

## Call for Papers: *NJL* Special Issue on 'Language Change'

The second issue of volume 26 (2003) of the *Nordic Journal of Linguistics* will be a special issue on language change. This topic ranges over a wide variety of questions of both empirical and theoretical interest. Language change affects all linguistic domains: phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, and the lexicon. Within the history of the languages spoken in the Nordic countries, some changes are well documented and well described, others less well so; some changes are well attested across Germanic and beyond (development of V2, quantity shift), others are rare and claimed to be exceptional (e.g. suffixed definite article, development of tonal accents). Old as well as new data can contribute to a better understanding of language structure at different levels and the (possible) interaction between different levels of language, synchronically as well as diachronically.

Other relevant questions concern the relation between language change, on the one hand, and language acquisition, language contact, etc., on the other. One much debated question concerns the possible triggers of change: can one change trigger another change, or should two closely related changes be seen as one (in some sense more abstract) change? To what extent and in what sense is language change predictable? New data and/or reinterpreted old data can shed new light on the supposed mechanisms of change, such as reanalysis, analogy, grammaticalization, sound shift, etc. Also, new theories and methodologies often recast the old questions in a productive manner.

Another topic of interest is how language change is reflected synchronically. What kind of data (historical or contemporary) can reveal ongoing change? Vowel shifts have recently been investigated in this manner, but what about, for example, syntactic change? To what extent can we infer change in a certain direction from extant language variation at a certain point in time? Indeed, can variation remain stable over time?

We invite papers that address these and other issues relating to the theme. The deadline is 31 January 2003, and papers should be sent to either of the two guest editors:

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