

Preface

The fall 2007 AFinLA symposium took place at the Department of Translation Studies of the University of Helsinki in Kouvola, Finland, on November 9th and 10th. After 27 years in Kouvola, the Department of Translation Studies will move to the main university campus in Helsinki in the summer of 2009. So, this was the first and the last AFinLA conference in Kouvola.

The response to the conference was overwhelming. There were over 150 participants with 50 presentations and workshops in 6 concurrent sessions. Presenters and participants came from over 20 countries, including some from as far away as Malaysia and China. There were also more presentations in English than ever before. This reflected the positive trend toward internationalization in the field of Applied Linguistics in Finland.

Perhaps our plenary speakers had something to do with the large number of participants this year. They were Professor Henry Widdowson from the University of Vienna, who spoke on *Coming to terms with reality* about the current state of affairs in Applied Linguistics, and Professor Inkeri Vehmas-Lehto, whose address, *Translation Studies: In search for vigour and relevance*, gave an excellent synopsis of the field of Translation Studies. Their papers are presented first in this volume.

The large number of English articles within this volume reflects the international shift of the field within Finland. English allows a wider audience to access the articles.

Naturally, the demand for articles written in Finnish is honored here as well.

Aside from the two plenary articles, the papers in this volume are presented in alphabetical order. The first article, by Eija Aalto, addresses how immigrant children are socialized in schools through their school textbooks. Next, Anneli Airola and Ritva Kantelinen focus on the needs of language education at universities of applied sciences.

Finnish grammar is examined by Elina Harjunen and Riitta Korhonen. Leena Immonen and Heidi Rontu's paper on the semantic content of audiovisual news was produced for the conference media workshop. Eeva-Liisa Järvinen's article reflects the bilingual nature of Finland by addressing Swedish. Merja Kauppinen, Johanna Saario, Ari Huhta, Anna Keränen, Minna-Riitta Luukka, Sari Pöyhönen, Peppi Taalas and Mirja Tarnanen address the types of language and textual worlds that school language study books contain.

Computer-mediated English language learning is the focus of Hilikka Koivistoinen's work. The written English of Finnish students in 1990, 2000 and 2005 is addressed by Lea Meriläinen, whereas Tarja Nikula's paper focuses on teacher talk in Finland. Päivi Pasanen and Mari Pakkala-Weckström's study looks at Finnish verbs of motion. Anne Pitkänen-Huhta's paper examines the literacy practices of young people in the current multilingual context of Finland, and Anna Solin addresses the current

trend toward using portfolios instead of curriculum vitae for job searches in the University of Helsinki.

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