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Redaktionsmeddelande

För tredje gången på kort tid presenterar Moderna Språk ett temanummer. Det handlar denna gång om *lexikonet*, denna term tagen både i sin "konkreta" (d.v.s. som föremål för ordboksstudier = lexicografi) och "abstrakta" (d.v.s. som föremål för ordförrädsstudier = lexicologi) betydelse. Vår ursprungliga tanke var att publicera ett gemensamt temanummer för områdena *översättning* och *lexikon*. Det visade sig emellertid – glädjande nog – att vi fick in så mycket material att en uppdelning i två nummer blev nödvändig.

Av artiklarna i detta nummer skall nu nämnas särskilt i den engelska sektionen en presentation av arbetet med den nya *Cambridge International Dictionary of English* av Cambridge Language Services' VD Paul Procter. Den franska sektionen inleds med en artikel av en av Frankrikes främsta lingvister, prof. Robert Martin, om *Le Trésor de la Langue Française* (det mest omfattande lexikonet över det franska språket). I den spanska sektionen finns en artikel av lektor Pedro Benítez Pérez vid universitetet i Alcalá de Henares som innehåller en presentation av lexikala frekvensundersökningar i spanska och ställer frågan om hur urvalet av ord skall göras. Artikeldelen avslutas med en kort översättningshistorisk studie av Uppsala universitets rektor, prof. Stig Strömholm.

Idén med temanummer har, av entydiga tecken att döma, rönt stort intresse bland *Moderna Språks* läsare. Vi avser därför att återkomma med flera temanummer inom de närmaste åren. Diskuterade – men ännu långt ifrån fastställda – teman är *språkinläring* och *feministisk språk- och litteraturvetenskap*. De två (eventuellt tre) närmast följande numren av tidskriften kommer emellertid att få det vanliga "blandade" innehåll. Dock uppmanar redaktionen läsarna att komma med förslag till flera temanummer.

En av våra redaktörer, Ulf Dantanus, har sedan förra numret lämnat redaktionen av familjescäl. Vi vill tacka honom hjärtligt för den stora insats han har gjort för *Moderna Språk* under de gångna sex åren. Hans ersättare blir Ronald Paul, universitetslektor i engelska i Göteborg, som vi samtidigt hälsar hjärtligt välkommen i redaktionen.

From the editors

For the third time in a short while, *Moderna Språk* appears here as a special issue. On this occasion, it will be on the *Lexicon*, the term used both in its 'concrete' (i.e. the subject of dictionary studies = lexicography) and 'abstract' (i.e. the subject of vocabulary studies = lexicology) meaning. Our original idea was to publish a special issue for both the areas of *Translation* and the *Lexicon* together. However, to our pleasant surprise, we found that we received so many written contributions that a division into two separate numbers became necessary.

Of the articles in this issue particular mention should be made in the English section of a presentation by Paul Procter, director of the Cambridge Language Services, of the *Cambridge International Dictionary of English*. The French section is introduced by an article by one of France's foremost linguists, Professor Robert Martin, on *Le Trésor de la Langue Française* (the most comprehensive dictionary of the French language now in existence). In the Spanish section, there is an article by Pedro Benítez Pérez, a lecturer at the University of Alcalá de Henares, which contains a presentation of lexical frequency investigations in Spanish and poses the question of how word selections should be made. The article section is concluded by a short, historical study of translation by the Vice-Chancellor of Uppsala University, Professor Stig Strömholm.

The idea of having special issues has been well received by the readers of *Moderna Språk*. We intend, therefore, to have more special issues in the coming years. Themes under discussion, although still not decided upon, include *Language Acquisition* and *Feminist Studies of Language and Literature*. The two (possibly three) forthcoming numbers of the journal will, however, contain the usual 'mixed' selection of articles. Nevertheless, the editorial board appeals to readers for suggestions for further themes of future special issues.

Since the last number, Ulf Dantanus, one of our editors, has left the editorial board. We wish to take this opportunity to thank him for the great effort he has put into working with *Moderna Språk* over the past six years. His place will be taken by Ronald Paul, lecturer in English at the University of Göteborg, whom we warmly welcome onto the editorial board.

PAUL PROCTER

The Making of a Modern Dictionary

Paul Procter är f.n. verkställande direktör för Cambridge Language Services Ltd. Han har lång erfarenhet av lexikonproduktion inom den engelska förlagsvärlden. Bl. a. var han chefredaktör för första upplagan av *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*. Under de senaste åren har han som chefredaktör lett arbetet med den nya *Cambridge International Dictionary of English*, som han här presenterar. En recension av det nya lexikonet återfinns på annan plats i detta nummer.

The *Cambridge International Dictionary of English* (CIDE), published earlier this year, is the first major monolingual dictionary to be published by Cambridge University Press. Intended for use by foreign learners of English, it is based on a new and different approach to dictionary production, resulting in a new and different kind of learner's dictionary. In this article, I shall outline first what is new about the dictionary, and secondly what is new about its production.

The first stage in the preparation of CIDE was a basic, but very important one – that of asking potential users what they most wanted to see in a learner's dictionary. CUP therefore carried out extensive research among teachers and learners of English around the world. This research showed that the key features that the users wanted were *wide coverage*, *user-friendliness* and *clarity*. In other words, dictionary users want to be able to find the word or phrase they are looking for, to find it easily, and to be able to understand it when they get there. It was following these principles, and using state of the art technology, that CIDE was created.

In terms of giving wide coverage, CIDE contains a larger number of entries – 100,000 words and phrases – than other comparable dictionaries currently available. This was achieved in part by the use of a carefully designed page, free from the clutter that is often found in dictionaries, which allowed more textual information to be given. These words and phrases include many that are new, a feature which CUP's research showed was extremely important to users. Because CIDE was produced on a computer system using innovative software, much of which was developed in-house, the team of lexicographers writing the dictionary were able to produce it in just four years. This enabled the team to keep pace with linguistic changes, thus ensuring that CIDE's coverage is absolutely current. The new words and phrases, and new meanings of words, that appear in a learner's dictionary for the first time in CIDE include: in the area of politics – *anti-choice*, *depoliticize*, *feelgood*; in media and the arts – *infomercial*, *prequel*, *ragga*; in fashion and food – *bumbag*, *isotonic*, *oenophile*; technical and medical words – *genotype*, *mini-system*, *SAD*; words relating to sex – *homoerotic*,