

## Language Works 6(2)

Welcome to this issue of Language Works in the darkest and wettest time of the year (in our parts of the world). When we published the previous issue, we were certain that *now*, finally, Covid was a thing of the past. But then omicron came along, and as we write this, we are again preparing for new restrictions on campus life.

But once again, the editors and authors keep the fire burning, so in spite of all worries, here is a new issue of Language Works.

Welcome. And happy reading!

### The articles in this issue

In this issue we present four articles, and as is the tradition for Language Works, the articles take us far in wide in the expansive linguistic field:

Sara Møller Jepsen investigate Danish higher secondary school (STX) adolescents' conscious and subconscious attitudes towards grammatical errors in written English. Jepsen conducts three experiments with 44 STX students. The first experiments investigates how the students perceive the authors of three texts, each representing one error type. The students were not informed that the texts had errors in them, and as such their subconscious attitudes are being investigated. The second experiments is based on a questionnaire about students' conscious attitudes to grammatical errors in written English. The third experiment which was conducted concurrently with the second experiment, investigates whether the students had noticed the errors in the texts used as test stimuli in the first experiment.

The main results were (i) that STX-students had negative subconscious attitudes towards grammatical errors in the texts, and that these attitudes depended on the types of error, (ii) that the students had consciously offered attitudes that grammatical correctness is important in written English, and (iii) that the students perceived the authors as less competent irrespective of whether they had recognized the errors or not.

Solveig Ilh ea Pees' article is also about English as a foreign language, but it is about pronunciation rather than attitudes towards written language. Pees investigates German-accented English and specifically whether different German regional accents affect the pronunciation of English and whether speakers from some regions have more of prototypical 'German pronunciations' in their English language than others. The investigation is experimental in nature. 26 participants from different regions were asked to read 14 sentences with a basis for typical German-accented pronunciation. Pees do not find large regional differences, but discuss whether this may be due to the relatively few participants.

Mikkel Valdemar Limskov's contribution is a discussion of a possible future aphasia test for Western Greenlandic. When testing a person for a suspected aphasia, it is typically important whether their linguistic difficulties lie in grammar or lexicon, and syntax or morphology. But these distinctions are based on distinctions in 'Western' languages, they don't necessarily align with the grammar of a poly synthetic language such as Western Greenlandic. This is the debate, Limskov contributes to. Limskov describes important grammatical differences between Western Greenlandic and English (English being the basis of the tests under discussion), and points out the problems which grammatical misinterpretations may give rise to when diagnosing aphasia. The analysis is not only significant from a diagnostic perspective. It also raises questions as to how different grammatical categories and parts-of-speech are stored mentally. The article thus also contributes to a general discussion within (psycho) linguistics.

The last article in the issue is Emilie Willads Petersen's analysis of the 'stranger danger' discourse in connection with legislative processes concerning emigrant beggars in Denmark. Through a critical discourse analysis inspired by Sara Ahmed, Petersen analyses the arguments presented in parliamentary debates about so-called "utryghedsskabende tiggeri" [begging which causes/is intended to cause a sense of fear]. Petersen shows how different identities are ascribed to the participants in the debate, both in terms of the different groups of homeless (Danish vs. foreign), in terms of the politicians ("the protectors"), and 'the ordinary Dane' ("the fearful"). As a whole the analysis shows how 'fear' is used rhetorically in a political debate, and how the debate about "foreign homeless" maybe is less concerned with foreign homeless people, and more with the right to define Danish-ness.

### **Your article in the next issue?**

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 perhaps you have participated in a conference, workshop, seminar, or course that could be the basis for a thematic section/special issue of Language Works?

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