

Corpus and language contact: Approaches to Finnish, Estonian, and learning them

You have before you the most recent issue (23) of the publication series *Lähivördlusi. Lähivertailuja* ('Close Comparisons'). Some contributions to this issue were submitted independently of each other; others are based on papers presented at the international conference *Learner Language, Learner Corpora* in Oulu, Finland, 5-6 October 2012. The conference was co-organised by the VIRSU network (Finno-Ugric Languages as Target Languages), which by that time had been active for 15 years.

The contributions to this volume do not address only a few thematic foci, but cover a broad range of themes. Chronologically, the earliest perspectives are to be found in two papers, one of which deals with the teaching of Estonian in the 1820's (Laanekask), the other with Low German agent nouns in Old Literary Finnish and Old Literary Estonian (Nummila).

New approaches to learning Finnic languages are broached from the point of view of a different first language, such as here Finnish Sign Language (Takkinen), while Määttä's paper represents a more traditional point of departure, with Swedish as L1. Contacts between Estonian and Finnish, a traditional focus area of LV, is examined from different angles in the papers by Frick, Härmävaara and Muikku-Werner.

The papers on lexical issues focus on the making of a learner's dictionary (Jantunen, Kumpunen, Tammimies & Tokola) and new meanings produced by idiomaticity (K. Õim, A. Õim & Muikku-Werner), as well as the role of lexical competence in language skills (Masonen).

Furthermore, the issue includes papers presenting new knowledge about the special characteristics of learner Finnish (Seppälä; Siivelt &

Mustonen); experiments with teaching methods (Lehtonen); the evaluation of L2 reading skills (Kikerpill & Türk), and learning motivation (Virtanen). On a more general level, there are papers on paradigmatic complexity (Riionheimo) and contexts and clusters in learner language (Eslon).

Like the earlier issues of *LV*, this volume contains both articles based on individual research projects and review articles. Since all contributions to this volume have been peer-reviewed according to the general principles of scholarly publishing, the review articles have not been placed in a separate section.

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Joensuu, Vienna, and Tallinn

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