

# Annual report 2014

from the DNRF

LANCHART Centre



Frans Gregersen, director



### 3 af højdepunkterne i 2014 Groningen - Methods XV

Dem der organiserer rækken af kongresser om *Methods in Dialectology*, havde valgt Groningen som stedet for den 15. udgave af slagsen. Groningen er en universitetsby; alt er indrettet på de studerende, hvilket delegationen fra Sprogforandringscentret fik at se (og høre) på ture gennem byen. Der var semesterstartsfester overalt. Vi (Torben Juel Jensen, Anu Laanemets, Nicolai Pharao og Frans Gregersen) deltog i en workshop om panel-studier (dvs. studier med de samme mennesker interviewet to eller flere

gange) og Frans Gregersen holdt kongressens første plenarforedrag. Det ledsagende foto blev taget på den guidede tur i byen og viser meget gamle ældreboliger. Måtte vi alle ende så smukt et sted.

### Workshop om socio-syntax

13-14. November havde Tanya Karoli Christensen og Torben Juel Jensens sammenkaldt et udsøgt panel af førende sprogforskere fra fem lande til i København at diskutere en række projekter inden for variationssyntaks. Diskussionerne skulle fokusere på forholdet mellem syntaktisk variation og betydning og bl.a. svare på udstrækning indebærer en nødvendigvis

hvilken udstrækning kan varianter uden at tage hvis nu svaret er at det kan betyder det så for variation? Diskussionerne at det blev besluttet samling af indlæggene i de samlet kunne give et



spørgsmål som: I hvilken syntaktisk variation betydningsforskelle? I man beskrive syntaktiske hensyn til betydning. Og man slet ikke, hvad opfattelsen af syntaktisk var så intense og frugtbare efterfølgende at udgive en passende redigeret form så nyt bud på svar. Bogen

skal efter planen udkomme i 2015. Billedet viser Leonie Cornips, Amsterdam, og Jennifer Smith, Glasgow ved symposiet. Programmet kan ses som bilag til årsrapporten.

### Slutevaluering og indlejringsaftale

Forhandlingerne om en udfyldning af de foreløbige aftaler om indlejring af Sprogforandringscentret på Københavns Universitet påbegyndtes i slutningen af 2014 men kunne først færdiggøres i januar 2015. Jeg har taget aftalen med i årsrapporten for 2014 fordi den er afgørende for centrets fortsatte eksistens som en vital del af det humanistiske fakultet, placeret på Nordisk Forskningsinstitut men stadig fungerende som et mødested også for forskere tilknyttet Institut for Nordiske Studier og Sprogvidenskab. Aftalerne ligger fuldstændig i forlængelse af det tidligere aftalte men giver detaljerede udfyldende bestemmelser om den geografiske og finansielle fordeling af byrder og rettigheder.

Den fulde aftale findes som bilag til årsrapporten. Jeg vil også gerne på dette sted udtrykke taknemlighed over DGs bestyrelses fornemme tilbagemelding på slutevalueringen.

#### 3. Om finansiering

Notatets fordeling fastholdes med følgende præciseringer:

*Administrator*, heltidsstilling, betales fuldt af NFI idet der dog skal sikres tilskud fra INSS i de tilfælde hvor der efter aftale mellem de to institutter udføres arbejde for INSS-projekter. Tilskuddet fastlægges i forhold til hvor meget arbejde der udføres. Der henvises i øvrigt til notatet.

*IT-specialkonsulent*, heltidsstilling, betales fuldt ud af NFI og arbejder i gennemsnit 75 % for centret og 25 % for NFI. Der henvises i øvrigt til notatet.

*Korpusadministrator* 15 uge svarende til ca. 100.000 kr. om året, betales i 2015 af centerbevillingen og derefter i 2016 og 2017 af INSS. Herefter tages stillingen op til overvejelse i forhandling mellem de to institutledere og centerlederen.

Således tilfældt med egenhændige underskrifter:

København 30.1.2015

  
Il. John E. Andersen

  
Il. Bolene Sæffed Pedersen

  
centerleder Frans Gregersen

  
Instituttadministrator Jytte Sander French



### 3 climaxes of 2014 Groningen - Methods XV

The organizers of the 15th Congress on *Methods in Dialectology* had chosen the dedicated university town of Groningen in the North of the Netherlands as the venue. This was a great choice and the delegation from the LANCHART Centre which numbered Torben Juel Jensen, Anu Laanemets, Nicolai Pharao and Frans Gregersen participated with great enthusiasm in the workshop on panel studies (2 papers). Frans Gregersen also gave the first plenary of the congress. The picture was taken during the guided tour around town and

depicts one of the ancient social institutions, a home for the elderly. May we all end up at a beautiful place like this!

### Workshop on socio-syntax

13-14<sup>th</sup> of November a select group of distinguished colleagues from five different countries assembled at the initiative of Tanya Karoli Christensen and Torben Juel Jensen in Copenhagen to discuss a number of related projects in variationist syntax focusing on the interface between

semantics and syntax. To what extent do syntactic variants entail semantic without taking semantic consideration and what if the discussion during the that it was decided to take an edited volume is being prepared by the participants. The detailed below as an appendix. Cornips and Jennifer



what extent do syntactic differences? To what variation be described function of variants into the answer is negative? The discussion during the next step and currently prepared by the programme may be found Photo shows Leonie Smith at the symposium.

### Final evaluation and embedding agreement

Negotiations for a final decision on the points remaining unclear as to the embedding of the LANCHART Centre at the University of Copenhagen started late 2014 but were not finished until the end of January 2015. I have taken the chance to include this in the annual report of 2014 since the agreement is vital to the continuing existence of the centre as a clearly profiled unit at the Faculty of Humanities in general embedded at the Department of Nordic Research and Language Technology but still being a centre which is the site for collaboration of researchers also affiliated with the Department of Nordic Studies and Linguistics. The agreement follows the lines laid out in the various protocols annexed to the contracts but details both the spatial and financial arrangements. The entire agreement (in Danish) is annexed to this report. We also gratefully here acknowledge the generous comments on the final evaluation from the DNRFB board.

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*Bolette Søgaard Pedersen*  
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*Frans Gregersen*  
centerleder Frans Gregersen

*Jytte Sønder Frensch*  
Instituttadministrator Jytte Sønder Frensch

## **Staff – personnel; developments in 2014**

As is evident from the personnel review we had a rather turbulent start of the year 2014 due to the fact that both cornerstones in the support structure, Lin Solvang and Jane Lykke Bøll left us within three months. Having negotiated the long term perspective for an administrator to replace the two with the departmental heads involved in the centre and the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, we managed to fill the newly defined job with *Sigrun E. Petersen* who has turned out to be the ideal solution. Sigrun, however, had important duties at the Nordic Council of Ministers to complete and thus we had a three month vacancy to fill. Again fate smiled on us since we were able to hire *Anette Luff Studsgaard* who had been one of the applicants for the job, and *Vibeke Skjødt Hass* who herself had worked alongside Lin and Jane as a student assistant. Together they proved to be a fantastic team. We are immensely grateful for their successful efforts during the transition period where among other things they managed to completely renew the web pages.

*Vanessa Wolter* and *Kirsten Sif Lundholm Appel*, experienced phonetic coders also stepped in as supplements and indeed replaced Louise Willemoes Gad when our coordinator of the transcription factory had to concentrate on delivering her baby. Vanessa and Kirsten recruited and trained a whole new group of student assistants so that we were able to carry on the succeeding generations at the centre. The trick now in 2015 is to finish proof reading all the many files which have been transcribed in order to supplement the corpus and fill the few remaining gaps.

In general, student assistants start out at the centre as transcribers. They learn to listen to spoken language and to write down everything which is uttered on the tapes and nothing more, all the time following the orthographic norms institutionalized in the orthographic dictionary, *Retskrivningsordbogen*. The reason for this adherence to official norms is first and foremost to be able to compare the corpus of spoken Danish with anyone of the existing corpora of written Danish. When they are accomplished transcribers, student assistants are promoted to proof readers. This involves taking a test which ensures that proof readers are able to both recognize errors of transcription and correct them. Nearly all of the transcribers have recently passed this test so that we are now (at the time of writing, i.e. 2015) concentrating all our efforts here.

When the education of students as transcribers and proof readers has been completed, they are normally offered promotion to some sort of coder status depending on their special interests. We have phonetic coders, grammatical coders and semantic coders. The idea is that once students actively play a significant role in a real research project they will have the chance of judging for themselves whether a career in research is what they want. We have no qualms with those who choose other careers but obviously we are grateful when it turns out that we have been instrumental in recruiting new sociolinguists.

Apart from student assistants we gratefully acknowledge the support of the Faculty of Humanities for our two post docs during 2014, *Andreas Stæhr* who defended his thesis in the spring of 2014 and immediately progressed to the status of post doc. Andreas has pioneered the integration of adolescents' use of the social media into a variationist sociolinguistics of Danish. Our second post doc is *Randi Skovbjerg Sørensen* who got a lot of praise for her dissertation, also defended during 2014, on turning the spotlight in sociolinguistic interviews to the interviewers. She has written up a number of papers during her post doc period, as has Andreas who is now a part of the Maegaard team carrying out the VELUX financed project on dialect in the periphery (cf. below).

In September we hired PhD *Charlotte Selleck* as a post doc with the job of collecting new data on language attitudes in the United Kingdom following the Tore Kristiansen method. As detailed in various annual reports the defining characteristic of this method is the essential distinction between

consciously offered language attitudes and non-consciously offered attitudes. The crux is to find good stimulus material and to find teachers who are willing to let us collect data in their school classes. Selleck will remain affiliated with the LANCHART Centre until 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2015.

2014 saw the first Marie Curie grant to the LANCHART Centre. The successful applicant was *Anu Laanemets* of Tartu Estonia who investigates the variation between ‘have’ and ‘være’ as auxiliaries in Danish spoken language. This project is now well under way and we have lined up a list of three extremely well qualified candidates for the Marie Skłodowska Curie application round of 2015, among them Maria Bylin who visited us in 2014 (cf. above) and Sophie Holmes-Elliott who participated in one of the previous LANCHART summer schools. A strategy of watching closely the progress of some of the gifted students who have participated in the summer schools will no doubt prove useful in the future.

### **Visitors**

The Dano-Dutch project on grammatical gender in the speech of youngsters from various linguistics backgrounds (Giddy), which is a joint project with *Leonie Cornips*, the Meertens Institute, Amsterdam, and the University of Maastricht, and Frans Gregersen as directors, has carried out additional data collection at a multiethnic school in central Copenhagen. We wish to thank *Ditte Boeg Thomsen* (now a PhD student at the Department of Nordic Studies and Linguistics) and our own *Marie Herget Christensen* for their excellent work both collecting the data and preparing them for analysis. Additional data has again been collected in January 2015 and two papers are planned for 2015. *Leonie Cornips* visited the centre twice, once for the Giddy project mentioned above, and once in connection with the socio-syntax meeting, cf. above, second climax. Post doc *Maria Bylin*, now at the Swedish Language Board, Språkrådet, visited the centre in November 2014 giving a lecture at the Functional Grammar Circle as well as addressing and discussing with the Sociolinguistics Circle. The interaction was so fruitful that we have decided to invite Maria Bylin to participate in the 2015 course for Marie Skłodowska Curie applicants. *Tom Steffensen*, a PhD student at the University of Roskilde chose to spend some of his change of research milieu at the centre, discussing his project on Nordic language acquisition in schools with Tore Kristiansen and Frans Gregersen. Each year we have a meeting with the budding Lithuanian sociolinguistic milieu, inspired by the enthusiasm and curiosity of the unique *Loreta Vaicekauskiene*. This year was significant for the many presentations of interesting empirical projects by PhD students, a solid witness to how far this scene has progressed since its inception. Professor *Peter Garrett* of Cardiff, a long term, cooperative partner of Tore Kristiansen’s and a leading expert on language attitudes spent the month from late November till late December as our visiting Professor at the centre. Pete gave two talks and discussed with a lot of researchers individually and in groups about essential ingredients of language attitude research focusing on survey questionnaires. Tore and Pete discussed the problems of harvesting empirical data on language attitudes in the United Kingdom as experienced by our post doc Charlotte Selleck. It seems to be the case that the two societies differ substantially as to conditions for such data collection.

In June 2015 it will be decided whether the centre will be able to welcome its first NSF-grantee. We have worked closely with PhD student Shannon Ward and her supervisor Bambi Schieffelin and we have the highest expectations for the visit – if it materializes.

### **New kids on the block – new projects at the Centre**

In May 2014 the Carlsberg Foundation and the A.P. Møller and wife Chastine Mc-Kinney-Møller Foundation gave me notice that they had granted a sum total of around 11 mio. Danish Kr. for the project *Danish Voices in the Americas*. This project is based on the existence of the LANCHART

corpus which makes unique comparisons between the Danish spoken outside of Denmark and the Danish spoken in Denmark possible.

In June this year the Danish Council for Independent Research within the Humanities granted a total of 6.2 mio. Danish Kr. to Associate Professor Pia Quist's project on *Language and place. Linguistic Variation in Urban and Rural Denmark (LaPUR)*. Here is what it says on the project's dedicated home page:

*“Cooperation with the LANCHART Centre*

The data of the Project will be handled in cooperation with the LANCHART Centre. The centre is embedded at the Department of Nordic Research and several of the researchers at the department have worked full time at the centre. The project data will become part of the corpus of spoken Danish at the centre and the department. The handling of the data will comply with the standard set by the disciplines of sociolinguistics and dialectology and the guidelines developed by the centre.” Recently (28<sup>th</sup> of March 2015) we have learned from the project Newsletter that data collection is now completed. Transcription, coding and analysis will follow.

In November this year Marie Maegaard's project on *Dialect in the periphery* received a 5 mio Danish Kr. grant from the VELUX foundation. I am sure the above is valid for this project as well since Marie Maegaard is not only the director of the VELUX project but also the appointed next director of the embedded LANCHART Centre. With these three projects the continued existence of the LANCHART Centre as an embedded but clearly profiled separate unit is off to a flying start.

### **Recruitment and gender strategies**

In 2014 we have only recruited post doc PhD Charlotte Selleck. Our thoughts on how to achieve gender equality and in general get a diverse research milieu take as their point of departure a nuanced balancing of the talents experienced when having student assistants at the centre. In contrast to the milieus most talked about in this discussion, viz. the natural and technical sciences the feed lines of linguistics and the study of Danish language are heavily dominated by females. Consequently, so is the centre staff of student assistants. Nevertheless, we support both male and female talents. This said, I shall focus on a particular period, viz. that of leaving the studies with a finished MA degree and the point in time when you may take up a position as a Ph.D. student. This period seems essential for obtaining diversity since a number of talents do not have the time, the patience or the economic opportunities to survive in the system until it is ready for them. At the UCPH applications for Ph.D. scholarships take a really long time to evaluate. The centre has thus functioned as a secure harbor where the obviously talented may lie in waiting for their Ph.D.-ship finally to be ready for them to enter. This is valid for Birte Dreier and Thomas Nørreby in the period reported on. Of course they are not passive while they await the ship. They are training hard so that when it finally arrives they are skilled sailors and experienced navigators. For both the individuals mentioned, their results were central to the work of the Amager group. I am genuinely worried that this possibility of hiring obviously gifted MAs as research assistants will disappear with the DNRF grant. I am equally worried about the new rules of tenure tracking at the UCPH. Evidently, the tenure track has been put into place in order to make the UCPH more attractive to foreign applicants thus effectively internationalizing the institution. I fear that this will turn out to imply that Ph.D. studies at the University of Copenhagen may lead to tenured positions everywhere else but *not* at the UCPH. That would effectively cripple Ph.D. studies at UCPH.

### **Good scientific conduct**

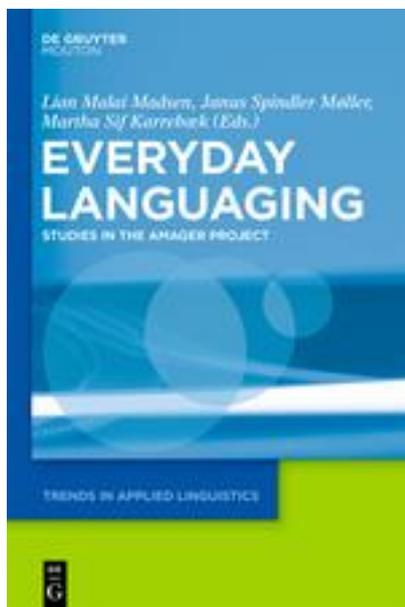
In the annual report of 2013, I wrote: “In general, the efforts at the centre aim at excellent research. Excellence implies a number of checks in the guise of peer reviews, often several times, and the like. This is no different from other branches of science. What is a bit special about the research at

the centre in comparison to humanistic research in general is the unique accountability of results. Results are always based on the transcriptions which may always be inspected. They are aligned with the sound files so that anyone wanting to check a transcription may find the place in the sound file very easily. Furthermore, most often the quantitative results are based on codings entered into the data base known as the corpus, where the codings make up specific tiers in our multi-tiered data format. This makes it impossible to produce results which cannot be checked by a simple inspection of stored data tiers at the centre.” As an exemplification of this general statement I would like to draw attention to the built-in checks in the process from sound file to an annotated corpus file: First the transcriptions are proof read. This introduces a view from without on the transcription and ensures that all the various conventions which have been adopted for the very same reasons are indeed practiced. Secondly, when the coders start coding, a detailed manual is developed so that every code is explained and exemplified. This in itself contributes to accountability but it also forms the basis for a continuous revision which very often entails tiresome but necessary mopping up revision processes where already coded stuff is once more treated according to revised conventions. This is the responsibility of the group leader. Finally, when the analyses are carried out, they are based on detailed searches using the coded files as data. In this process, outliers and counterexamples are identified which again serve to enhance the validity of generalizations. And generalizations are the stuff that good papers are made of.

### **Research Progress report:**

#### *The Amager project*

has concentrated its efforts at summarizing research in a comprehensive edited and peer reviewed volume to be published by Mouton de Gruyter. The collection is ready for printing at the time of writing this report:



#### *Focus on Semantics and Syntax*

The grammar group and the semantics group have continued coding for General Extenders, (GEX) and epistemicity respectively. The work in this area has concentrated on in-depth scrutiny of the relationship between syntax and semantics. This relationship has been approached very often on the basis of theoretical ideas which either preclude variation or preclude that variation was anything other than semantic: All forms have meaning, thus no two forms have the same meaning. Both approaches may be corrected taking actually uttered structures as the point of departure.

#### *Focus on SLICE*

The idea of hiring a post doc (Charlotte Selleck) to investigate language attitudes in the United Kingdom according to the Kristiansen methods is to find out first whether Denmark is an exception in the great discrepancy between consciously and unconsciously offered language attitudes or on the contrary quite normal. And an obvious test case is the United Kingdom with its complicated history of language standards and its recent developments away from a uniform standard documented in the SLICE volumes 1 and 2. Since data collection has been slower than expected due to difficulties encountered in gaining access to informants we expect results to appear only during 2015 and even 2016.

The media strand of the SLICE group during 2014 organized a very successful round table in Copenhagen which in its turn will lead to a collection of edited papers, the SLICE 3 volume.

#### *Focus on Intra-individual variation*

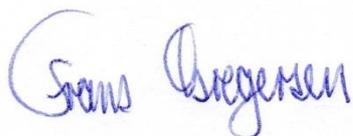
The coding manual of intra-individual variation has been the subject of some interest since the first results were presented in Gregersen and Barner-Ramussen 2011. Recently, they formed the basis for the invited plenary by Frans Gregersen at the Methods XV conference in Groningen cf. above. In the workshop on panel studies at the Methods XV, John Rickford who evaluated the centre in 2011, several times referred to the system and it is also essential for the contribution which has now been delivered for an edited volume (by Evans Wagner and Buchstaller) in the first draft (Gregersen, Juel Jensen and Pharao, to appear). The collection will appear during 2015. The coding manual has been published at the LANCHART website.

#### **Branching out: The Danish Voices, LAPUR and Anglo-Danish families and Dialect in the peripheries projects – and the future of the LANCHART Centre**

In a section above I have detailed how we have secured grants from various sources to fill the gap when the DNRF grant stops. Obviously we are happy that new money has secured the centre in the transition period. On the other hand, only DNRF grants make it possible to carry on for up to ten years. Most projects finish within a three or a four year period. This has made a discussion of the centre's future necessary once more. Two alternatives suggest themselves: Either the centre is viewed as a sort of project hotel. Various smaller or medium sized projects benefit from the centre support structure, from the expertise developed at the centre and from the corpus, which will be enlarged accordingly when new data are allowed access. Or we attempt to assemble the various kinds of expertise once more to a joint effort e.g. at a European level comparing aspects of the relationship between the various societies and language use in the respective speech communities forming part of these same communities. The latter strategy has the advantage of using the expertise and the corpus developed during the period 2005-2015 for a grand joint project. The only problem being where we find the money for such comparative long term projects! All researchers affiliated with the centre will discuss future strategies starting off with a brainstorm meeting 13<sup>th</sup> of May 2015.

*I hereby confirm the correctness of the information concerning annual accounts, including itemizations. Also, I confirm that the annual reporting, including the Appendix, is correct, i.e. it is free of material misstatement or omissions, and that the administration of the funds has been secure and sound, and in accordance with the conditions of the center agreement.*

signed

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frans Gregersen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'F'.

Frans Gregersen, director