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GRAMMAR AND INTERACTION: INTRODUCTION

This volume of *Linguistica Uralica* presents studies conducted within the frame of the Estonian-French PARROT-project "Estonian Politeness Strategies in the European Context" (Dossier No. 06239SG, 2003–2004), supported by the Estonian Academy of Science in Estonia, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Egide Agency) and the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) in France. The project brought together linguists of several research centers — on the Estonian side Birute Klaas, Karl and Renate Pajusalu from the University of Tartu, Helle Metslang from Tallinn Pedagogical University. The French part was composed of M. M. Jocelyne Fernandez-Vest, Tiiu Grünthal-Robert and Outi Duvallon-Tiainen, members of the CNRS Research Laboratory OSTERLITS, reinforced during the last period by a collaboration with Antoine Chalvin from INALCO.¹

The original objective of the project was a comparative study of "Estonian Politeness Strategies in the European Context", and two workshops were held in Paris and Tartu on the subject in 2003, with a greater number of researchers and graduate students involved. But considering that politeness is a large and expanding research domain of international concern, which would have required a longer time for collecting and treating the relevant corpora, it was decided for the second year and the final publication to concentrate on a more strictly defined linguistic area, i.e. grammar and interaction.

The present project focuses thus on the language use in everyday conversation and theatre dialogues. The pragmatics of moods, especially the conditional, and other linguistic means used to express pragmatic strategies, such as different types of politeness, have been observed. A central research question of the project has been the cultural uniqueness of the language use. To answer more thoroughly the question, the project members studied several languages of the Baltic region in addition to Estonian and French. As we know Estonian and French are not related languages. They belong

¹ The Laboratory Oral/Oral: Systèmes en Transit et Recherches Linguistiques sur la Traduction du Sens (OSTERLITS) is also associated with the University of Paris III, the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes à la Sorbonne (EPHE) and the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO).

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to different language families and even separated linguistic areas. Nevertheless, they share remarkable similarities in the use of linguistic means. It refers to a need of a broader understanding of the relations between European languages, and a need of pragmatic language typology.

The volume includes five articles. Outi Duvallon and Antoine Chalvin compare the use of Estonian and Finnish verb forms without personal pronouns in the context of oral communication. M. M. Jocelyne Fernandez-Vest and Tiiu Grünthal-Robert study French and Finnish theatre dialogues and their translations in the two languages, with Estonian as a tertium comparationis, both from the typological point of view of word order, and with universals of information structuring in sight. The article by Helle Metslang deals with directive moods and the expression of directivity in everyday Estonian, and tackles the processes of lexicalization and grammaticalization. The last two articles observe the use of conditional forms. Birute Klaas inventories the devices of the politeness code expressed by conditionals in Lithuanian parliamentary debates, and sketches out a comparison with equivalent forms in Estonian. Renate Pajusalu and Karl Pajusalu focus on the ties between the formal and pragmatic variations of conditional forms in Spoken Estonian, and the lexicalized meaning acquired by some of the core verbs.

This collection of articles is a first attempt at capturing the similarities and differences of treatment of language specific grammatical structures connected with conventionalized interactional uses between Finnic languages (specially Estonian) and their (Indo)-European neighbours.

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ГРАММАТИКА И ВЗАИМОДЕЙСТВИЕ: ВВЕДЕНИЕ

В этом номере LU представлены научные результаты совместной работы эстонских и французских лингвистов по исследованию разговорного языка.