

## SIXTIETH BIRTHDAY OF ILSE LEHISTE



The first half of Ilse Lehiste's life is outwardly similar to the troubled destiny of many who came of age during the Second World War. She was born in Tallinn on January 31, 1922. It was here that she received her secondary education, but the summers of her childhood were to some extent connected with the farms belonging to members of her family at Aegviidu. Certain features of Ilse Lehiste's pronunciation of Estonian may be presumed to have originated here. She studied Slavonic philology at war-time Tartu University, emigrated in the autumn of 1944, and continued her studies at the universities of Leipzig and Hamburg (graduating from the latter with the degree of doctor of philology in 1948). After overcoming the difficulties of adaptation upon settling in the United States, Ilse Lehiste graduated in 1959 from Michigan University (Ann Arbor), where she specialized in experimen-

tal phonetics. She obtained her Ph.D. from the same university.

Ilse Lehiste embarked upon her scientific career at a time when experimental phonetics was undergoing great changes in theory and methods. For a long time acoustic phonetics was the leading and most innovational branch of phonetics. The papers Ilse Lehiste published in the late 1950s and early 1960s made her a classic of acoustic phonetics. Her works on English and Estonian written at that time are being constantly used and referred to. Of particular relevance to Estonian are the long and thorough paper «Segmental and Syllabic Quantity in Estonian» (UAS, Vol. 1), which appeared in 1960, and was followed a little later by «Consonant Quantity and Phonological Units in Estonian» (UAS, Vol. 65, 1966).

Ilse Lehiste has taken a lasting interest in prosodic features. This interest has found expression not only in numerous articles but also in a book «Suprasegmentals» brought out by the M.I.T. Press in 1970. Because of her concern with prosody Ilse Lehiste has concentrated her attention on languages with complicated prosodic systems, above all Estonian and Serbo-Croatian. She has studied phonetic phenomena connected with the syllable and the stress group as well as with the word and word boundary also in other South Slavonic languages, Czech, Russian, Latvian, the Scandinavian languages, German, Finnish, and, of course, English. Ilse Lehiste has taken a special interest in the mutual relations of prosodic phenomena. More recently her interest has spread to the rhythmic segmentation of the sentence and the paragraph. These works, based for the most part on English material (but

sometimes also on that of Estonian), have substantially expanded the scope of phonetic studies. Such a wide range of subject matter is characteristic of Ilse Lehiste as a phonetician with a linguistic slant, to whom it is self-evident that phonetic phenomena must be interpreted within the framework of broader linguistic structure.

As a classic of experimental phonetics Ilse Lehiste has continued to employ, experiment with, introduce and elaborate new methods. She was one of the first to begin using synthetic speech in the study of Estonian quantity. In her case the proper mathematical treatment of experimental-phonetic material and its linguistic interpretation have remained absolutely essential.

Ilse Lehiste is a pioneer in the application of modern experimental-phonetic methods in the study of the Baltic-Finnic languages, and a productive dialogue between her and specialists of the Estonian SSR has had a positive influence on linguistic research in the Estonian SSR. It may be said with certainty that an up-to-date phonological view of the phenomena of Estonian phonetics begins with Ilse Lehiste. In this area as elsewhere the destiny of Ilse Lehiste's research work has been extremely fortunate. Even her most debatable standpoints (e. g. the very elegant and well-known scheme of quantity degrees) have been stimulating and thought-provoking to researchers holding other opinions. Thus, Ilse Lehiste has had a share even in the development of conceptions differing from her own interpretations.

The linguistic and philological interests of Ilse Lehiste as a leading phonetician have been wide. Her interest in the history of language has been sustained. One result of this is the very successful textbook «Principles and Methods for Historical Linguistics» written in collaboration with Robert J. Jeffers (M.I.T. Press 1979). From time to time Ilse Lehiste has dealt with language contact and borrowing. In this field, too, the treatment ranges from Estonian-German contacts to the relations of borrowing between South Slavonic languages, German and Turkish. Her interest in folklore and literature has found expression in many articles and reports that have introduced Estonian literature (including Soviet Estonian literature) to

the international public. The poetics of Estonian folk-songs and Estonian prosody co-exist in a number of Ilse Lehiste's articles.

As a scholar Ilse Lehiste has enjoyed much well-earned good fortune. Her achievements have received the acknowledgement they deserve. Ilse Lehiste is one of those generous scholars who are not sorry to show appreciation of the serious work of other researchers even if they do not fully share their views. She has the ability in the case of differing standpoints to single out what makes it possible to advance research without personal conflicts. She is very willing to collaborate with scholars, universities and research institutions in other countries including her native land.

Ilse Lehiste has become well known mainly through her scientific work. The latter, however, has been carried out (with the exception of some short breaks) alongside her duties as a teacher and scientific supervisor, her membership in various committees and editorial boards (Phonetics, Journal of Phonetics, Language), participation in the work of learned societies (Acoustical Society of America, Modern Languages Association, Linguistic Society of America; in 1980 she was president of the latter), and administrative work at the Ohio State University. As Chairman of the Linguistic Department in Ohio State University Ilse Lehiste launched the Ohio State University Working Papers in Linguistics (1967). She has been an editor of and a contributor to this publication and has frequently dealt with problems of the Estonian language in it.

Ilse Lehiste is one of the scholars who have helped to give Finno-Ugric studies an international standing in the post-war period. She has very often read papers on various problems of the Estonian language (more seldom on those of Finnish and Livonian) at international congresses, symposiums, summer schools, etc. Ilse Lehiste has undoubtedly also played a positive role in making the results of Soviet Estonian linguistics known on an international scale. Several of her lecture courses at Ohio State University or as a visiting professor (e. g. in the University of Vienna, 1974) have been devoted to Estonian.



In conclusion it should be mentioned that Ilse Lehiste is one of the outstanding visiting professors of our time whose lecture tours have taken her to universities in the majority of European countries, the most important scientific centres of North America, and even to Japan and China. She presented a paper at the Congress of Finno-Ugrists in Tallinn in 1970, and has since then several times visited the Department of Computational Linguistics of Insti-

tute of Language and Literature of Academy of Sciences of the Estonian S.S.R.

Ilse Lehiste has already had many successful and grateful pupils. Even greater is the number of colleagues all over the world who offer their congratulations to Ilse Lehiste on the occasion of her birthday, wish her continuing success in her activities, and look forward to fruitful collaboration with her in the years ahead.

MATI HINT (Tallinn)

**М. И. Зайцева, Суффиксальное глагольное словообразование в вепском языке, Ленинград, «Наука», 1978. 176 с.**

Словообразование по традиции не относится к центральным темам в финно-угроведении даже несмотря на обилие деривационных суффиксов как в прибалтийско-финских, так и во всех финно-угорских языках. Некоторые отдельные суффиксы исследованы в различных работах, но обширные систематические труды по словообразованию составлялись редко. Этот пробел в изучении деривации особенно ошутим в отношении т. н. малых, бесписьменных языков. Заполнением такого пробела и призвана стать рецензируемая книга петрозаводского исследователя М. И. Зайцевой. Опубликованная работа основывается на кандидатской диссертации автора, защищенной уже в 1965 г. в Тартуском государственном университете. Это первое, и пока единственное в своем роде, монографическое исследование по глагольному словообразованию одного из прибалтийско-финских языков; оно представляет собой, таким образом, основополагающий труд.

Книга содержит введение, две главы и заключение.

Во введении автор рассматривает сущность деривации или, с позиции вепского языка, суффиксального словообразования преимущественно в свете советской лингвистики. Представляется обособленной мысль, выраженная во введении, о словообразовании как о некоторой промежуточной области лингвистики, имею-

щей тесные связи с грамматикой (морфологией), с одной стороны, и с лексикологией, с другой, но которая в своих единицах и характерных связях с другими подсистемами все-таки автономна.

Во введении обсуждаются синхронические и диахронические аспекты словообразования и подчеркивается в этой связи значение истории языка. Автор сомневается, возможно ли вообще исследование словообразования без учета фактов истории языка. Характерное для одного языка словообразование определяется не только наличием различных тенденций образования неологизмов в данный отрезок времени, но и унаследованной из прошлого лексики. На этом основании в словообразовании труднее провести четкую грань между диахроническим и синхроническим аспектами, чем в других областях лингвистики.

В первой части первой главы автор рассматривает семантические и формальные отношения производного и производящего слова. Тут же даются объяснения ряду понятий, таких как словообразовательный тип, словообразовательная модель, словообразовательный суффикс и его вариант, а также алломорф суффикса.

Отмечаются трудности, возникающие при определении связей между производным и производящим словами, нередко эти связи весьма сложны, один и тот же