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## The Academy of Ethiopian Languages

Jack Fellman\*

Ethiopia is, after Egypt and Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa, with some 32 million inhabitants speaking some 60-70 languages. A veritable mosaic of peoples, tribes and tongues, Ethiopia offers many challenging problems and prospects to the language planner who must come to grips with such pluralism.

The Academy of Ethiopian Languages (yäitioppäya qwanqwawočč akadami) was established in 1976 under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture and Sports of Socialist Ethiopia to deal with the country's linguistic pluralism. It was set up expressly to replace the previously existing Amharic Language Academy organized during the reign of the late deposed Emperor Haile Selassie.<sup>1</sup> As its name implies, the previous Academy completely disregarded Ethiopia's linguistic diversity, as part of the single-language Amharization policy of the previous regime.<sup>2</sup> Such linguistic exclusiveness was now to be a mere relic of the past.

At present, the Ethiopian Languages' Academy has a permanent staff of 22 language specialists, and is headed by a committee of 21 members, including linguists, writers, teachers, and traditional learned men, among others. While committee members meet in plenary session every fortnight, the ongoing work of the Academy is organized around four departments:

1. The Department of Lexicography compiles monolingual and bilingual dictionaries for Ethiopia's languages. At present, four dictionaries are being prepared for Ethiopia's four largest languages (Amharic, Oromo, Tigrinya and Welayta), and further languages

will follow at a later date.

2. The Department of Linguistics prepares descriptive, contrastive, and comparative-historical studies of Ethiopia's several languages and language families. At present, the department is most actively involved in alphabetizing languages for Ethiopia's massive and intensive literacy programs begun in 1974 and continued most successfully in the years following. Indeed, in 1980, Ethiopia received the award of the International Reading Association for her success in mass literacy.
3. The Department of Literature collects, records, and studies the folklore of the various linguistic-ethnic groups of Ethiopia. It also collects, records and transcribes traditional religious poetry in Classical Ethiopic (Ge'ez), and orally transmitted Ge'ez and Amharic Bible commentaries.
4. The Department of Terminology seeks to develop and modernize the vocabularies of Ethiopia's languages to meet the needs of the twentieth century. At present, with a grant from the United Nations, the department is actively working or expanding Amharic, the country's dominant language, in various scientific and technical fields. Some 12,500 English terms are being analyzed by a dozen translation teams of linguists and scientists who meet at least once a week for not less than two hours in an effort to find Amharic equivalents for them.

The Academy has close contacts with other state institutions involved in planning and modernization, such as the Ethiopian Standards Institute, the Ministry of Education, the University, the Armed Forces, and others. The work of the Academy is publicized through its journal *Zena Lössan* (Language News) published three times yearly since October, 1980, and through various programs, symposia, and seminars on

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\*The author is a senior lecturer in the Department of Hebrew and Semitic Languages, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, Israel.

## The Academy of Ethiopian Languages — continued

language topics which also receive coverage (albeit briefly) in the newspapers and on radio and television.

Language planning is new in Ethiopia, and the Academy has only begun its work. We have great expectations for the future of its endeavors.

### Notes

1. For some discussion of this Academy, cf. A. Gabre-Mariam "The Amharic Language Academy,"

*Journal of the Language Association of Eastern Africa* 1.1.1970.26-30. It is of interest that the author is now the present Secretary-General of the Ethiopian Languages' Academy.

2. For some discussion of this policy, cf. M. Chauvin "Politique linguistique du gouvernement éthiopien (1973-1975), *Proceedings of the Fifth International Conference of Ethiopian Studies* (Nice, December 19-22, 1977), Rotterdam, 1980, 425-446.

## Conferences, Seminars, Workshops

### CONFERENCE — Marianas Language Conference

The Marianas Island Language Conference will be held in Saipan, CM on July 13-15, 1983. The major objectives of the conference are as follows:

1. To address the question of the survival of the Chamorro and Carolinian languages in modern social institutions.
2. To provide a forum for serious and informed discussion of language issues in the Mariana Islands by policy-makers and interested individuals.
3. To increase public awareness on the issue of indigenous language retention.
4. To develop specific recommendations to insure a supportive environment for Chamorro and Carolinian in religious, government, economic, media, and educational activities.
5. To generate research and position papers on the issue of indigenous language retention by native-language speakers themselves.

The Conference was conceptualized and planned by a voluntary committee of educators from Guam and the Northern Marianas. The Conference will invite the public to participate. However, there will be a special focus on two groups in addition to the conference presenters who present papers. The first group are the policymakers of the Governments of Guam and the Northern Marianas. Special efforts will be made to ensure the invitation of key government leaders. A second and equally important group are community leaders who are vitally interested in the retention of the Chamorro and Carolinian languages. All essays at the conference will be on the topic "How can the Native Languages of the Marianas Be Maintained." A special feature of the conference is that all papers will be simultaneously translated into English, Chamorro, and Carolinian. All papers may be presented in any of the three languages. To ensure a balanced and broadbased level of participation, twenty participants from the other islands will be invited to the conference (10 from Guam, 5 from Tinian, 5 from Rota). For more information, write:

**Rosa S. Palomo**  
P. O. Box 909  
Agaña, Guam 96910

### SYMPOSIUM — Languages in National Policies and International Relations

The 5th Delaware Symposium on Language Studies will be held October 13-15, 1983 at the University of Delaware. The following topics will be addressed by submitted papers:

- \*Governmental decisions on language use, instruction, and dissemination
- \*Language engineering in newly developed and third world countries
- \*Language use in international trade, politics and commerce
- \*The flow of technical and scientific information across barriers of language, culture and politics
- \*Research and practice of simultaneous and consecutive interpretation
- \*The role of world languages in the contemporary international scene

For further information, write:

**Nancy Schweda Nicholson**  
Symposium Coordinator  
Department of Languages and Literature  
University of Delaware  
Newark, Delaware 19711

### MEETING — Dictionary Society of North America and American Dialect Society

The biennial meeting of the Dictionary Society of North America and the summer meeting of the American Dialect Society was held on June 9-11, 1983 at the Conference Center at the University of Delaware.

For further information, contact:

**Roger J. Steiner**  
Department of Languages and Literature  
University of Delaware  
Newark, Delaware 19711

### MEETING — Use of the Languages of the Spanish State in Public Administration

The School of Public Administration in Barcelona, Spain is sponsoring a meeting about "The Use of the Languages of the Spanish State in Public Administration" between the 3rd and 15th of October, 1983. Topics covered include:

- \*Definition and characteristics of administrative language

## Conferences, Seminars, Workshops — continued

- \*Description of the legal situation of official use of languages
- \*Description of the normalization process of the official use of languages
- \*Description of the different administrative languages of the Spanish state (including — Spanish, Catalan, Basque, Galician, Bable, and Occitan)

For further information, write:

**Josep Enric Rebés i Solé**  
 Director  
 Escola d'Administració Pública  
 Generalitat de Catalunya  
 Barcelona, Spain

### MEETING — Aménagement linguistique et développement (Language planning and development)

The 2e Colloque de terminologie franco-arabe was held on September 13-18, 1982 in Rabat, Morocco on the subject of Aménagement linguistique et développement (language planning and development). The conference was organized jointly by Mohammed V University in Rabat and the University of Tunis. There was a discussion of problems related to linguistic development as well as co-operation between French- and Arabic-speaking countries.

Got information, contact:

**Jean-Claude Corbeil**  
 CIRELFA  
 1410, rue Stanley  
 Montréal, H3A 1P8 Canada

## Language Planning/Treatment News

### INFORMATION WANTED — Language Planning in Africa

Reader Babacar Ndiaye, an M.A. student at Lancaster University, is presently working on a thesis entitled "Language Planning: An Essay Towards a Solution To The Languages Problems of Senegal." He would like to get in touch with anyone who has worked or is working on a language planning project for Africa, especially French-speaking Africa and welcomes ideas, suggestions or recommendations. Address: Bowland Tower, B-245, Lancaster University, Lancaster, LA1 4YT, England.

### DISSERTATION COMPLETED — University of Laval

Minoru Tsunoda, has just completed his dissertation entitled "L'utilisation des langues internationales dans les publications scientifiques et techniques" (The use of international languages in scientific and technical publications). The study is a diachronic one which covers the period 1900-1980 approximately dealing with the evolution of such languages as English, French, German, Russian and Japanese in scientific and technical publications. He defended his dissertation on March 30, 1983 at the University of Laval.

(Abstracted from: *ICI-CIRB*, May, 1983, vol. 3 no. 3).

### MEETING — Use of National and Regional Languages in the Medium of Information in East and Central Africa

A meeting was organized by the Government of Burundi in collaboration with UNESCO as a consultation of experts on the "Use of National and Regional Languages in the Medium of Information in East and Central Africa," held in Bujumbura, Burundi from the 22nd to the 25th of February, 1983.

The preparation of this conference responds to

resolution 4/01/C.6.A approved by the General Conference of UNESCO to encourage "The utilization of the media in national and international programmes of rural development."

The conference brought together experts from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zaire. The aim was to compare notes and experiences on the programs of the use of national languages concerning all the media in the region, to discuss these experiences and examine their impact in order to intensify exchanges among the states of this region.

Two particular situations emerged from the discussions. First, there are countries which have bilingual usage. These include: Tanzania with Kiswahili as official and national language and English as the second official language, Burundi and Rwanda which have French as an official language and Kirundi and Kinyarwanda as national and official languages respectively. Secondly, countries which have multilingual usage which include: Kenya, Uganda and Zaire with English as an official language for the first two countries and French as an official language for the third country. Choice of one national language for this group is difficult due to the multilingual situation in the rural areas.

The following are some of the recommendations made by the meeting:

1. Kiswahili should be adapted as a regional language of communication in East and Central Africa. But at the same time, national languages should be developed to play their respective role in national development.
2. Kiswahili, a Bantu language, is a common tongue among these countries and so efforts must be made to develop it systematically.

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3. There should be regular exchange of publications, documents, feature articles between these countries at national, institutional, and individual levels.
4. Exchange of students and language experts in the field of lexicography and language standardization should be encouraged.
5. UNESCO should assist these countries by sponsoring seminars, symposia and scholarships.

(Submitted by: S. J. Maina, The National Swahili Council of Tanzania)

**SYMPOSIUM — La Política Lingüística de Mexico (Language Policy of Mexico)**

La Comisión Para La Defense Del Idioma Español organized a symposium on the topic of language policy in Mexico (La Política Lingüística de México) held on August 19 and 20, 1982 in Mexico City, Mexico. Of particular interest to language planners were the following presentations:

Leonardo Manrique	Política lingüística y planeación lingüística (language policy and language planning)
Félix Baez	La política lingüística del Instituto Nacional Indigenista (The language policy of the National Institute of Indigenous Peoples)
Leonel Durán	La promoción de un idioma comun a todos los mexicanos (The promoting of a common language for all Mexicans)
Arturo Azuela	El Escritor y la política lingüística (The writer and language policy)
Ernesta de la Peña	El Lenguaje de la Televisión (The language of television)
Margarita Michelena	El Lenguaje de la Publicidad (The language of advertising)
Luis Fernando Lara	La Normatividad en el Español de Mexico (Standardization in Mexican Spanish)
Ramiro Jaramillo	La Lengua y la ley (Language and law)
Dora Pellicer	Actitud de los grupos indigenas ante el español ahora (The attitude of Indians regarding Spanish nowadays)
Jose Angel Pescador	Estructuración de los programas del enseñanza del español y la política

Luis Fernando Lara

Amelia Malagamba and Sergio Ortiz

lingüística (The organization of Spanish language teaching programs and language policy)

Resultados preliminares de la investigación del diccionario del español de Mexico (Preliminary results of dictionary research on the Spanish of Mexico)

Resultados preliminares del proyecto sobre use del idioma e identidad nacional (Preliminary results of the project on language use and national identity)

**PROPOSED SPELLING REFORM FOR DUTCH**

Among the national languages of Europe, Dutch is one of those which has been most notably reformed in the 20th century, and on whose spelling norm debate still rages. The present majority orthography dates from 1955, but is still not universally accepted in The Netherlands and in Dutch-speaking northwestern Belgium.

Taking its name from a calculation that a new orthographic standard should be officialized thirty years after the introduction of the existing norm, "Spelling 85" has been proposed by the Dutch Society for Scientific Spelling (Vereniging voor Wetenschappelijke Spelling). The overall principle adopted is a phonemic/phonetic one, and moves away from the principle of morpheme recognition which is currently accepted. Thus, the current spelling has singular *hond* 'dog', which phonetically ends in [t], plural *honden* 'dogs' with [d]; "Spelling 85" abandons

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this principle and writes *hont/honden*; likewise for the two names of the country, *Nederland/De Nederlanden*.

A second principle is the abandonment of etymological or historical principles. Thus, for example, the sounds currently rendered *ch* and *g*, which were historically distinct in Germanic, have coalesced in Modern Dutch and the Society suggests the adoption of *g* in all cases. (This has in fact already been implemented in Afrikaans, in South Africa, and most of the proposals of the Society will in fact bring written Dutch closer to Afrikaans, a point on which, presumably for political reasons, the Society is silent). Likewise, foreign loanwords will be orthographically nativized; thus no longer *cadeau* "gift, present", as in French, but *kado*; nor *circus* but *sirkus*. This was done long ago by Afrikaans and is already done by many Dutch-language individuals and publications.

The very common adjectival ending *-lijk* (cf. English *-ly*) will be simplified to *-lik*, to reflect current pronunciation; again. Silent letters will be removed: *amt* "office", not *ambt*; *ert* "bean", not *erwt*; *vrou* "lady", not *vrouw*. However, the Society does not propose to delete the *-n* in the very frequent noun-plural and verb-infinitive ending *-en*, turning it into *-e*; the *-n* is still sounded in eastern varieties of Dutch, near the German border, but has been lost in normal speech in major population centers.

The Society points out that several of these points were already made by a joint spelling commission of the Dutch Ministry of Education and the Belgian Ministry of Dutch Culture in 1969. The Society itself is not new, having been established in 1963. Its efforts seem more likely to bear fruit than those of, for example, the Simplified Spelling Society in the United Kingdom and United States, because of such factors as:

1. The existence of a Dutch tradition of spelling reform in the 20th century and earlier.
2. The tendency of publishers and authors to adopt partially modified spellings in accordance with their own preferences.
3. The existence of a language largely descended from Dutch and mutually intelligible with it, Afrikaans, where these reforms have been implemented.
4. Movements for the democratization of education in The Netherlands and Belgium, including the removal of barriers to literacy.
5. Decline in the knowledge and influence of German in Dutch-speaking countries; most of the traditional (but not reformed) spellings are close to those of German.

All inquiries should be directed to:

**Jan Berits**

Secretary, Vereniging voor

Wetenschappelijke Spelling

De Rougemontnes 16

1862 AB Bergen (NH), The Netherlands

(Reference: "Waarom Spelling-85 zou moeten mogen," *Onze Taal*, 51-9 (1982), 1-2.)

Richard E. Wood

## INFOTERM PLANS FOR THE EIGHTIES

Infoterm (International Information Centre for Terminology, Leopoldsgasse 4, Vienna 4, Austria) announced its plans for the eighties. It will focus on TermNet operations and the full implementation of the three TermNet programs. For this reason, the Second Infoterm Symposium, scheduled for 1984, will be held on the topic "International Co-operation in Terminology: Implementation of TermNet."

A number of scientific tools will be necessary for the implementation of TermNet programs. Thus the TermNet Manual, comprising guidelines and formats for the recording of bibliographic, factographic and terminological data, will be completed and published in the near future. Furthermore, it will be necessary to compile a bibliography on the nomenclature rules for specific subject fields.

A number of pilot projects in terminology will be carried out in the eighties. They will be on such topics as new computer software for terminological purposes, the use of word processing equipment in combination with terminological data banks, the use of microcomputers for the recording of terminologies, new formats for and forms of data distribution, new layouts for vocabularies, the development of data banks for term elements and the optimal representation of systems of concepts by electronic equipment.

More detailed research on the epistemological, logical, ontological, and linguistic aspects of the General Theory of Terminology will be undertaken by Infoterm. This will include the investigation of methods for computerized terminology and terminography and for the international unification of concepts and terms by means of a "key to international terminology." This would be a continuation of the lifelong efforts of Eugen Wüster.

Another major component of Infoterm's work will be the teaching and training of subject specialists at the international level who have to develop terminologies. Infoterm will prepare model training courses together with the appropriate teaching material.

Since documentation and information play an important role in terminology and vice versa, Infoterm intends to strengthen its links with institutions active in the field of library and information science. In addition, Infoterm will continue work on its *International Bibliographies* and the *World Guide to Terminological Activities*, which have to be updated and published at regular intervals.

The above-mentioned research projects demonstrate the urgent need for an international institute for advanced studies in terminology. Vienna  
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## Language Planning/Treatment News — continued

would be the most suitable location not only because of its political and geographic position but also because it has a unique international library for terminology to provide the tools required. Such an institute would become the central research unit and training facility in our field and the main discussion forum for the different schools of terminology.

(Taken from: Infoterm Newsletter 23, January 31, 1983).

### **INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**

The Educational Linguistics Program announces a new Master's program in Intercultural communications. Students learn to address problems which arise in education, government, and industry due to differences in cultural values, assumptions, and modes of interaction. They are expected to gain a solid foundation in the relevant areas of linguistics, psychology, and anthropology, preparing for positions as trainers and resource people for social service agencies, consultants to international trade and industry, and foreign student advisors.

For more information, contact:

**Nessa Wolfson**  
Educational Linguistics Program  
Graduate School of Education  
University of Pennsylvania  
3700 Walnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104 USA

### **NEW JOURNAL — Arab Journal of Language Studies**

The *Arab Journal of Language Studies* is a new journal published by the Khartoum International Institute of Arabic, edited by Ushari Ahmad Mahmud. It welcomes articles on language planning. Volume 1, number 2 (February, 1983) included a report by Ahmad Abd al-Halim on The First Conference on Arabic in the Sudan.

For further information, write:

**Arab Journal of Language Studies**  
Khartoum International Institute of Arabic  
P. O. Box 26, Al-Duyuum Al-Shargiyya  
Khartoum, Sudan

## LANGUAGE PLANNING/TREATMENT RESEARCH

**SOME ASPECTS OF PLANNING LANGUAGE POLICY IN EDUCATION IN THE BELGIAN CONGO — Ungina Ndoma, doctoral dissertation, Northwestern University, 1977, 406 pages. (University Microfilm order number 7732334).**

The thesis describes language and language-related problems in education in the Belgian Congo (now, the Republic of Zaire) and explores a variety of issues involved in the formulation of language policy during the colonial period 1906-1960.

An introductory chapter outlines the history of education in the Congo from the Vatican agreement of 1906 until independence in 1960. Then follows a description of the present language situation in Zaire. The third chapter examines the influence of domestic problems in the Belgian approach to language planning in the colony. Policy and practice in these matters is discussed in detail in the fourth chapter. In the fifth chapter improvements in planning procedures are suggested and concrete proposals are made for a future language policy in Zaire. In the final section, the thesis summarizes its findings and concludes with an indication of areas of necessary research.

**LANGUAGE PLANNING IN NIGERIA — Onuigbo Gregory Nwoye, doctoral dissertation, Georgetown University, 1978, 239 pages. (University Microfilm order number 7913988).**

This study explores past and present language policies in Nigeria and shows that they have failed to contribute adequately to overall national development.

Past and on-going language planning activities are also examined and recommendations and suggestions made towards national language and language education policies, that could be integral parts of national development.

The need for national authenticity for Nigeria argues for the elevation of one of its indigenous languages to national status and for that language to be used as the official language. The coexistence of numerous languages within the country, each expressing and reflecting subgroup identities and loyalties, makes the selection of such a language difficult. On the other hand, the need for national development takes the retention of a language of science and technology as well as that of wider communication imperative. The answer to this dilemma lies in a language policy which recognizes and respects the integrity of other indigenous languages at the same time as it elevates one for the purposes of unification and national integration, and which staged in implementation in a way which does not create social or political disruption within the country.

This study has attempted to provide, by assembling and organizing for the first time, a body of data on language distribution and use, together with information on the historical antecedents to the present linguistic, educational, and political considerations. Based on these data, suggestions for a comprehensive national language policy and its implementation have been offered. Theoretical issues on language planning have also been discussed in the context of the Nigerian situation.

## BOOKS AND ARTICLES

**NOW AVAILABLE** — *Language for the Third World Universities* ed by John B. Pride in *Indian Journal of Applied Linguistics* (August, 1982). (Write: The Editor, U.S. Bahri, 57 Santnagar, Post Box 7023, New Delhi 110065). Annual subscription is: Institutional US \$32 and individual US\$25.

This issue discusses language choice and language usage issues in tertiary education and relates to many language problems identified in language planning endeavors. Of especial interest are the following articles:

- Arrich, G. C. "Standard Nigerian English and the Educated User"
- Gonzales, A. "Language for the Third World Universities — the Philippines"
- Kashoki, M. E. "Language, Education and the African University"
- Marshad, H. A. "African Languages and Technology"
- Prakasam, V. "The Use of English as a Medium of Instruction: The Problem of Registrational Coordination"
- Srivastava, R. N. "Languages of Instruction in Multilingual India"
- Todd, L. "Cameroon: The Bilingual Choice in Higher Education"
- Wurm, S. A. "Language in Third World Universities — Papua New Guinea and Some Adjacent Areas"

**NOW AVAILABLE** — *Nordisk Språkplanlegging* (Nordic Language Planning). A report from a conference at Sundvollen Hotel, 25-27 March 1981, arranged by the Nordic Language Secretariate. Nordisk Språksekretariats Rapport 2. Mimeographed. (n.d.)

Reproduces lectures by B. Loman on "Ideas and motivations in Nordic language planning during the last 100 years," H. Spang-Hanssen on "Controlled lexical development with particular attention to intelligibility between Nordic languages," B. Molde on "Spontaneous lexical growth," A. Karker on "Nordic orthography," and H. Ruus on "Contrastive Danish-Norwegian-Swedish morphology," with comments by participants. The report also abstracts five research proposals on dialects, on ideology, on conflicts and cooperation, and orthographies, in relation to Nordic language planning, and on the historical study of convergence and divergence of Nordic languages.

**NOW AVAILABLE** — "Bilingual education, language planning and English" by Joshua A. Fishman in *English World Wide* (1980-81).

This new journal, published from 1980 on, addresses problems in and descriptions of, varieties of English. It includes discussions on language planning of which the article by Fishman is one of the first. The journal has an annual subscription of US \$24.50 and can be ordered from Julius Groos Verlag, Postfach

102423, D-6900 Heidelberg 1, Germany. The editor is Manfred Görlach.

**NOW AVAILABLE** — SPRÅKDOK 1981 Oversikt over igangvaerende forskning om språkene i Norden. Utgitt av Nordisk språksekretariat i samarbeid med Språkdata, Göteborgs Universitet. [*Language Documentation 1981*. An overview of current research on the languages in the Nordic countries. Report No. 3 from the Nordic Language Secretariat. Published by the Nordic Language Secretariat in cooperation with Language Data, Gothenburg University.]

Of particular interest to students of language treatment and language planning are the following entries:

**Denmark: 18.** An analysis of the Danish written language norm and its relationship to making the Danes literate 1800-1900.

Frans Gregersen, Institut for nordisk filologi, Njalsgade 80, D-2300 København S, Denmark.

**Denmark: 21.** The process of establishing the Danish national language from sociolinguistic and history of science perspectives.

Caroline C. Henriksen, Ved Graensen 8, DK-2000 København F, Denmark.

**Denmark: 34.** A linguistic model for gradual approximation of Danish orthography to be true to the sound.

Jan Leon Katley, Hollaendervej 12, DK-2791 Dragør, Denmark.

**Denmark: 67.** The standardization of the Swedish written language 1500-1800.

Ulf Teleman, Roskilde Universitetscenter, DK-4000 Roskilde, Denmark.

**Finland: 7.** Linguistic points of view in term formation. Risto Haarala

Kielitoimisto, Liisankatu 16 A 8, SF-00170 Helsinki 17, Finland.

**Finland: 50** Finland-Swedish language cultivation. An overview over the discussion about norms during the last 100 years.

Christer Laurén, Vasa högskola, Rådhusgatan 31, SF-65100 Vasa 10, Finland

**Finland: 82.** The orthography of the Finnish language since the 1970's.

Paula Sajavaara, Torpankuja 5 C 14, SF-40740 Jyväskylä 74, Finland.

**Iceland: 10.** Icelandic language purification during the first half of the 20th Century.

Svavar Sigmundsson, Bru v/ Suðurgötu, 101 Reykjavik, Island/Iceland.

**Norway: 39.** An index to the periodical "Språklig Samling". Geirr Wiggen, Strandstykket 67, N-2400 Elverum, Norge.

**NOW AVAILABLE** — "Development of Kiswahili, Problems and Prospects" by S. J. Maina. Presented to a symposium convened by UNESCO for the countries in East and Central Africa in 1983. (Maina's address: Baraza La Kiswahili La Taifa, Jumba La Coronation, Barabara Ya Azikiwe/Ind, Sanduku La Posta 4766,

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Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania), mimeographed.

Describes current activities and problems in the standardization of Technical Terminology for Swahili, the National and Official Language of Tanzania. Discusses problems in using Kiswahili in the schools, especially the need for technical terms.

**NOW AVAILABLE** — "The Economic Impact of the Charter of the French Language" by Pierre-Etienne Laporte. Address given at the Conference on Contemporary Quebec, Montréal, June 17, 1981. Mimeo put out by the Office de la langue française.

Discusses the economic costs of the Charter of the French Language by looking primarily at its cost to business firms — the one place where such measures are available. Also considers the economic benefits to business firms, with the intent to demonstrate that economic benefits are inherent in the Charter but that there might be more benefits than are inherent and that there are likely to be even more in the future. La Porte concludes that the economic costs of Bill 101 have been overestimated. The cost are low and entirely within the limits acceptable to business firms. The report concludes that francization increases creativity, participation and initiative particularly among Francophone managers. However, the study noted more negative responses from Anglophone employees — complaints, requests for transfer and resistance to francization by Anglophones. The author notes that these negative reactions can be diminished if the implementation process is done with great care and with proper timing.

**NOW AVAILABLE** — *Språkbruk. Informationsblad utgivet av Svenska språkbyrån*. No. 1, 1981. [Language Use. Newsletter of the Swedish Language Office (of Finland)]. Editor, Mikael Reuter. 16 pp.

A new newsletter on national language planning and treatment for Swedish of Finland is now edited by Mikael Reuter. It is the culmination of activity beginning in 1975, described in the article by Reuter, "Language Use and Language Cultivation" (in Swedish). Reuter notes that the previously private Swedish Language Cultivation Commission in Finland was nationalized in 1976, when the Research Center for Domestic Languages was established. Like the parallel newsletters in Sweden, Norway and Denmark, *Språkbruk* will be used, Reuter says, mainly to inform the public on the Office's terminological recommendations.

Swedish enjoys an ambivalent status in Finland. It is an official language and enjoys state protection. But the socio-linguistic dynamics of the society are such that even in those remaining communities where Swedish is the numerical majority language, Swedish Finlanders yield to Finnish whenever a Finnish-speaker is present. The Swedish of Finland must be seen to be authentically Finnish, but "a provincial language which can be understood only by the Swedish Finlanders has no future as an official

language in Finland and a bridge to the rest of the Nordic countries." (p. 2).

Christer Laurén's article on technical language points out that the language-cultivation model for Swedish in Sweden cannot be applied to Swedish in Finland. Swedish technical language in Finland is produced 1) as original texts in Swedish; 2) as texts translated from Finnish (rarely, other languages); and 3) as texts written in Swedish by native speakers of Finnish (structurally and lexically an exceedingly different language).

Helena Solstrand, editorial secretary of *Språkbruk*, contributes an article on "The Swedish Language Office — Organization and Tasks." She notes that over 4000 telephone inquiries on language usage were received from the public in 1981. There are only two full-time employees at the Office, Reuter and Solstrand. Linguistic variety is provided in the issues by an article in Norwegian, Ståle Løland's "Linguistic Issues in the Nordic Countries." The focus is on attempts at unification (*Einbau*) of technical terms adopted for the three mainland Scandinavian languages to replace English loanwords; wherever possible, they should also be constructed so that a literal Finnish loan-translation can also be adopted.

The final article, "Language and Bureaucracy", is the Swedish summary of a Finnish government 1981 report with emphasis on the "plain language" movement (cf. *LPN* 8-1, Feb. 1981), pp. 7-8) and the responsibility of the authorities, especially public servants, to administer the people in a language which it understands.

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