

Es kann nicht alles vollkommen sein.
 So genieße das, was du gefunden hast.
 Mach es besser, wenn du kannst.
 Das hier Vorgelegte ist sehr bescheiden,
 aber tritt dennoch nicht auf dem Buch herum wie ein Schwein,
 auch wenn es seine Fehler hat.

KAISA HÄKKINEN

The game and its rules
 Letter to the Editors

Harry Halén in his review of the Festschrift for Professor Ikegami, expressing his sceptical attitude towards K. H. Menges' contribution to this volume, writes the following: "To join the game, it may be asked why the Finnish *hehku* 'glow, heat', and *hehkua-* 'to glow, be red-hot', were not drawn to Tungus *peku*, *heku* 'hot, gorjačij', if Nganasan *fekatā* etc. was good enough for it" (FUF XLVIII, 1: 118).

To join a game, it is useful to learn its rules. If the game is called etymology, as is the case, its main rules are those of phonetic development. Fi. *h-* goes back to either *š- or *č-, while Ngan. *f-* (Modern Ngan. *h- ~ hʷ-*) has resulted from *p- (just as *h-* in many Tungus idioms). That is why Fi. *hehku* was not and could not be used in the comparison, and Ngan. *fekegā* was good enough for it (it is indeed one of the numerous Tungus loan-words in this language).

Prof. Menges may be too imaginative in some of his etymological propositions, but he possesses the knowledge that the reviewer seems, regretfully, to lack.

EUGENE HELIMSKI