

ACTES
DU
HUITIEME CONGRES
INTERNATIONAL DES
LINGUISTES



OSLO 1958
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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL
CONGRESS OF LINGUISTS



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Preface

These *Proceedings* are based on the manuscripts which have been sent in to the Editors: During the Congress the secretaries of the various sessions kept a record of the names of those taking an active part, and of the order of their interventions, but made no attempt at giving a word-for-word account, or even a summary, of what was said.

The reports, which were submitted to members before the Congress, have been included *in extenso*. The addresses which were presented at the opening and the closing session and at the receptions also appear in an unabridged version, in so far as it has been possible to obtain the manuscripts. The rest of the material has been condensed, as it would be financially and practically impossible to print every word that was said. Members were asked to send us a summary of their communications or interventions. We deeply regret that the great mass of the material and the large number of meetings have made this editorial policy necessary, and we are grateful to all those who have complied with our request.

In those cases where an unabridged manuscript has reached us we have, in accordance with the notice circulated to members during the Congress, undertaken a reduction in the length of the manuscripts ourselves. We hope that this condensation has led to no serious ambiguity or distortion of the material.

We have also taken the liberty of making a few orthographical and typographical changes, in order to save space and to achieve a certain consistency in the presentation of the material.

It has not always been possible to comply with the authors' requests as regards the use of special letters. In some cases we have been obliged to leave out material containing difficult types, in other cases we have had resort to letters of a somewhat makeshift character. We trust that these are only minor changes, which do not detract from the value of the material.

The authors of most *reports* have read the first proofs. Otherwise, it has only very occasionally been possible to send the proofs to the authors of the various parts of the *Proceedings*. The proof-reading has been done by the Editors, who are entirely responsible for any mistakes which may have crept in.

Only the title-page of this volume is given both in English and in French. Otherwise, the Editors have, for purely practical reasons, used English only, retaining, of course, the particular language chosen by each of our contributors.

The State Council of Technical Research, Sweden, has contributed part of the printing costs for the report by C. Gunnar M. Fant, 'Modern Instruments and Methods for Acoustic Studies of Speech'.

The Congress owes a debt of deep gratitude to UNESCO (through the instrumentality of the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies), to the Norwegian Ministry of Education, and to the Norwegian Research Council for Science and the Humanities for providing the funds necessary for the printing of the *Reports* and of the *Proceedings*. Without their generous support, these publications would never have seen the light.

Eva Sivertsen

General Editor

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Monday August 5

M O N D A Y · A U G U S T 5

Opening Session

Chairman: ALF SOMMERFELT

Secretary: HANS VOGT

Assistants: KNÚT KRISTIANSEN

MAGNUS ULLELAND

Opening Address

By

ALF SOMMERFELT

President

Monsieur le Ministre, Monsieur le Recteur, Excellences, chers Collègues, Mesdames, Messieurs.

C'est un grand honneur et un très grand plaisir pour les linguistes norvégiens de voir leur pays choisi comme lieu du VIII^e Congrès International des Linguistes. Grâce à l'initiative de nos collègues hollandais, qui en 1928 ont organisé le premier de ces congrès à La Haye, les linguistes du monde entier peuvent se rencontrer à des intervalles réguliers afin d'échanger des idées et faire connaître les résultats de leurs recherches. Ces rencontres ont donné un essor à notre science que nos prédécesseurs du siècle dernier n'auraient guère pu imaginer. Un grand nombre de pays ont bénéficié de ce mouvement; après La Haye nous nous sommes réunis à Genève, à Rome, à Copenhague, à Bruxelles, congrès qui malheureusement a été interrompu par la catastrophe de la seconde guerre mondiale, à Paris et, en dernier lieu, à Londres. Le choix de l'endroit et la désignation du président sont faits par le Comité International Permanent de Linguistes, institué à La Haye, dont le premier secrétaire général fut le Hollandais Monseigneur Schrijnen et dont les membres se supplient par cooptation. Depuis 1949 ce Comité est membre fondateur de la grande fédération des orga-

nisations humanistes, le Conseil International de la Philosophie et des Sciences Humaines qui, sur l'initiative de l'UNESCO, a été fondée à Bruxelles. Grâce à cette organisation nous pouvons bénéficier de l'appui moral et financier de l'UNESCO pour lequel, j'en suis sûr, vous désirez que j'exprime nos remerciements chaleureux. Comme les moyens de l'UNESCO sont limités et les grands congrès des sciences humanistes se multiplient, nous avons décidé de changer le rythme de nos réunions. A partir du Congrès de Londres nous nous rencontrerons tous les cinq ans.

Ladies and Gentlemen. It was originally decided that our congresses are to be congresses by invitation, and at the last meeting of CIPL, which took place here in Oslo, it was resolved to return to this principle. The reason is that the humanistic congresses, particularly if they are held in a town or a country with tourist attractions, threaten to become too unwieldy. But it goes without saying that we have invited all genuine linguists known to us, whether by research or as instructors — or I should perhaps say that we have tried to do so, as in certain cases it has been very difficult to get the necessary information. We have therefore gratefully received all notifications of omissions. We are happy to see so many countries, universities, and learned societies represented though we regret that present difficulties have prevented some of our colleagues from distant lands, especially in Asia, to come here.

As to the program, we have followed in the main the suggestions brought forward at the last meeting of CIPL. As in Paris and London the main meetings will be devoted to general questions of major importance to our science, meetings discussing the valuable reports which are in your hands. On behalf of the Organizing Committee I should like to express our sincere thanks to all the authors of the reports for their zeal and the excellent work they have done. We have also followed the example of the London Congress by setting aside an hour each day — except today — for individual communications. That we are meeting a general demand is evident from the very great number of scholars who have asked to be placed in this part of the programme. In this connexion I must stress the necessity we are all in of observing the time limits. The program of lectures in the hour from 9 to 10 in the morning will break down if the lecturers do not stick to their allotted time. The presidents will therefore have to be very firm in the general interest of all lecturers. In our main meetings the subjects will be some of the

major problems of linguistic theory and the new mechanical devices of importance to the theoretical and practical study of language. We are happy that so many Americans have been able to accept our invitation — in fact their number exceeds, I think, that of any of the previous congresses. Six Americans took part in the first Congress in 1928, this time more than forty have come. When we have invited so many Americans to present reports it has been with the thought that the Congress ought to bring about a better mutual understanding between American and European scholars. I think all those European linguists who have been fortunate enough to visit American centres of learning have been struck by the great development linguistics has gone through in America during and since the last war, and how the position of linguistics in the universities has been upgraded. They must also have felt, as I did, that much has taken place of which they had remained ignorant, and they must have got to understand much that they did not understand from Europe. On the other hand I also think that we Europeans could observe that many Americans, especially among the younger linguists, were ignorant of European achievements and were inclined to regard European linguistics as a uniform code of doctrines and ideas, whereas, as we all know, there are very great differences between the different European trends, just as there are also great differences between different American ones, of course. It is our hope that our Congress will contribute to mutual understanding between linguists, not only between American and European, but among all linguists.

Language is, as we know, part of the social system and of paramount importance for the understanding of the social system and the culture and civilization of a social group. Linguistics is therefore a necessary auxiliary science of anthropology. If we are to obtain a real understanding of the development of man we must study and record the different forms of languages and civilizations of the world. Today this task has become more urgent than ever on account of the social changes which we witness all over the world. The steam roller of industrialism levels out social differences; every day valuable material is being lost beyond any hope of retrieve. At all our congresses the gravity of the situation has been stressed. Already at the first congress the following request was sent to governments and to the competent commissions of the League of Nations: 'L'état linguistique du monde est loin d'être

suffisamment connu pour les besoins de la science; beaucoup de langues et de dialectes sont en voie d'extinction et risquent de disparaître sans avoir été recueillis. Le Congrès estime unanimement qu'il est du devoir de tous les gouvernements d'organiser une étude aussi complète que possible des langues et des dialectes de tous les pays dont ils ont la garde.' At the last Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences in Philadelphia, a strong appeal was made in favour of the necessity of organizing the international research concerned with the study of groups whose culture and language are in danger. The matter was brought up last year at the Ninth Session of the General Conference of UNESCO in New Delhi and the following resolution was passed: 'The Director General is authorized, in consultation with the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies and the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, to associate UNESCO with the work of the Committee set up at the International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, to encourage international research concerned with the study of groups whose culture and language are threatened with change, disintegration or extinction, and to assist them.'

I think we must welcome this resolution taken by the UNESCO Conference. I therefore propose that our *Commission d'enquête linguistique* prepare a resolution to this effect, a resolution which will be submitted to the Congress at the closing session.

Ladies and Gentlemen, you will have seen that Professor Olaf Broch is our honorary president. Professor Broch was 90 yesterday. Only a few weeks ago he published a paper on a White Russian dialect for which he collected material more than 60 years ago. Although Professor Broch is in good health he regrets that it has not been thought advisable for him to take part in our Congress. He has asked me to convey to you his warmest wishes for the success of the Congress. I propose that we send him a message of greetings to his house in the country where he passes the summer months.

In the program you will have all the necessary information about the meetings and other features. Additional information may be obtained at our Information Bureau.

It remains to me, on behalf of all of us, to express our warm thanks to the Norwegian authorities for the generous help we have been given; to the Government for financial support which has

made the Congress possible and for their invitation next Wednesday; to the Municipality of Oslo who have generously invited us to a reception at the City Hall next Friday; and to the University of Oslo whose premises are at our disposal this week and where we have obtained much other help.

Mesdames, Messieurs, j'ai l'honneur de déclarer ouvert le Huitième Congrès International des Linguistes.

Address on behalf of UNESCO*

By

N. D. BAMMATE
UNESCO Observer

Rapport sur les activités du CIPL depuis le VII^e Congrès

Par

CHRISTINE MOHRMANN
Secrétaire du CIPL

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Ministre, Monsieur le Recteur, Messieurs et Mesdames.

A peu près trente ans se sont écoulés depuis l'institution du Comité International Permanent de Linguistes, lors du premier congrès de linguistes, tenu à La Haye en 1928. Créé d'abord pour garder la continuité des congrès, projetés selon un rythme triennal, il est devenu, au cours des années suivantes, de plus en plus un point central représentant les linguistes: ce qui a mené, lors du second congrès tenu à Genève, à un élargissement de ses tâches, formulé par un changement des statuts. Après une interruption due à la guerre, nous avons pu reprendre notre activité grâce surtout à l'aide de l'UNESCO et, plus tard, à la création du Conseil International de la Philosophie et des Sciences humaines, dont nous sommes un des membres fondateurs. Permettez-moi de vous donner un résumé succinct des activités du CIPL et de ses sous-commissions depuis le congrès de Londres, de 1952.

Le CIPL a souffert une perte douloureuse par la mort de son membre italien, M. Vittorio Bertoldi, qui avait été, depuis la fin de la guerre, un collaborateur très actif et très apprécié: tous les

* No manuscript received. Ed.

membres du CIPL se souviennent avec sympathie et admiration de son discernement pondéré et de sa réserve qui cachait une grande sagesse. Lors d'une réunion tenue ici même à Oslo, en 1955, le CIPL a élu comme successeur du regretté Bertoldi M. Giacomo Devoto de l'Université de Florence.

Nous regrettons que notre membre suisse, M. A. Debrunner, qui nous a rendu de grands services, surtout lors de la reprise de nos activités après la guerre, ait cru devoir donner sa démission en conséquence de l'état de sa santé.

Lors de la réunion d'Oslo, dont je vous ai déjà parlé, la majorité des membres présents a décidé de modifier légèrement le nom de notre comité, qui s'appellera désormais: Comité International Permanent des Linguistes. C'était surtout sur l'instigation de Meillet qu'on avait donné, à La Haye, au comité le nom modeste de: Com. Int. Perm. de Linguistes. Je me rapelle bien que Meillet insistait sur ce *de*, faisant ressortir qu'il serait trop hardi, pour une organisation si jeune, de se considérer comme représentant des linguistes. Le développement de son activité, la continuité des congrès et la place occupée par le CIPL dans le Conseil International de la Philosophie et des Sciences humaines pourraient justifier, après trente ans, ce changement de nom.

On ne saurait dissimuler que le nouveau rythme quinquennal de nos congrès rend plus difficile la continuité des activités du CIPL, qui, dès le commencement, étaient déterminées par les décisions prises par les congrès et les projets de travail confiés par les congrès au CIPL et à ses sous-commissions. Qui plus est: à défaut de fonds suffisants il est impossible de réunir le CIPL régulièrement entre les congrès. Ceci veut dire que l'organisation du travail et l'exécution des tâches dont nous nous chargeons dans le cadre des activités du CIPSH incombe presque exclusivement au Bureau du CIPL et aux secrétariats des sous-commissions qui travaillent dans un contact étroit avec le bureau. Mais malheureusement celui-ci dispose de fonds extrêmement modestes. Les fonds que l'UNESCO met à notre disposition sont toujours destinés à des tâches spéciales, ils ne couvrent pas les frais du bureau. Pour ceux-ci nous dépendons de subventions fournies par les gouvernements ou par les sociétés savantes. Actuellement nous recevons des subventions de plusieurs pays et sociétés savantes nationales. Je profite de cette occasion pour exprimer notre gratitude qui ne s'adresse pas seulement aux gouvernements et aux sociétés savantes qui nous fournissent cette