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**Sprachen in Finnland und Estland.** Herausgegeben von Pekka Lehtimäki. Wiesbaden 1999: Harrassovitz Verlag, 154 pp + 1 map.

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The University of Greifswald, established in Germany in 1456, has always been, thanks to its location, connected with Fennoscandia and the Baltics. At the end of the 20th century the university developed into an eminent centre of research and instruction of Nordic and Finnic languages. In 1983, on the initiative of Kaija Menger, a lecturer of Finnish at the University, I was invited as a representative of Estonia to the German DR as it then was, to participate in the conference “Probleme des Friedens und des gesellschaftlichen Fortschritts in Kultur, Literatur und Sprachen Nordeuropas” (The Problems of Peace and Social Development of Culture, Literature and Languages in Northern Europe) (see also Künnap 1985). Starting with that event contacts between the universities of Greifswald and Tartu were established, research-based information was exchanged and for a longer period Liina Lukas from Tartu stayed at the University of Greifswald, investigating modern German-Estonian literary contacts and also teaching Estonian. When Pekka Lehtimäki from Finland was elected Professor of Fennistics at the University of Greifswald in 1995, he set as his purpose a steady cooperation with Estonia. In 1995 I was again invited to Greifswald and in the course of negotiations I also made my acquaintance with the Rector of the University of Greifswald. On the initiative of Professor Lehtimäki, a linguistic symposium “Sprachen in Finnland und Estland” (Languages in Finland and Estonia) was organised in Greifswald on 7–9 November 1996 in which researchers from four countries – Germany, Estonia, Finland and Sweden took part. During the symposium, on 8 November, the now late Professor Terho Itkonen was conferred the degree of Honorary Doctor of the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Greifswald.

The book under review publishes the speech of conferment by Terho Itkonen and presentations of the symposium. As a representative of an innovatory branch in Uralistics, denying proto-languages and language trees, I am fully convinced that the speech referred to and two central language theoretical papers by Jorma Koivulehto and Pekka Lehtimäki in this book deserve particular attention.

Itkonen made his presentation on the theme “Zur Herkunft der ostsee-finnischen Sprachen und des Lappischen” (On the Origin of Finnic Languages and Lapp) (pp. 1–6). Having compared the linguistic evidence of Finnic and Lapp (Sami) and observed its archaeological-historical background, Itkonen confidently stated that Finnic and Lapp language groups were two separate branches of Uralic languages where one cannot speak about any common Proto-Finnic-Lapp language. The same conclusion was drawn by Koivulehto in his presentation “Das Verhältnis des Ostseefinnischen und des Lappischen im Lichte der alten Lehnwörter: Die Substitution des fremden Wortausgangs \*-CVz im Lappischen” (The Relationship Between Finnic and Lapp in the Light of Early Loan Words: the Substitution of the Foreign Word-Initial \*-CVz in Lapp) (pp. 7–22). Lehtimäki’s paper “Ausflug in die finnisch-ugrischen Sprachen und deren Vergangenheit” (A Trip to Finno-Ugric Languages and Their Past) (pp. 23–30), based on his public professorship inauguration speech, makes a reference, among other things, to research findings by Itkonen and Koivulehto and expresses a conviction that the first post-continental-ice settlers in Finland 10 000 years ago were Lapps and Finnish. I fully acknowledge the truth of the viewpoints presented by Itkonen, Koivulehti and Lehtimäki (see also Künnap 2000a:67–68; 2000b).

A number of papers have been dedicated to Finland. Hans Fromm wrote on the subject “Der Weg der “Nationalen Wissenschaften” durch die finnische Geschichte über 150 Jahre” (The Way of “National Sciences” Through Finnish History of 150 Years) (pp. 31–43), focusing on essential nodal points and significant individuals. Ulrich Groenke’s presentation “Zufällig Finnisch” (Accidentally Finnish) (pp. 45–48) was dedicated to three Finnish academic friends in Pertti Virtaranta’s book “Suomeen suostuneita” (Finland by Consent), namely to three professors – the Frisian A. D. Kylstra, the American Robert Austerlitz and the German Hans Fromm. Dieter Stellmacher asks “Was kann die deutsche Dialektologie von der finnischen lernen?” (What Can German Dialectology Learn from That of Finnish?) (pp. 49–55) and finds that Finnish dialectology sets a good example in four ways. In Finland dialects are not dealt with by amateur regional students but by professional linguists; certain questions are focused on; researchers are not so much concerned with fashionable trends of science; an efficient data protection has been worked out, eliminating the fear for the safety of personal data. Simo Heininen presents a brief overview “Mikael Agricola und die Entstehung der finnischen Schriftsprache” (Mikael Agricola and the Development of the Finnish Literary Language) (pp. 57–61). Alpo Räisänen analyses “Ostfinnische Familiennamen” (East-Finnish Family Names) (pp. 63–70), pointing out differences between East and West Finland. Pauli Saukkonen’s article “Forschungsperspektiven in der Fennistik” (Developmental Perspectives in Fennistics) (pp. 71–77) attempts to give an answer to the question about the direction Fennistics is developing now and what course it may take in near future. The author presents Finnish universities’ respective research profiles of the material, output and aspect of research in the form of a table (p. 73). He also drafts main research trends to the year 2005. Ingrid Schellbach-Kopra deals with

“sacramental numbers” seven and nine in her paper “Zahlwort und Phraseologie am Beispiel des Finnischen” (Numeral and Phraseology Based on the Finnish Example) (pp. 79–96).

The following successive presentations are related to Estonia. Heikki Hurta’s “Die Sprachpflege in Finnland und Estland” (On the Culture of Speech in Finland and Estonia) (pp. 97–107) first of all outlines the measures taken to preserve Finnish as a language of culture and tasks for the future. Robert Hinderling in his paper “Zu den estnischen Lehnwörter vom Typ *kinkima* < dt. *schenken*” (On Estonian Loan Words of the Type *kinkima* < Germ. *schenken*) (pp. 109–114) advances the hypothesis that it is not the sound change *en* > *in* in Estonian as supposed by Julius Mägiste but the borrowing of the German (dialectal) *i*-type words into Estonian.

Eduard Vääri gives an overview “Das Livische und die Liven” (The Livonian Language and Livonians) (pp. 115–124).

Two final articles in the book are concerned with Swedish in Finland and Estonia: Mirja Saari’s “Schwedisch in Finnland in soziokulturellen Licht” (Swedish in Finland Against the Socio-Cultural Background) (pp. 125–135) and Stig Örjan Ohlsson’s “Schweden und Schwedisch in Estland” (Swedes and Swedish in Estonia) (pp. 137–154). Saari indicates that Finnish-Swedish language usage is strongly influenced by the surrounding Finnish. Among other items Ohlsson observes the Estonian-Swedish runic calendar (Swedish *runkalendrar*, Estonian *sirvilauad*) as a local version of runic writing, resp. old texts.

At the end of the book there is a map which gives a detailed picture of the Baltic eastern coast languages and dialects concerned.

In conclusion we can say that the book under review is a valuable collection of information in German about the languages spoken (or having been spoken) and researched in Finland and Estonia. Personally, I was most impressed by the innovatory language-theoretical impact for Finno-Ugric linguistics in the first three papers. The editor of the book, Professor of Fennistics Pekka Lehtimäki of the University of Greifswald, who is now professor emeritus, has also doubtlessly achieved the aims he had set for himself in Greifswald. On this occasion may my good colleague and friend of many years be affectionately greeted and thanked.

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