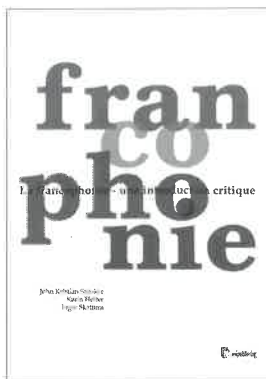


REVIEWS

- SILVERMAN, D. A Critical Introduction to Phonology. *Per Lindblad* 361
TOMASELLO, M. Constructing a Language. A Usage-Based Theory of Language Acquisition. *Ulf Cronquist* 364
LEECH, G. A Glossary of English Grammar. *Arne Olofsson* 366
O'HEARN, D. Bobby Sands: Nothing but an Unfinished Song. *Ronald Paul* 369
MROZEK, S. Hans Werner Richter. Zum Prosawerk eines verkannten Schriftstellers. *Gustav Korlén* 369
ROSÉN, CH. „Warum klingt das nicht deutsch?“ – Probleme der Informationsstrukturierung in deutschen Texten schwedischer Schüler und Studenten. *Sigrid Dentler* 371
SANAKER, J. K. HOLTER, K. & SKATTUM, I. (2006). La francophonie – une introduction critique. *Ann-Mari Gunnesson* 375



John Kristian Sanaker, Karin Holter, Inge Skattum

La francophonie une introduction critique

Ce livre se veut une introduction aux contextes social, politique, littéraire et plus largement culturel du monde francophone hors de France. Il traite en particulier le rôle et le statut de la langue française - dans le passé (grandes découvertes, colonisation) et dans le présent : Quels sont les domaines d'utilisation du français ? Par quelles parties de la population est-il parlé ? Quels sont ses rapports avec les langues locales/nationales ? Quel sera son avenir face à ces langues et face à l'anglais, la première langue mondiale ? Les réponses à ces questions se trouvent, entre autres, dans une description des divers contextes du français - une description que les auteurs ont voulu plus sobre et plus réaliste que celles qu'on rencontre souvent dans le cadre du mouvement politique de la Francophonie.

Le livre s'adresse à tous ceux qui souhaitent s'informer de plus près de ces questions et inclure dans leurs références géoculturelles le monde d'expression française hors de France : les enseignants et étudiants des facultés des sciences humaines et sociales, les professeurs de français des collèges et lycées, comme aussi le public général.

Les auteurs sont spécialistes de trois différentes régions du monde francophone. John Kristian Sanaker est professeur de littérature française à l'Université de Bergen, et spécialiste du Québec; Karin Holter est professeur émérite de littérature française à l'Université d'Oslo, et spécialiste du Maghreb; et Inge Skattum est sociolinguiste, professeur d'études francophones à l'Université d'Oslo, et spécialiste de l'Afrique subsaharienne.

ISBN: 82-7477-220-2
276 pages
Oslo Academic Press 2006
Prix: 30 EUR + frais de transport

Pour faire une commande,
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UNIVERSITETSBIBLIOTEK

2007 -12- 1 1

MODERNA SPRÅK

PUBLISHED BY THE MODERN LANGUAGE TEACHERS'
ASSOCIATION OF SWEDEN

Volume C Number 2 • 2006

FROM THE EDITORS

In this issue we continue to celebrate the centenary of *Moderna Språk* as one of Sweden's oldest cultural journals. Once again, we have been overwhelmed by the response from internationally renowned scholars and writers to contribute to the 100th anniversary of the journal. We are immensely proud therefore to include a very poignantly personal and political response by Marshall Berman, the great American radical critic and philosopher, to the collected short stories of Isaac Bashevis Singer. Another richly political reading of American literature is provided by George Snedeker's discussion of the work of William S. Burroughs. The Canadian writer, poet and critic, Janice Kulyk Keefer, gives us a very moving reflection on the war memorials she encountered while staying in France. Last but by no means least in the English literary section, we are able to publish – for the first time – two unique items of creative writing. George Elliott Clarke, who is a well-known Canadian poet and novelist, has very kindly allowed us to publish extracts from his Trudeau opera libretto. We are also very proud indeed to publish two original poems by Dennis Brutus, the world famous South African writer and political activist. We would very much like to express our warmest thanks to Britta Olinder for her help in eliciting these fine contributions.

The English language section is delighted to offer *Moderna Språk's* readers articles by two eminent linguists from either side of the Atlantic: Jean Aitchison of Oxford University is the author of several important books on human language, where scholarly stringency and popular appeal are forever felicitously married. In the present article, professor Aitchison gives us an exciting foretaste of her forthcoming book on newspaper language. Dennis Preston of Michigan State University, former President of the American Dialect Society, is a brilliant teacher and scholar who in his article puts himself in the shoes of a language student, addressing issues of language acquisition from a variationist perspective.

Harald Weinrich is a renowned German scholar of German and Romance languages and literatures. Over the years professor Weinrich has held positions at the universities in Kiel, Cologne, Munich, and Bielefeld as well as Collège de France in Paris. He has also been a visiting

scholar at universities internationally and has received numerous awards and prizes for his work. He is honorary doctor at the universities of Bielefeld, Heidelberg, and Augsburg. In his article "Humboldts Kairos" Weinrich turns his critical attention to one of the giants in the history of the humanities: Wilhelm von Humboldt (1767-1835).

Gunnar Magnusson has retired from his responsibilities at the German Department of the University of Stockholm but continues to write and to publish articles also after his retirement. In this issue he focusses on something often neglected in the foreign language classroom – the playful use of language.

If the French selection of articles in our previous centenary issue this year tended towards a discussion of the cultural aspects of literature, contributions to this second one are clearly more of a grammatical nature. This is illustrated by the articles written by two of France's most prominent present-day linguists – Claire Blanche-Benveniste and Jacqueline Guillemin-Flescher. The former, well-known as an expert on modern spoken French, writes in her article about one of the most characteristic constructions in the spoken language: cleft sentences – "la phrase clivée". Guillemin-Flescher's article takes up another construction which, in contrast to sentence clefting, is more typical of the written language – the relative clause. She discusses this from the perspective of French-English translation. The third grammatical article, written by two Romance language scholars from Lund – Verner Egerland and Vesta Sandberg, is also contrastive. However, this time the comparison is within the family of Romance languages, between French and Italian. More precisely, the article examines the question of how different grammars view the so-called "Subject rule" in connection with the "gérondif" in French and "gerundio" in Italian.

The first article of the Spanish section offers some critical reflections by Rosalba Campa on the writing of a literary history of Latin America in relation to a concrete attempt to briefly introduce the literature of Argentina. The second literary contribution is a survey of the literary fantastic in Mexico during the 19th century, showing that this tradition represents an important but often forgotten part of Mexican literature. The author of the article, Ana María Morales, is one of the organisers of a regular conference on the literary fantastic, the sixth "edition" of which will be in Gothenburg in June 2007. Alejandra Donoso and Helena Lindqvist are doctoral candidates in Spanish within the sphere of second language acquisition at the Department of Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies at the University of Stockholm. Their article is a study based on their Masters Degree Paper which explores the difficulties found in the use of Spanish prepositions – en, de and the accusative a, among more advanced students of the language.

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