V. SWEDISH STUDIES

LANGUAGE

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In the field of linguistic theory the Swedish contribution of recent years has been rather insignificant. During the year under review, however, a notable piece of work has been published, B. Kinnander’s *Sammanhangsanalys. Studier i språkets struktur och rytm.* Of general interest are also three Scandinavian handbooks on the science of language.

Discussion of Germanic umlaut problems is keen. To some extent it is influenced by phonemic points of view. A valuable survey of earlier discussion on umlaut questions has been made by S. Sonderegger. The most important contribution to umlaut discussion in recent years is undoubtedly Gun Widmark’s *Det nordiska u-omljudet. En dialektgeografisk undersökning,* a dialect-geographical investigation into the Scandinavian u-umlaut.

In onomastics activity is as great as usual. The investigations into the place-name element *-stadir* by the Swede L. Hellberg and the Dane J. Kousgård Sørensen have attracted the greatest interest.

In the ASu series (cf. *YWML, xx, 457, 477*) another significant contribution to anthroponymy has appeared, C.-E. Thors’s *Finländska personnamnsstudier,* esp. of interest in preparation for the projected dictionary of OSw. personal names.

I. WORKS OF GENERAL INTEREST

There is a striking scarcity of up-to-date surveys of the present situation in linguistics. B. Malmberg’s *Ny vägar inom språkforskningen. En orientering i modern lingvistik,* SUB (rev. W. Wolf, *FT,* 1960, 2) consequently supplies a long-felt need. After outlining the general historical background, the author presents a survey, for the main part objectively reported, of the various tendencies of linguistics during the 20th c. Beginning with de Saussure and the Geneva school, he goes on to treat of dialectology

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and language geography, Croce and Vossler, the Prague school, instrumental phonetics, semantics, glossematics, modern American linguistics, statistical and mathematical methods, psychological and philosophical contributions. Among other things the book is meant as an introduction for university students. Although it is intended in the first place for Swedish readers and for that reason pays special attention to the contributions of Swedish scholars, it may also be of interest to an international public. Unfortunately, the Swedish language will be an obstacle.

Two other recent books are also partly intended for university studies: C. Hj. Borgström, *Innføring i sprogvidenskap*, Oslo, Universitetsforlaget, 1958 (rev. K. G. Ljunggren, *ANF*, lxiv, 136; V. Steen, *GHT*, 20 Feb.; S. Wikander, *Sydsvenska Dagbladet Snällposten*, 16 Oct.; W. Winter, *L*, xxxv, 2, 1) and B. Collinder, *Språket. Inledning till det vetenskapliga språkstudiet*, Stockholm, Natur och Kultur (rev. L. Carlsson, *ST*, xlvi; B. Malmberg, *Skånska Dagbladet*, 27 Nov.; W. Wolf, *FT*, 1960, 2). While Borgström divides his book systematically into two parts, treating synchrony and diachrony respectively, Collinder takes a sceptical attitude towards the rigorous demand of structuralists for such a division. According to him, it is hardly possible to keep synchrony and diachrony apart from each other, but the two methods may be used either separately or together, according to the nature of the problem. C. even thinks there is a tendency nowadays to neglect diachronic research (except in the German-speaking countries, Sweden, and Finland). C., who addresses a wider circle of readers than B., treats not only sound, form and semantic problems, the various languages, their relationship and influences, but also style, the question of the beauty of language, and the fascinating problem of the origin of language. B.’s and C.’s books are opportune as replacements for earlier handbooks still in use at the universities but nowadays more or less antiquated. With their different approach and content, they can be said to complement each other excellently as an introduction to the science of language.

A weighty contribution to discussion of the structure of language has been made by B. Kinnander in his doct. diss., *Sammanhangsanlys. Studier i språkets struktur och rymt (Analyse sprachlicher Zusammenhänge. Studien über Struktur und Rhythmus der Rede)*, SINSUU, 5. The purpose of this work is to examine the relations