

Scientific Report on a NetWordS Short Visit to Trondheim for the ESF

Prof. Wolfgang U. Dressler

Dept. of Linguistics, Vienna University

Porzellangasse 4, A – 1090 Wien, AUSTRIA

& Institute for Corpus Linguistics and Text Technology, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna

I visited, in the Framework of the European NetWordS project (Ref.No. 5608) the Technical University of Trondheim (NTNU) from Thursday, March 21 to Saturday, March 23, 2013. My visit, originally planned for 5 days, had to be shortened to 3 days for external reasons.

My visit had 4 aims:

1. To work with my host, Prof. Mila Vulchanova, on an outline proposal to be submitted as NORFACE project.
2. To discuss further NetWordS projects
3. To discuss future cooperation between our departments at Trondheim and Vienna
4. To give a talk to staff and students of linguistics and psychology of NTNU

In detail:

1. I worked with my host, Prof. Mila Vulchanova, in elaborating and finalizing the outline proposal, to be submitted in April 2013 to the European NORFACE authorities, for the project “Early language development: Language input’s impact on (un)equal language opportunities (LANGEQUALS)”. This interdisciplinary project, focusing on word structure, unites 5 scientific teams in 5 European countries headed by the following university professors: Trondheim, Norway (Mila Vulchanova, the coordinator of the whole multinational project), Lund, Sweden (Carita Paradis), Odense, Denmark (Dorthe Bleses), Mannheim, Germany (Ira Claudia Gawlitzek), Vienna, Austria (Wolfgang U. Dressler). The project is to investigate the input and output of preschool children in verbal interactions with their caregivers at home and in kindergarten and pre-school according to 2 dimensions: low vs mid/high socio-economic status (SES), monolingual children acquiring the respective national language as their first language vs. bilingual children acquiring an immigrant language as their first and the respective national language as their second language. The national languages are Danish, Norwegian, Swedish and German (in the 2 varieties of Mannheim and Vienna), the immigrant languages are Turkish in Austria, Turkish and Russian in Germany, Arabic in Denmark, Urdu in Norway, and German in Sweden. The project is meant to find the missing link of insufficient language input in the causal chain which perpetuates social inequality between low and mid/high SES and creates social inequality for immigrants even in the second generation. During my stay we have discussed the project with local scholars of various disciplines and achieved a final version which will be now submitted to the other national team leaders for a final control.

2. We have discussed further future NetWordS projects, especially the NetWordS summer school pallend to be held in summer 2014 in Trondheim, where I am also supposed to teach. We have agreed on several proposals which we will now submit to the international coordinator of NeTwordS Vito Pirrelli (Pisa).
3. W have also discussed how to broaden and deepen cooperation between our two departments, in terms of information exchange and exchange of personell: thus my assistant Dr. Katharina Korecky-Kroell will teach in Trondheim and Mila Vulchanova will visit my department in fall 2013 (within the NetWordS framework) and we have started to plan joint publications whose topicas fall within the area of the common NetWordS project. We will also inform our students about the possibilities of studying (e.g. with an Erasmus project) in the respective partner university.
4. I gave a talk to staff and students of the departments of linguistics and psychology on Inout-output relations in language acquisition, focusing on morphology. My talk has been followed by a lively interdisciplinary discussion.