

Final report / Project *From the centre to the boundaries: understanding and teaching grammar* (AKTION No. 99p6)

The idea to organize a conference to discuss the teaching and learning of the grammar of morphology-heavy languages such as Finnish or Hungarian came up in connection with the visit of Yrjö Lauranto (visiting Finnish lecturer at Charles University) to Vienna in 2022. After an intensive e-mail correspondence, online discussions and physical meetings at international conferences of Finnish studies, the Finnish Department at Charles University (Czech part of the project coordinated by Lenka Fárová) and the Finno-Ugric Department of the University of Vienna (Austrian part of the project coordinated by prof. Johanna Laakso) submitted their joint application in February 2024.

Programme and further scholarly co-operations

The symposium “From the centre to the boundaries: understanding and teaching grammar” took place in Vienna on November 15th and 16th, 2024. The programme was published and can still be found online on the website of the Viennese department, <https://finno-ugristik.univie.ac.at/forschung/tagungen/understanding-and-teaching-grammar/>, and, as a permanently stored version, in the PHAIDRA repository of the University of Vienna: <https://phaidra.univie.ac.at/o:2105469>.

In addition to participants from Vienna (Jeremy Bradley, Márta Csire, Mikko Kajander, Johanna Laakso, Veronika Szabó) and Prague (Lenka Fárová, Máté Hegedűs, Zuzana Jancíková, Jiří Januška, Michal Kovář, Yrjö Lauranto), we invited some colleagues from several other universities where Finnish, Hungarian, Saami and/or Estonian are taught and studied: Berlin/Humboldt (Daniel Ebner, Tamás Görbe, Pia Päiviö), Helsinki (Ilona Kivinen) and Tartu (Raili Pool, Maarika Teral) who participated with Erasmus or other local funding. On top of that, some MA and PhD students from Stockholm and Vienna participated in the symposium on their own expenses. We also organized an internet connection for distant listeners; each day, 2–5 colleagues from Finland, Germany, France and Hungary followed the symposium via Zoom.

The main programme included two full days of multilingual presentations on various topics such as usage of parallel and learner corpora in teaching Finno-Ugric languages, functional approaches to writing textbooks of Hungarian, Mari

and Saami, or teaching Finno-Ugric grammar constructions, structures and vocabulary to the learners, whose mother tongue is an Indo-European language. Some of the didactic as well as grammatical issues were further tackled during the whole symposium, and especially in the final discussion.

The lecture hall and technical support, including a Zoom connection for distant listeners, were provided by the Viennese department.

In addition to the scholarly programme, we had an informal social programme (mostly self-funded, partly supported by the Viennese department) in the evenings, which was a good opportunity for networking of all the participants, but mainly of the younger colleagues.

Funding

There were only slight changes to the original work and funding plan as presented in our application:

- Valentina Dani (PhD student from Prague) had to cancel her participation (her programme slot was given to Yrjö Lauranto who thus gave two talks),
- Yrjö Lauranto as a Finnish visiting teacher had his travel costs refunded by the Finnish Ministry of Education
- Zuzana Jancíková (Vorlíková) had in the meantime been employed at the Charles University; as agreed with the OeAD (e-mail correspondence with Martina Rahberger), the funds originally applied for Valentina Dani and Yrjö Lauranto could be used to raise her daily allowance to the level of university employees
- Jiří Januška's travel to Vienna from Hungary could not be refunded from the AKTION travel grant.

The travel grants in CZK were paid to the participants from Prague as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------|
| • Fárová | 1200 CZK |
| • Hegedűs | 591,32 CZK |
| • Jancíková | 1200 CZK |
| • Januška | 640 CZK |
| • Kovář | 1200 CZK |
| • exchange losses | 0,70 CZK |
| • haller settlement | 0,90 CZK |

TOTAL: 4833 CZK


Daily allowances in EUR for the five eligible participants from Prague (3 days à € 130, € 1950 in total) were transferred from the OeAD to Johanna Laakso's personal bank account and further to the accounts of each participant. The receipts confirming the transfer were signed by each participant and sent to the OeAD.

Outlook and further plans

In addition to the presenters, the symposium attracted listeners from the Finno-Ugric and Slavic departments of the University of Vienna. This has already spawned further cooperation: Katarína Džunková (Charles University, visiting researcher at the Slavic department in Vienna) will give a guest lecture on missionary linguistics in Russia at the Finno-Ugric department on January 22, 2025.

At the end of the official programme, all participants expressed their interest in continuing this cooperation (which also provided important stimuli for further internal cooperation between the Finnish and Hungarian departments in Prague and Berlin). The first step will be to work the symposium presentations into a peer-reviewed edited volume which will be published in the Vienna series *Central European Uralic Studies*.

In Vienna and Prague, December 30, 2024


prof. Johanna Laakso, Ph.D.
Mgr. Lenka Fárová, Ph.D.

Attachment 1: List of invited speakers

AKTION-funded participants from Charles University

Section of Finnish Studies, Department of Germanic Studies, Faculty of Arts:

- Lenka Fárová employee
- Zuzana Jancíková employee
- Michal Kovář employee

Section of Hungarian Studies, Department of Central European Studies, Faculty of Arts:

- Máté Hegedüs employee
- Jiří Januška employee

Participants from the University of Vienna:

- Jeremy Bradley
- Márta Csire
- Mikko Kajander
- Johanna Laakso
- Veronika Szabó

Other participants (other than AKTION funding):

- Daniel Ebner (Humboldt University, Germany)
- Tamás Görbe (Humboldt University, Germany)
- Ilona Kivinen (University of Helsinki, Finland)
- Yrjö Lauranto (Charles University, Czechia)
- Raili Pool (University of Tartu, Estonia)
- Pia Päiviö (Humboldt University, Germany)
- Maarika Teral (University of Tartu, Estonia)

Attachment 2: Photo documentation



© Johanna Laakso



© Johanna Laakso



© Zuzana Jancíková



© Zuzana Jancíková