

## **ANNUAL REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR 2005**

### ***Danish National Research Foundation Centre for Language Change in Real Time (LANCHART)***

The Danish National Research Foundation Centre for Language Change in Real Time was established on 1 May 2005 with a DKK 26.1 million grant from the Danish National Research Foundation, spread over five years (with the option of an extension). In international circles, the Centre is known as the Danish National Research Foundation LANCHART Centre (Language Change in Real Time).

As a result of negotiations between the Director on the one hand, and the Department of Scandinavian Research and the management of the Faculty of Humanities on the other, the Centre occupies half of floor 5 in building 27 of the University of Copenhagen. This building already housed the Danish Language Council, the Arnamagnæan Dictionary and the Department of Scandinavian Research. The other half of the fifth floor is home to the Department's Section of Dialectology. This is a logical location for the Centre, as it is a co-operative project between researchers from the Department of Scandinavian Studies and Linguistics (Frans Gregersen and Jens Normann Jørgensen) and researchers from the Section of Dialectology (Tore Kristiansen and Inge Lise Pedersen). I regret that it did not prove possible to commandeer enough space for all the researchers and teachers from the Department for Danish as a Foreign and Second Language to move to building 27. However, it should be noted that the Centre still has researchers involved in the work based in building 22, which will keep the leg muscles going as well as the contacts.

### **Staff**

In addition to the Director, Frans Gregersen, the Centre's management team consists of the aforementioned Jens Normann Jørgensen, Tore Kristiansen and Inge Lise Pedersen. Jens Normann Jørgensen is on leave in the period 1 June to 1 September 2006 in order to finish a doctoral thesis, including a comprehensive report on the Køge project (see below).

Shortly after the Centre opened on 1 May 2005, administrator Joan Lausen moved from a part-time post in Danish Studies in Literature and Art at the Georg Brandes

School to a part-time administrative post at the Centre, all the while retaining her part-time post at GradEast (Graduate School EAST). Joan Lausen took maternity leave on 1 September 2005 and was temporarily replaced by Anne Sofie Kilian. On 1 June, Dorte Greisgaard Larsen MA (field work/style analysis), Malene Monka MA (field work/language attitudes), Janus Møller MA (field work/style analysis) and Nicolai Pharao MA (phonetics/transcription) were appointed as research assistants. Librarian Bo Kristensen took up a position as documentalist on 4 July, working part-time for the Section of Dialectology and part-time for the Centre. On 1 November, Torben Juel Jensen PhD was appointed to a postdoctoral position and placed in charge of the Centre's project on grammatical variables, with teaching commitments equivalent to a maximum of half of a permanent member of the academic staff. Simultaneously, the Centre and the University of Copenhagen's Faculty of Humanities advertised a number of PhD fellowships. Research assistants Dorte Greisgaard Larsen and Janus Møller will take up their fellowships on 1 June 2006. Nicolai Pharao takes up one of the Faculty's fellowships on the same date. Minna Olesen took up a position as research assistant with responsibility for field work (Næstved II) and analyses on 1 March 2006. A postdoctoral position charged with phonetic analyses will be advertised in the near future, and is expected to be filled during autumn 2006.

The Centre had 16 student assistants when it opened on 1 May 2005, increasing to a current total (as of 22 March) of 42. The student assistants are employed to work on average eight hours per week (quantified on an annual basis), which means that the work can be done in parallel with their full-time studies. The student assistants have been responsible for all transcripts and proofreading (co-ordinated at first by Janus Møller and Nicolai Pharao, then Torben Juel Jensen and Nicolai Pharao), and have identified the informants who were interviewed for the previous surveys with the help of publicly accessible databases and the National Register. Student assistant Andreas Stæhr made an excellent job of tracing informants in Næstved I's youth group.

## **Organisation**

The Director has the sole responsibility for all decisions that have financial consequences, and has overall responsibility for the project. He is assisted by the administrator, who provides accounts information and adapts the budget where necessary. All issues relating to posts and the use of staff are presented to the management team, which has to a certain extent functioned as a strategy unit. However, the vast majority of decisions are made after due discussion at the regular Centre co-ordination meetings, which also serve as a way of keeping all staff up to date on the Centre's progress towards its annual targets. A total of nine co-ordination

meetings have been held; the last one was on 29 March, just before the end of the reporting period. The minutes of these meetings are published on the Centre's website.

Following the decision taken first by the Centre management and then at the Centre co-ordination meeting, in spring 2006, a study circle programme has taken place every Friday from 9 AM to 11 AM or noon. The programme has been advertised to colleagues at the two departments involved, and through GradEast, and is intended to address general themes associated with the Centre's analyses in order to establish a joint frame of reference and lay down a well-defined – and importantly, Danish-language – terminology. The wide-ranging programme is published on the website. Next semester, the number of study circle meetings will be halved; the remaining Fridays will be available for other academic discussions in smaller groups that already have their own programmes: the style group, the history group, the urbanity group, the language attitudes group, the grammar group and the phonetics group.

Regular meetings have been held with the transcribers to discuss transcription practice, and we have gradually managed to involve the student assistants in other parts of the Centre's work (cf. below about the individual groups). On 10 March 2006, a meeting was held for all the student assistants at the Centre. Approximately 40 people, including most of the student assistants, heard the Director and the heads of the groups report on their progress towards the targets set in the project description, and their expectations for the rest of the year.

## **Timetable**

A date indelibly etched into the minds of the staff is 1 May 2006. Not because of the red flags, but because it is the date by which we have promised the international council (IC) the results of the work in the preceding year. These results will take the form of reports in English, organised as follows:

- The organisation of the Centre
- The design, including the target group of the first year
- The field-work methods, including recording equipment and technical details
- The transcription practice, including choice of software
- The style analysis

- The principles of phonetic analysis and results so far
- The principles of grammatical analysis and results so far
- The language attitude analyses of the Odder informants
- The historical analysis: Outline of the Danish Speech Community, 1900–2000

This means that all field work, transcription work and, last but not least, analysis and writing, is to be finished by 1 May 2006. The actual meeting with the IC will last three days: the first day, Monday 29 May, will be devoted to the reports from this year's work, on which we expect to receive particularly critical feedback. On Tuesday 30 May we will look at a number of overarching problems at an open meeting for all interested parties, while our plans for the next year will be discussed with the Centre's staff and the International Council on Wednesday.

### **The Centre's core projects**

The Centre core consists of two closely linked projects: the History Project and the Panel Study.

#### **THE HISTORY PROJECT**

The History Project, which is run by Inge Lise Pedersen and Frans Gregersen, is designed to describe the Danish speech community in the period from 1900, when the dialect community is documented in detail, until 2000, when one would have to characterise the speech community as, most significantly, post-industrial and globalised. Particular attention is paid to three historical processes, each of which can be linked to linguistic developments: urbanisation, changes in the socialisation process and globalisation.

Urbanisation constitutes a significant component of what is known in international research as *dialect levelling*. One consequence of this in Denmark, has been that forms originally solely associated with Copenhagen have spread across the country as part of a dominant standard language. Changes to the socialisation process have resulted in a shift in the dominant pattern of family life, i.e. from forming the framework for a life that was isolated from schools and spare time, and which had at least one adult present at all times, to being the framework for the life which only takes place outside of our time at the many institutions that dominate our waking hours. At the same time, the family space has been substantially invaded by mass-

media products and by electronics. It is quite conceivable that this has strengthened the linguistic connection to our same-age peers and altered (not necessarily weakened) the family's role as the transmitter of traditions, including purely linguistic ones. Our co-operation in Bettina Perregaard and Marianne Johansen's project on socialisation at the dinner table illuminates this issue (cf. below).

Finally, the globalisation process leaves clear tracks in the perpetual debate about the Danish language's domain loss in relation to English. At the same time, the speech community's repertoire of communication options is affected by global mobility, which is a consequence of natural and political disasters and the division of labour. There are simply far more languages at our disposal at the end of the century than at the beginning.

The Centre has employed two student assistants to work on the History Project until 1 May 2006: Mads Stidsen and Andreas Stæhr.

## **THE PANEL STUDY**

'Panel studies' is the international designation for surveys that monitor the same group of people at appropriate intervals. The Centre plans to conduct repetitions of a total of 9 surveys:

- Odder 1986–89, by Bent Jul Nielsen and Magda Nyberg
- Næstved I 1987–90, by Tore Kristiansen
- Project Urban Sociolinguistics 1986–88 (also known as the Copenhagen or Nyboder Survey), by Frans Gregersen and Inge Lise Pedersen
- Vinderup I 1973, by Kjeld Kristensen
- Vinderup II 1980 by Kjeld Kristensen
- Næstved II 1986–90, by Jens Normann Jørgensen and Kjeld Kristensen
- Vissenbjerg 1982–83, by Inge Lise Pedersen (repetition already partly conducted)
- Køge 1989–97, by Jens Normann Jørgensen, Anne Holmen, et al
- DASVA 2000–2001 (by Frans Gregersen, Jens Normann Jørgensen, Tore Kristiansen and Inge Lise Pedersen).

Surveys of language usage and language attitudes are conducted in all of the areas where surveys have been conducted previously. Tore Kristiansen is responsible for the Centre's surveys of language attitudes, and Malene Monka's duties as research assistant involve field work and conducting surveys.

The very concept of panel studies implies that it is the same people from the initial survey who are recorded the second (and, if appropriate, third) time. If, on the other hand, the work consists of recording representative selections, such as informants from the same speech community, then the type of survey is called a 'trend study'. The project supplements the panel group in order to compensate for representative inadequacies in the initial selection. The overall project will therefore take the form of a panel study with a trend supplement.

#### *Recording techniques and storage*

From its inception, the Centre has been aware that it was necessary to revise all field-work techniques in the light of technical and scientific advances since the last project. As a result, we are now using hard-disk recorders so that we can immediately store digital sound files in .wav format and transfer them to the Centre's server. All informants are interviewed with a view to gathering comprehensive background data, which is then stored in a File Maker Pro database by the documentalist, Bo Kristensen.

The Centre's phonetician Nicolai Pharao and PhD Fellow Gert Foget Hansen from the Section of Dialectology have been jointly responsible for finding the best possible recording methods in order to produce data suitable for acoustic analyses. Acoustic analyses of speech have for many years been reserved for recordings done in the laboratory, so it has been important for Pharao and Foget Hansen to establish the exact correlation between laboratory measurements made using desk microphones and those taken on field recordings with head-set microphones. This will provide a better basis for comparisons of laboratory speech and spontaneous speech recorded in more natural surroundings. The result will be presented at the Nordic phoneticians' meeting in Lund in July 2006, after which it will be submitted to a periodical with peer review.

#### *The DR Project*

Headset recordings provide the opportunity to conduct acoustically based phonetic analyses. The Centre has been particularly interested in the many studio-quality recordings of colloquial speech housed in the Radio Denmark (DR) archive. In collaboration with the radio archive's manager, Per Herman Holst, and his staff, the Centre unearthed a series of tapes that make it possible to compare recordings of the same person across the space of at least a decade. At the moment, we are working

with the resistance fighter Hugo Horwitz and – with the special permission of the Lord Chamberlain's Office – with three of Queen Margrethe's New Year addresses to the nation, evenly spread over the period from Her Majesty's coronation to the present. Nicolai Pharao has co-ordinated the DR Project, while Thomas Breck Pedersen and Christine Dabelsteen have been involved as student assistants

In early spring 2006, the Centre was given the chance, along with researchers from Department of Art and Cultural Studies (in particular, postdoctoral research fellow Erik Granly and external lecturer Bente Larsen), Professor Ib Poulsen from the University of Roskilde and colleagues from the Department of Media, Cognition and Communication, to enter into a partnership with the State and University Library at Aarhus. The aim was to establish a special section at Copenhagen University, Amager, with copies of those tapes from the radio archive that are due to be thrown out during DR's move to its new premises beside the Faculty of Humanities on Amager. The Centre will hopefully benefit from the proximity of this special archive, but at any rate, the new radio archive buildings will soon be within walking distance of the Centre.

#### *Ethics: informed consent*

The rules for informed consent also cover language surveys, and the Centre has drawn up a standard consent form for use with its recordings. The form specifies that the informant is granting permission for the material to be used anonymously for research and teaching purposes only. If the voice is published, e.g. on the internet, a new consent form is required.

In addition, all transcribers are required to adhere to a new standard contract that ensures any information gathered during transcription or in any other way during work at the Centre remains confidential.

#### *Transcription practice*

As all recordings must be transcribed, Janus Møller and Nicolai Pharao have developed a consistent transcription system, with subsequent assistance from Torben Juel Jensen. This manual, which is expected to become a Danish Standard for transcription, is based on the new fact that both sound files and transcriptions are available in linked files whenever recordings are analysed. The transcription manual can be downloaded from [http://dgcss.hum.ku.dk/organisation/praktiske\\_oplysninger/](http://dgcss.hum.ku.dk/organisation/praktiske_oplysninger/).

#### *File formats*

The Centre has invested a great deal of energy over the past year in studying a variety of computer formats for transcription files, and also setting up programs to convert one format to another. Many of the recordings from projects that are to be repeated were transcribed in what is known as the KUA format, which was devised for the Nyboder project in Copenhagen. The format is not internationally recognised, let alone used, therefore it became clear at an early stage of the project that the files would have to be converted. An utterly indispensable part of this process is the Centre's IT expert, Peter Lind, who took on the task of converting the old files from KUA to the internationally widespread format CHAT. This is the standard format utilised in the transcription program CLAN, which is used by child-language researchers and conversation analysts all over the world. During this process, files were converted via XML in order to be more adaptable. The Centre has, however, decided that files destined for use in analyses should adopt a different format, PRAAT, which has mostly been used for phonetic analysis. The reason for this is that this is the best format for linking sound and transcripts, thereby making the transcription process significantly easier. PRAAT is also capable of separating the many different types of analyses that have to be conducted on the files, while still enabling them to be compared – this is absolutely crucial in order to maintain the progress made on the project.

The programmer Jakob M. Christensen, from the the C-MOL Centre at the Department of Computational Linguistics at Copenhagen Business School, took on the task of converting files from CHAT to PRAAT. Thanks to a special co-operative project with associate professor Peter Juel Henriksen PhD, the head of C-MOL, the converted files will then be supplied with word-class specifications for each individual word. This word-class tagging means that it will be possible to conduct far-reaching investigations of Danish colloquial spoken language's morphological and syntactical characteristics using a corpus of a size which is unique in an international context

The Centre received the first batch of tagged files on 17 March 2006. This first corpus will be proofread, and then the total corpus from 2006 will be tagged, according to the timetable, in June 2006. After that, an automatic normative phonetic transcription of all of the material will be conducted for use in phonetic analyses.

### *Surveys of language attitudes*

During the last year, surveys of language attitudes have been conducted in Odder (2005) and partially in Næstved (February 2006), with the rest of Næstved and Vinderup/Holstebro (currently at the planning stage) to follow. Tore Kristiansen and Malene Monka have developed the design of the surveys and the questionnaire, and

have been responsible for conducting them – although several of the research assistants have helped out on parallel surveys in school classes. It is important that the recordings are conducted in parallel so that none of the informants discover that the experiment is about language.

#### *Data acquisition for the panel study*

In the light of the very great amount of working time needed to record, transcribe, proofread and computer-process a recording, it has been necessary to make a number of strategic choices regarding the timing of the process. We have opted to concentrate on specific informants, as focus groups, in the three projects that were supposed to be carried through in 2005–6: Odder, Næstved I and Copenhagen (BySoc). Different age ranges and social groups are represented in the three projects, and we needed to find a robust solution to the theoretically interesting problem of achieving comparability. The Centre has strategically chosen to focus on the group of informants who were between 25 and 40 years old in 1986. This focus group of informants, divided up into clusters of six people consisting of working-class and middle-class men and women, gives a population for the first year's empirical study totalling 3 x 24, i.e. 72 people recorded twice, in principle a total of 144 recordings (in reality, however, the number will be slightly lower, as some of the informants were married couples who were recorded together). Large sections of the old recordings were already transcribed, while the rest were transcribed before and during the field work. All transcriptions have been proofread, and the old files from the BySoc project in Copenhagen in particular have proven to be defective.

The Centre will later make follow-up recordings of the informants who were younger than the group of 25–40-year-olds, supplemented with new, very young informants from municipal primary and lower-secondary schools. To a certain extent, this has already happened in Odder.

Status reports for the field work have consistently shown that the Odder group (Malene Monka with Signe Wedel Schøning as student assistant) have made the most progress. The recordings made in Odder as of 31 March consist of 24 people in the focus group, three people who distinguish themselves by having moved from Odder since the first recording, eight from the oldest group from the old project and 16 from the youth group. An additional 16 supplementary recordings have been made, alongside 33 new recordings with ninth-grade pupils. Thus, at the time of writing, a total of 100 people have been recorded. There are realistic plans for finishing the Odder corpus with five people from the old corpus who have subsequently moved away and 24 supplementary recordings, resulting in a total of 129 people. After that follows the Næstved I group (Dorte Greisgaard Larsen with Lisbeth Bjerregaard

Jepsen as student assistant), whose informants are divided up into three clusters: the adult group, the youth group and the children's group. A total of 54 informants have been recorded, divided between 24 in the focus group, five new supplementary recordings, 15 recordings with informants from the old adult group who were not in the focus group, and a total of ten from the old children's group. The old youth group has been traced, but the recordings have been postponed until the autumn. Finally, Janus Møller has, with (a little) assistance from the Director, made a total of 23 recordings in Copenhagen with informants from the old Nyboder survey's (BySoc) focus group.

Of the 24 informants in focus group in Odder, 19 of both the old and new recordings have been transcribed and proofread. In addition, 16 conversations have been transcribed, but not yet proofread. All the old transcripts from the Næstved focus group have been converted, and 16 have been proofread and subsequently released for further analysis. Of the new recordings, 17 have been transcribed, of which five have been proofread. Two of the new recordings from Copenhagen have been transcribed and one of them has been proofread. It is a reasonable expectation, based on the Centre's experiences with the speed of transcribing and proofreading, that all informants in the focus groups will be transcribed and proofread by 1 May.

In addition, new recordings of informants who do not belong to the focus groups have been transcribed. These comprise 32 interviews from Odder and 50 from BySoc (newly transcribed, in addition to which all the other old transcripts, including the old Næstved files, are directly convertible); 34 of these have been proofread. The strategic choice of a focus group that is ahead of the others in the process means that the analyses can concentrate on a narrow population which meets an exact design. Once analysis has begun, the transcribers can quietly and calmly catch up with the field work, meaning that all files will be transcribed and proofread over the summer. After that, work on the old files from Vinderup and Næstved II can begin, as can the process of re-recording the informants from Vinderup, Næstved II and Vissenbjerg, along with the 16 Danes who took part in the Danish-Swedish DASVA project.

### *Style analysis*

To guarantee comparability of the different passages of the recordings, which vary in tone from formal to informal, a working group, with Janus Møller and Dorte Greisgaard Larsen as co-ordinators and Frans Gregersen as moderator, addressed the process of style analysis. An extensive coding manual has been completed, and at the time of writing there are 50 files in style analysis, 16 of the transcripts of which have been analysed completely. Note that the style analysis is performed on the basis of the

transcripts only so as to avoid circular arguments in relation to phonetic conditions. The student assistants Astrid Ag, Rikke Lange and Hanne Sæderup Pedersen, as well as research assistant Minna Olesen, have participated in this work. I expect that all files in the focus group, representing 72 people across two recording periods, will be style-analysed before Easter 2006.

#### *Phonetic analysis*

The style-analysed files will be phonetically analysed according to the following variables: the a-variable (because this can be easily recognised, and because there is widespread awareness that it signifies social class), and the change from [æ] to [e] (because this is a new development). The age of the latter is a matter of some debate; Associate Professor Finn Køster from Section of Dialectology has encountered it in several places on Zealand over a prolonged period, but it is possibly a living development, and since it was studied in the Copenhagen project it is possible to sketch out a 20-year history of change. Inge Lise Pedersen, Frans Gregersen and research assistant Nicolai Pharao, along with student assistants Magnus Tingstrøm, Louise Yung Nielsen and Cæcilie Helmer Madsen, make up the phonetics group.

#### *Grammatical analysis*

A group headed by postdoctoral research fellow Torben Juel Jensen has started analysis of the material's grammatical structure, in the first instance with reference to two variables: the reflexive system (the relationship between 'hans/hendes/dens/dets/ens' and 'sin/sit', and between 'deres' and 'sin/sit') and generic pronouns like 'man' instead of 'du'. The latter variable was chosen because it is arguably an example of English influence, and because it also appears in French, but possibly has a different background here. The members of the grammar group, in addition to Torben Juel Jensen, are the student assistants Peter Juul Nielsen, Liva Hyttel-Sørensen, Gertrud Linkis and Christine Mikkelsen.

### **Co-operation projects in Denmark**

The Centre works with the C-MOL Centre at CBS, whose Associate Professor Peter Juel Henriksen PhD advises about data-linguistic issues and is responsible for PoS-tagging of the total corpus (cf. above), while programmer Jakob M. Christensen has worked on the conversion of file formats from CHAT/CHILDES to PRAAT (cf. also above). There are a number of technical problems in connection with this conversion, for which Christensen, in collaboration with the Centre's Torben Juel Jensen and

Nicolai Pharao, has found ideal solutions.

The Centre has also been active cooperating with a linguistic socialisation project, with particular focus on genres in everyday life. Assistant Professor Marianne Johansen PhD and Associate Professor Bettina Perregaard PhD have organised ten self-recordings of dinner-table conversations by families with kids. The Centre has funded 100 hours of transcription by Kim Rosenløwe Bondesen, and the corpus is almost finished. As well as representing colloquial genres other than the interview and the group conversations, the aim of the project is to compare sociolinguistic interviews with selected adults in two different situations, one of which, the interview, is identical to the majority of the collected material. There are, however, sometimes problems with the sound quality in the comparisons, as the dinner-table conversations are recorded on a video-camera microphone.

## **Activities designed to build up an academic environment**

### **Sociolinguistic Study Circle**

In addition to the different study groups organised around the Centre's own needs, the Centre and the Section of Dialectology have jointly hosted a Sociolinguistic Study Circle. A typically Danish academic group that has been active for some 15 years, it holds 3–5 meetings in each semester, and invites visiting researchers. Eight meetings were held during the year. The programme since LANCHART opened:

### **2005**

10.05: Frans Gregersen, Jens Normann Jørgensen, Inge Lise Pedersen, Tore Kristiansen; Presentation of LANCHART; number of members present: 42

24.05: Jann Scheuer; Best Practice in Staff-development Interviews; number of members present: 16

25.10: Inge Lise Pedersen; Objective Women and Sensitive Men; number of members present: 20

15.11: Penelope Eckert; The Third Wave in Sociolinguistics; number of members present: 43

06.12: Karin Ridell; Linguistic Variation and Adaptations in Danish–Swedish Conversations in a Workplace in the Øresund Region; number of members present: 17

## **2006**

07.02: Andreas Woetmann Christoffersen; Society, Identity and Use of Language; number of members present: 13

21.03: Tore Kristiansen, Inge Lise Pedersen, Jann Scheuer, Pia Quist; Should Sociolinguistics Keep a Variation-Linguistics Sub-Department? If so, where is the border between the two?; number of members present: 26

The following have been planned and advertised:

04.04: Sarah Verdoña; Scandinavian Sound Variation in Helsingborg – A Sociolinguistic Perspective

23.05: Ellen Bijvoet and Kari Fraurud; Sociolinguistic Awareness and Language Attitudes in Multilingual Contexts

## **Guests**

When the Centre was set up, associate professor Anne Fabricius, the University of Roskilde, was a visiting researcher in the Section of Dialectology, and she has continued to work with us. She is currently involved in a major project about the standardisation of English colloquial speech from a sociolinguistic perspective.

PhD Fellow Tanya Christensen, the University of Roskilde, has used the Centre's visiting researcher room on several occasions.

In collaboration with GradEast, the Centre welcomed Anders Højen PhD as visitor in the autumn 2005. He taught a master class and explained methods of neurologically based research into second languages. Nicolai Pharaos was one of the two (current and future) fellows who received good advice about their projects.

When Professor Penelope Eckerts was appointed honorary doctor at the University of Copenhagen, a meeting of the Sociolinguistic Study Circle was organised by the Centre, the Section of Dialectology (who hosted the visit) and GradEast, along with a one-day event at which we presented the project to the honorary doctor and listened to her comments on it, especially on style analysis. Penelope Eckert is Professor of Sociolinguistics at Stanford University.

On the occasion of Professor Elizabeth Closs Traugott's visit to Maj-Britt Mosegaard Hansen (Department of English, Germanic and Romance Studies, University of

Copenhagen), the Centre hosted a guest lecture entitled 'The Information-statuses of Old English Preposed Objects in Topicalisations and Left-dislocations' and was joint organiser of a guest lecture entitled 'The Relationship between Constructions and Grammaticalisation: Evidence from the Development of Degree Modifiers in English', which attracted a large turnout. The Centre still keeps in touch with Elizabeth Closs Traugott and Penelope Eckert.

A planned visit by Professor Elvira Krylova of the Lomonosov University in Moscow had to be postponed due to illness in the family.

The Centre has just been informed that Associate Professor Charlotte Gooskens, University of Groningen, has been allocated one of the National Bank's hospitality apartments in Nyhavn, and will spend the period from 28 April until 18 August 2007 as a guest at the Centre.

## **Communications and academic presentations**

The Centre has received positive coverage in the media, including articles in several Danish newspapers and magazines. The Director (re)presents the Centre in *Universitetsliv*, the University of Copenhagen's publication about 2005, which is published in both English and Danish. The most important articles are reproduced on the Centre's website.

We also use our website to communicate with the world at large about everything that goes on at the Centre. It has, however, been a bit neglected in the first year, and, time permitting, we plan to give it a makeover. We have also neglected to establish a design policy and identity for the Centre.

Various Centre projects have been presented at the following events in Denmark and abroad:

- Sociolinguistic Study Circle, 14.05.05: the Centre management
- Society for Nordic Philology, 22.09.05: Frans Gregersen
- International Symposium on Evidence, Carlsberg Academy, 19.01.06: Frans Gregersen
- Royal Gustav Adolphus Academy seminar, 'New Perspective on the History of Nordic Languages', 20–22.01.06: Inge Lise Pedersen
- 20th Rask Conference of Linguistics, Reykjavik, 28.01.06: Frans Gregersen and Tore Kristiansen

- Guest lecture at the University of Iceland, Reykjavik, 30.01.06: Frans Gregersen
- Symposium at the Centre for Research on Bilingualism, Stockholm University, on 'Approaches to the Study of Folk Linguistics, Sociolinguistic Awareness and Language Attitudes', 07.03.06: Tore Kristiansen
- SONE/UPUS conference, Language Variations in Several Ways, Kristiansand, 27.03.06: Frans Gregersen

### **International co-operation**

Nicolai Phrao was present at the symposium on Plasticity in Speech Perception 2005 at University College London on 15–17 June 2005, and later attended NWA V 34 at NYU (20–23 October 2005). NWA V is the annual variational linguistics meeting in the USA.

Inge Lise Pedersen attended the fourth European ICLaVE meeting in Amsterdam as a member of the board. The Centre has applied to host the sixth meeting in 2009.

The Centre has, along with the Norwegian Centre of Excellence in linguistics, CASTL (Centre for Advanced Studies in Theoretical Linguistics, Tromsø University), and the Nordic CoE, NORMS, at the same location, taken the initiative to apply to the Nordic Research Board (Nordforsk) for funding for a Nordic Language Variation Network (NLVN), which includes a project to map syntactic variations in Icelandic dialects (by Høskuldur Tháinsson), an examination of syntax in Lund (Christer Platzack) and two Norwegian projects on language variation and change (Gjert Kristoffersen's project in Bergen and Brit Mæhlum's UPUS project). A central element in the application consists of a series of six progressive seminars for fellows and senior researchers from the two essentially different linguistic directions: formalism and sociolinguistics. At the seminars we will assess the opportunities for dialogue across these two primary paradigms in the study of language variation and change. CASTL, NORMS and ScandiaSyn (see below) conduct intense research into different syntactic constructions with the same meaning within the Nordic languages, and such variations have long been a focus of sociolinguistic studies of language change. Therefore, there is a real basis for dialogue, as the theoretical linguists previously only worked with observational data to a lesser degree, i.e. collated colloquial speech. The Centre sees a great deal of potential in such a partnership and will probably continue with it, even if the application is not successful. For example, the Section of Dialectology is heavily involved in what is known as the ScandiaSyn project, of which Karen Margrethe Pedersen is group leader for Copenhagen. Torben Juel Jensen will attend ScandiaSyn's annual meeting in Finland as the Centre's representative.

The Centre is preparing, under the auspices of GradEast, applications for international research grants in collaboration with Tromsø and with the University of Cardiff (Nikolas Coupland, member of IC). In 2007 we aim to submit an application in collaboration with Lancaster University, represented by Paul Kerswill, member of IC.

Following preparatory work by Nina Grønnum, dr phil, the Centre will participate in the Nordic Baltic Prosody Network, which has received funding from the Nordic Research Board to draw up a project in 2007. The network, which includes leading neurolinguists such as Inger Moen, Oslo, and Jussi Niemi, Joensuu, and the prominent phonetician Gösta Bruce from Lund, looks at the surprising similarities between the Baltic glottal stop and the Danish one, and at prominent contrasts and links in prosody in the region as a whole. Inge Lise Pedersen and Nicolai Pharao will take part on behalf of the Centre, alongside Gert Foget Hansen from the Section of Dialectology.

Along with Shana Poplack (Montréal), Hélène Blondeau (Florida), Gillian Sankoff (Pennsylvania) and Anita Berit Hansen and Lene Schøsler (Copenhagen), the Centre has proposed and has had accepted a workshop on 'Language Change in Real Time' at the International Congress for Historical Linguistics (ICHL), to be held in Montréal during August 2007. This will give the Centre an opportunity, along with leading researchers, to enter into dialogue with the historical linguistics researchers from a sociolinguistic point of view. The coming workshop will be an important step towards achieving our objective of being an academic body that sets the agenda.

The Centre will be strongly represented at Sociolinguistics Symposium 16 in Limerick, Ireland. Participation should be seen as preparation for presenting results at the following Sociolinguistics Symposium (SS17), two years from now.

### **The Director's comments on the list of publications:**

As the Centre's list of publications shows, none of the publications included make use of the Centre's own material or present the Centre's analyses yet. This is hardly surprising. I will not, however, omit to highlight several works on the list that could have major significance for the theoretical and analytical work at the Centre. In this context, I would like in particular to mention Tore Kristiansen's monumental presentation of subjective factors in language shift, produced in collaboration with IC

Kommentar [ASK1]: Sle  
ttes evt.

member Nikolas Coupland and sparring partner Peter Garrett. By virtue of the fact that the book is being issued as a thematic volume of the international periodical *Acta Linguistica Hafniensia*, one can reasonably expect a breakthrough for the special methods which Tore Kristiansen in particular, but also Inge Lise Pedersen, have cultivated here in Denmark and exported to the other Nordic countries. The major 'Nordic loan words' project has occupied much of Tore Kristiansen's professional focus in the last couple of years, and even though the project is completed, a period of editing publications and writing the summary report (by Tore Kristiansen and IC member Helge Sandøy) is to follow. Jens Normann Jørgensen's ongoing work on languaging will also be of major importance for the work of LANCHART by virtue of its consistent break with the emphasis on 'autonomy' that was and is so characteristic of structuralism. Inge Lise Pedersen sketches out new perspectives on the speaker background variables in a historical perspective, partly due to her ongoing discussion of the gender dimension, and partly in the form of her critical reception of the concept of 'lifestyle' as an alternative classification in relation to social class or just way of life. I have myself, in my contribution to the memorial volume for Tove Bull, introduced the concept of sociolinguistic voluntarism as opposed to determinism, and illustrated the relevance of the concept. Finally, I would like to mention that the two contributions to the forthcoming double edition of *NyS* (*Nydanske Studier*), by Tore Kristiansen and Inge Lise Pedersen (on sociolinguistics) and Frans Gregersen (on structuralism), have already instigated a fruitful debate about renewal in sociolinguistic variation studies, a debate that Pia Quist opened emphatically in her PhD thesis discussing stylistic practices in the metropolis (March 2006). Pia Quist is affiliated with the Section of Dialectology and is, along with Jann Scheuer and Karen Margrethe Pedersen, one of the Centre's closest working partners.

### **Summary conclusions about the Centre's first year**

It is my perception that our efforts in the Centre's first year (which was, of course, not finished at the time of writing) have established a good basis for the continuing work. We have adhered to the initial plan, and this means that we now have the best possible recording equipment, a transcription manual that can set the standard for teaching and research, an integrated computer system that will make it possible to work effectively with an extensive collection of data from a number of perspectives, a staff of gifted and enthusiastic colleagues, a group of trained transcribers and an efficient administration. At the same time, we have laid the foundations for international partnerships that could be of major significance as we progress with our work. In-house at the Centre we have, in my opinion, succeeded in avoiding isolation and envy and instead assumed the position of a joint project from which all linguists at KUA

derive direct benefits.

Frans Gregersen, 30 March 2006