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The Association publishes its Yearbook on an annual basis. Every article is refereed by at least two anonymous referees. The author(s) of each article will receive 30 offprints per article. In addition to articles, squibs of one to five pages are published.

Contributions should be written in an international conference language (English, German or French). References should follow the Style Sheet of the Linguistic Society of America, as used in *Language*. The following information should be stated at the top of the first page of the article or squib: (1) The title of the contribution, (2) the name(s) of the author(s), and (3) the author's/authors' affiliation(s).

The deadline for first drafts of contributions is the 15th of March every year. The contributors should be prepared to provide final printouts according to the editors' specifications.

Contributions should be sent to the Secretary of the Association.

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PREFACE

This is the fourth Yearbook of the Linguistic Association of Finland. Its general structure follows the tradition established in 1988. The first section contains articles based on presentations given at the Seminar on Typology and Linguistic Universals, organized by the Association in Helsinki, on October 26 - 27, 1990, and the second section consists of other contributions. Of the talks given at the seminar, Pekka Sammallahti's discussion of Saami word order has been published elsewhere¹.

The seminar and the present publication have a deliberate Fenno-Ugric bias. Active research on language typology and universals can hardly be said to characterize present-day Finnish linguistics. On the other hand, there is considerable expertise on Fenno-Ugric languages - something that could, and should, be more widely available to the wider linguistic community. One of the aims of the seminar was to establish a closer connection between this research tradition and the typological perspective. With this in mind, general presentations were invited from two renowned typologists, Anna Siewierska (Universities of Gdansk and Amsterdam) and Ekkehard König (Freie Universität Berlin).

Generally speaking, research on typology and linguistic universals is the very heart of general linguistics rather than one of its special areas. Currently, the most fundamental theoretical controversy in linguistics is between the strictly organized Chomskyan perspective that relies on autonomous, genetically transmitted structural parameters, and the more diverse approaches to language as the product of various cognitive and social factors. (This controversy is discussed by Esa Itkonen in this

¹ No Passing, no Xing: Traffic Regulations for Saami Word Order. Lea Laitinen, Pirkko Nuolijärvi and Mirja Saari (eds.) *Leikkauspiste. Kirjoituksia ihmisestä ja kielestä*. Suomalaisen Kirjallisuuden seura 1991.

volume.) But however different the theories on the status of universals and their explanations, it is a view on universals of both language and cognition that give linguistic typology its meaning. Thus, the typological perspective deserves continuous attention and will, we hope, be further promoted by our Association in the future.

Maria Vilkuna
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