>5</sup> was suggested, which is primarily to promote specific aims of multilingual research: “contacts between languages and linguistic properties common to European languages which reflect such contacts”: language typology (both historically and diachronically), lesser-used languages in contact or conflict with major European or non-European languages; the study of European languages in a global context; and multilingual programmes for language learning and teaching (Article 3.3).

### III. The financing of the ELA activities

The financing of the different subsections is not proposed here to be covered by the ordinary budget of the *EuroLinguistic Association* but rather be regionally supported by respective areas involved (Article 5). ELA “will not collect individual membership fees. The costs of the network’s activities that cannot be covered by conference fees, subscrip-

<sup>5</sup> Cf. the homepage of ELAMA for a survey of the 20 theses formulated in connection with the 2<sup>nd</sup> EuroLinguistic Symposium in Pushkin, Russia, in Sept. 11-16, 1999 (www.elama.de).

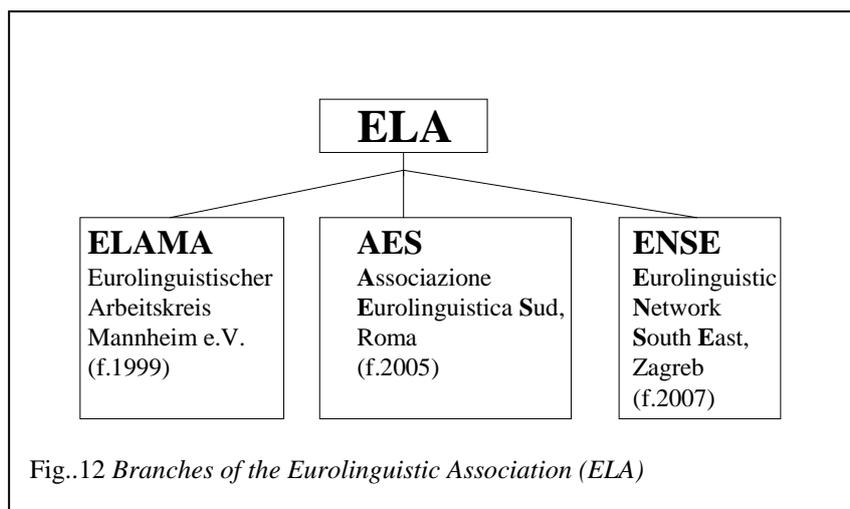


Fig.12 Branches of the EuroLinguistic Association (ELA)

tions to publications or sponsoring will be divided among the constituting organizations according to their number of personal and institutional members” (Article 5).

### IV. The election of the Board of Directors

For the election of such a Board of Directors outlined in Fig. 2, a special commission must be convoked: “They should represent as far as possible the regional Ethnolinguistic fields of studies” to be presented for approval (Article 7:1). A first step in this direction has already been taken with the constitution of *EuroLinguistica Sud* of April 2005 in Rome and which now has the expertise required for things concerning EuroLinguistics South (see www.eurolinguistica.sud.org). However, in Lille the questions of electing and appointing a Board of Directors and an

Executive Committee consisting of President and two Vice Presidents plus a Secretary on the one hand, and a Main Editor of the Editorial Board on the other, could not be resolved there but were postponed to a later ELA meeting.

### V. ELA Membership

Furthermore, notice that “Personal membership is indirect and possible only via membership in a regional member organization; membership of the network shall COMPRISE ALL THOSE WHO HAVE PAID THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE TO A REGIONAL MEMBER ORGANIZATION” (Article 4). The easiest way of acquiring ELA-membership is thus to buy a volume published in the series *Studies in EuroLinguistics via a local branch (A.E.S., ENSE or ELAMA)* which automatically entitles the byer



to a 20% lower price, to membership plus an annual issue of *EuroLinguistics Newsletter*. The ordering address is the following Sture.Ureland@elama.de or kexbo@gmx.de. This condition of indirect membership in ELA via a local organisation will be necessary, because until we have a deep and functioning European identity, the regional thinking will prevail over the European scope. As a good example one could mention the successful founding of The Baltic Sea Programme at the University of Uppsala, the main financing of which is through national sources although the scope and cooperation is transnational. I hope this offer will be attractive and increase the interest in our publication series so that not only conferences and symposia are organized without succeeding documentation, which is often the case. **(For the exact wording of the ELA Statutes see [www.elama.de/](http://www.elama.de/) Home-page).**

## **VI. *The Pushkin Manifesto***

[www.elama.de/](http://www.elama.de/)  
manifesto



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## X. The Structure of ELA

