

Language Works 3(1)

Welcome to this the fourth edition of the Danish student journal of linguistics known as Language Works – Sprogvidenskabeligt Studentertidsskrift. In this issue we can present five fine articles with very diverse points of departure and very different research interests within the large field we know as *language studies*. We will be visiting different areas of linguistics students' interests, and is as starting to become a tradition, we can present both theoretical contributions and applied case-studies. If anything sets this issue apart, it is that three of the five contributions are of an experimental nature. Who knows what direction the next issue will take when you have submitted *your* manuscript to us?

Content in this issue

In a sense Helle Hansen continues a theme also treated in the previous issue of LWorks, that of the relationship between speech and writing. Hansen compares reading of and listening to texts of fiction vs. non-fiction, and she tests the comprehension of these texts with questions addressing memory and a deeper kind of deductive understanding respectively. Hansen poses the question whether writing and speech stimulate different kinds of cognitive manipulations in a way that the two *modi* are particularly suited to different forms of handling the incoming information and thereby to different forms of literature.

Marie Sveistrup also investigates language comprehension, but here the topic is self-reported comprehension of a foreign language, in this case Danes' comprehension of dialects of Swedish. Sveistrup has noticed that Scanian, the dialect geographically and linguistically closest to (Eastern)Danish, is considered particularly difficult to understand. She investigates whether it is in fact the case that Danes have a harder time understanding Scanian than Standard Swedish and also whether they are able to distinguish the two dialects.

Ehm Hjorth Miltersen's contribution reports on a questionnaire on pronoun use and pronoun preferences in modern Danish. Specifically, Miltersen investigates which gender-neutral pronouns language users know and choose to use or to be used about them. The informants are persons who (to a higher or lesser degree) define themselves as non-binary gendered, and the choice of pronoun is correlated with the informants' participation in LGBT+ communities as well as their self-reported gender identity.

After this section with experimental studies follow Eva Hellesøe Nielsen's investigation of compliments and flirt in a long-term exchange of text messages. The analyses are Conversation Analytical in nature and describe written-language flirt as a social and interactional practice compliant with basic elements of interaction such as *preference structure*. Additionally, the analyses present suggestions on how to analyse paratextual features such as punctuation and emojis as important interactional resources in the handling of written-language flirt.

The last contribution in the issue is Michael Nguyen's article on preposition stranding in Danish. The article represents the more theoretical side of linguistics. Nguyen presents the various situations in which preposition stranding, i.e. sentences of the type *What is John sitting on____?*, are possible and impossible in modern Danish. After presenting the various conditions and constraints for the construction, Nguyen presents two different theoretical interpretations of the phenomenon, one functional linguistic and one formal linguistic. Apart from presenting an exposition on the phenomenon of preposition stranding, this leads to a debate on a number of very important, fundamental issues regarding the purpose of linguistics and the criteria for preferring one theoretical explanation over another.

Your article in the next issue?

As always we want to end with an invitation: Do you have a good idea or a project that could interest others? As a student, you may have an essay that could be turned into an article. As a teacher, you may have supervised or assessed an essay that you think could become a good article. Or you have perhaps participated in a conference, workshop, seminar or course that could be the basis for a thematic section/special issue of *Language Works*?

We are looking for articles of quality, but what you submit does not have to be perfect. We promise that we as editors will help you improve your article if you send it to us. All articles will get a review from an expert with suggestions for changes and improvements. So, it takes work to publish, but this is also a good way of improving your communication competences. We prefer that you write your article in English or Danish/Norwegian/Swedish, but should you wish to write in another language, talk to us about it.

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