IV. NORWEGIAN STUDIES*

LANGUAGE

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1. General

Price, Encyclopedia, includes introductory but informative accounts of Old Norse (M. P. Barnes, 332–35) and of Norwegian (S. J. Walton, 335–43). Kurt Braunmüller, De nordiske språk, Novus, 248 pp., is a systematic and structuralist description of the current six North Germanic languages, meant as a handbook and textbook for students of Scandinavian. A separate chapter deals with Scandinavian intercommunication. Along the same line is Arne Torp, Nordiske språk i nordisk og germansk perspektiv, Novus, 123 pp., where the emphasis is put on similarities and differences among modern Danish, Norwegian and Swedish, but there are also references to Icelandic and Faroese. There is a separate chapter discussing the relationship between the dialects of Scandinavia. Minority languages in Scandinavia, Britain and Ireland, ed. Ailbhe Ó Coirr and Seamus Mac Mathuna (Studia Celtica Upsaliensia, 3), Uppsala, 220 pp., includes articles on the Sami and Finnish languages in Norway.

Innføring i språkvitenskap, ed. Torbjørn Nordgård, Ad Notam–Gydendal, 293 pp., is a course in general linguistics, aiming at students starting language studies at university level. K. L. Berge, M. Halliday, and J. Martin, A skape mening med språk, Cappelen, 500 pp., is another introductory course in new grammatical theory with translated articles by H. and M. and newly written contributions by B. and E. Maagerø. Ragnhild Willumsen, The Language of Very Low Birthweight 5-Year-Olds. A Conversational Analysis, 203 pp., suggests that premature birth is linked to developmental speech and language difficulties and might imply increased probability of cognitive, social, and physical problems. Finn-Erik Vinje, Bedre norsk. Språkråd fra A til Å, Fagbokforlaget, 171 pp., is part of V.’s handbook series on how to write better Norwegian. Professor Oddvar Nes has been honoured with an impressive Festschrift Ord etter ord, ed. Gunnstein Akselberg and Jarle Bondevik, Bergen, Norsk Bokreidingslag, 280 pp., with contributions covering all the topics of Nes’s special interests: etymology, onomastics, dialectology, and language history.

* The place of publication of books is Oslo unless otherwise indicated.
periodicals and journals. In Språk i Norden 1998, ed. Birgitta Lindgren et al., Nordic Language Board, Novus, 232 pp., D. Gundersen (5–18) shares his experience of his meeting with the language used in the various media, and M. Hovdenak (76–81) finds that gender equality is reflected in linguistic changes which have taken place within a generation but that there are still many problems ahead for a language which has both articles and pronouns reflecting gender — H. is presenting the leaflet Kjønn, språk, likestilling (Norwegian Language Board, 1997); and finally, G. Wiggen, ‘Det nordiske språkfellesskapet: språksosioligiske vilkår og framtidsutsikter’ (120–64), outlines the current situation and reflects on the future of Scandinavian linguistic unity. W. is very critical of the decision made by the Nordic Council of Ministers to close down the Nordic Language Secretariat and the Nordic Language Information Centre. W. also discusses the consequences of linguistic and socio-economic internationalization on the Norwegian language in Språklig samling, no.1: 5–22. In Syn og Segn, no.3, J. Myking (242–49) describes how the development of a Norwegian oil terminology was regarded as part of a national will to get national control over the oil resources, and R. M. Blakar (276–83) shows how male perspectives are still reflected in modern Norwegian. In Syn og Segn, no.4: 322–27, J. T. Faarlund argues for allowing more modern spoken forms into the Nynorsk written standard.

2. History of the Language and Textual Studies

Aslak Bolts jordebok, ed. J. G. Jørgensen and T. Ulset, Riksarkivet, 1997, xl + 320 pp., is the first modern translation of this medieval cadaster covering the middle part of Norway. An introduction by J. covers the history of the manuscript (and how it ended up in Munich); there then follows a parallel edition of the original text alongside a translation into modern Norwegian (Bokmål), done by T. Ulset. This is a most useful source book for historians, linguists, and name researchers. The textbook on Old Norse, Odd Einar Haugen, Grunnbok i norrønt språk, AdNotam–Gyldendal, 320 pp., is already now in its third edition and includes a CD-ROM with texts and exercises. Martin Syrett, ‘On Sievers’ Law, and its converse, in North Germanic’, NOWELE, 34: 75–98, finds the ‘converse’ of Sievers’s law an economical way to account for phonological and morphological features of late proto-Germanic and in particular some features in North Germanic. In NOWELE 33, Karl-Heinz Mottausch has the article ‘Die reduplizierenden Verben im Nord- und Westgermanischen: Versuch eines Raum-Zeitmodells’. There are three articles in English in MM, no.1, where L. Motz (11–19)