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From the early years of Phonology

The Roman Jakobson - Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
correspondence (1949-1982)

*Edited and introduced by Viggo Bank Jensen
and Giuseppe D'Ottavi*

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From the early years of Phonology

Abstract

This book contains all the surviving letters exchanged between Russian born linguist Roman Jakobson (1896-1982) and the Danish phonetician and general linguist Eli Fischer-Jørgensen (1911-2010).

Viggo Bank Jensen introduces the correspondents and contextualizes the content of the letters both as to the early days of Jakobsonian phonology and as to the early structure of linguistics as a system including circles, journals and congresses. The edition is fully annotated and also contains all relevant indexes of names.

In bringing these letters to the public of researchers, particularly those who take an interest in the history of structuralist linguistics, we hope to stimulate interest in the ever present legacy from this generation of impressive scholars. But the letters also make us follow the development of a beautiful friendship from its inception till the end.

From the early years of Phonology

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correspondence (1949-1982)

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Preface

I am really proud to preface this collection of all the letters exchanged between one of the giants of last century's studies of the humanities, Russian born Roman Jakobson, and his Danish correspondent, the phonetician Eli Fischer-Jørgensen. The edition has only been made possible by the indefatigable work of Viggo Bank Jensen and the extraordinary knowledge of Roman Jakobson's archives which Giuseppe D'Ottavi put at the disposal of the project.

History of linguistics is not the most popular branch in humanities, and humanities are not in general among the most successful competitors when it comes to fundraising for fundamental scientific research. In having awarded a generous grant to our project, the Carlsberg Foundation not only provided the material conditions to achieve its occasional realization, but – by means of a new example of its meritorious policy of fostering basic scientific research in our discipline – made a gesture of wider political significance. We wish all of us to express our profound gratitude to the Carlsberg Foundation for having made possible our research and this publication.

In finishing the project I, Frans Gregersen in my capacity as the project director, want on behalf of all the members of this small project group to thank

- Linda Waugh of the Roman Jakobson Heritage Trust for gracious permission to publish Roman Jakobson's and Krystyna Pomorska's letters,
- Jente Andresen for equally gracious permission to publish Eli Fischer-Jørgensen's letters,
- Nina Grønnum, Gunver Skytte, Hans Basbøll and Una Canger for invaluable assistance with the INTRODUCTION,
- Mette Bruus and Mogens Kragssig Jensen from the Eli Fischer-Jørgensen special collection at the University Library of Southern Denmark for their enthusiastic help, among other things with scanning,
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- Nina Grønnum for invaluable assistance in finding the last dates for persons mentioned,
- The Staff at the MIT Archives and Special Collections (Cambridge, Mass.),
- The Staff at the Manuscript collections of The Royal Danish Library (Copenhagen).

Viggo Bank Jensen wants in particular to express his thanks to, Tomáš Hoskovec for giving me the possibility of presenting the correspondence at the 90th anniversary of the Prague Linguistic Circle, October 26, 2016.

Lisbeth Buskjær and Carl Christiansen for help with translation of letter 1 bis and other passages,
 Finn Arvid Olsson for discussions on early versions of the commenting text,
 and first and last Luisa Dotti for help and support in the whole process.

Giuseppe D'Ottavi wishes in particular to express his thanks as follows:

The first explorations of the Papers of Roman Jakobson at MIT Archives and Special Collections (Cambridge, Mass.) which led to the unearthing of the bulk of the correspondence between Roman Jakobson and Eli Fischer-Jørgensen have been carried out in the framework of a LabEx TransferS project started in 2017 and based at the *Institut des Textes et Manuscrits Modernes* (UMR 8132, CNRS/ENS) in Paris. I am greatly indebted to this Institution, to the Linguistics research team and notably to its Head, Irène Fenoglio, for their constant backing and encouragement.

Right from the start, the Staff of MIT Archives has helpfully assisted me and my research providing the best working environment an archival researcher could aspire to. Through their sympathetic professionalism, Myles Crowley, Nora Murphy and Kari Smith provided also a warm human environment.

All three of us would like to join in thanking the Department of Nordic Studies and Linguistics (NorS) of the University of Copen-

hagen for the prompt and hearty welcome, and to the administrative Staff for having engaged with, and braved, all sorts of challenges.

Let me as the project director finish on a more personal note. Eli was my beloved teacher and later a friend whom I was fortunate enough to visit several times in her home. She always spoke of Roman Jakobson with admiration for his trail-blazing ideas and bold conjectures and I knew of course that he was admirable. But reading the correspondence I realize that their relationship is a beautiful one of friendship and generosity on both sides. I can now see why she spoke of RJ with such warmth.

Frans Gregersen

PART I

Introduction

to themes in the Correspondence between Roman Jakobson (1896-1982) and Eli Fischer-Jørgensen (1911-2010).
With a presentation of the two protagonists and a framing as to the history of Phonology and Phonetics.

Viggo Bank Jensen

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen, henceforth EFJ, tells, in a retrospect of her fifty years with phonetics how she as a 22-year-old student became a member of the Cercle Linguistique de Copenhagen, the Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen, and how she, by attending the discussions between the two great Danish structuralist linguists Viggo Brøndal (1887-1942) and Louis Hjelmslev (1899-1965), at an early stage realized the great difference between being able to create a theory and being able to understand a theory (EFJ 1981a: 63). In a letter (November 27, 1958) to Roman Jakobson, henceforth RJ, she transfers this description to the difference between RJ and herself, though expressed in a more poetic phrasing. It is thus RJ's phonological¹ theories and EFJ's discussion and empirical testing of these theories which make up the core of the linguistic exchanges in their correspondence. The presentation of RJ will therefore be closely associated with the development of his phonological theories (and his relationship to Denmark). However, we will begin this introduction by giving a general picture of EFJ and her role in the linguistic community with the purpose of suggesting why RJ, characterized by

1. In this introduction, following EFJ 1975b: 1, we use the word 'phonology' in a broad sense, viz. referring to all types of theories and descriptions of the linguistic function of speech sounds, while 'phonetics' refers to the description of the physiological/articulatory, physical/acoustic, and auditory properties of speech sounds.

Wikipedia as one of the most celebrated and influential linguists of the 20th century, continued to correspond with EFJ.

The presentation of EFJ is followed by a section on RJ's youth, his participation in the Prague Linguistic Circle, in the International Congresses of Linguists and in the International Congresses of Phonetic Sciences until the Second World War. In the third section, we focus on his relations to Danish linguists and linguistics. In the fourth section, we treat the interrelationship between phonology and phonetics from the 1920s till the heyday of RJ's distinctive feature theory in the 1950s and 60s. In the fifth section, we briefly mention some moments important for the relationship between the two protagonists in the linguistic community after the war, until RJ's death in 1982. In section six, we analyze and discuss the possible reciprocal significance and influence in the relationship between the two linguists based on the letters between them. Finally, we discuss how the correspondence reflects their role as Historians of Linguistics.²

I. Eli Fischer-Jørgensen

The Danish phonetician, phonologist and general linguist EFJ was born on February 11, 1911. In 1929, EFJ began her university studies in German and French at the University of Copenhagen³. EFJ was not originally interested in phonetics; in fact she disliked her first courses in the subject, whether in German or in French phonetics. She explains that the course in German phonetics consisted in learning physiological descriptions by heart and making transcriptions from orthographic texts. According to EFJ's own description, the students never heard nor pronounced a single German sound.

When she began to study at the University of Copenhagen, EFJ was primarily interested in theoretical linguistics and literature. So

2. In the appendix at the end of this introduction (p.63), we bring a survey of the organizational framework for structural linguistics: international congresses, linguistic circles and linguistic journals.

3. This section is mainly based on EFJ 1981a, and Grønnum et al. 2010, supplemented with material from archives in the Royal Danish Library.

why did EFJ end up in phonetics? Actually, this was partly negatively motivated. After having written a prize essay, in 1935, on sentence definitions (a critique of John Ries: *Was ist ein Satz?*), she had become “fed up with syntax and with all the pseudo-philosophical twaddle” she had had to read, she needed some “hard facts”. This is the empirical side of her career which points towards her interest in acoustic and experimental methods. However, her admiration for the Prague phonologists as theoreticians was also a great part of the motivation. In addition, after the two bad experiences, she had finally had a positive experience of phonetics. At a course in Danish phonetics given by the dialectologist Poul Andersen⁴, she learned solid phonetic method and observation (EFJ 1981a: 62-63). EFJ thus came from general linguistics via phonology to phonetics, and her main motivation was basic science, not practical use (EFJ 1994: 52).

As mentioned above, EFJ was greatly impressed by the writings of the Prague School, particularly RJ and N.S. Trubetzkoy (1890-1938), although she “found that the authors passed too lightly over the phonetic substance” and she “began to be interested in the interplay between phonological structure and phonetic substance” (EFJ 1981a: 62-63). With her own multifaceted background, she herself always enthusiastically advocated the interdependence of phonetics and phonology. Already in her Master’s thesis (EFJ 1934) about the importance of dialect geography for the understanding of sound change, she presented the ideas of the Prague School.

The Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen had been founded in 1931 on the initiative of Hjelmslev. EFJ became a member of the Circle already as a student, in 1933⁵. It was decisive for her linguistic development. She was an eager participant in the heated discussions, gave many presentations, and wrote many reviews and other articles. In the Copenhagen Linguistic Circle she became acquainted with, or she herself presented, the new linguistic literature, and thus

4. Poul Andersen (1901-1985) was a Danish dialectologist and prominent structuralist.

5. On EFJ and the Linguistic Circle, see Gregersen & Canger 2001. The relationship to Hjelmslev is also discussed in Skytte 2016.

she maintained and developed her broad interest and knowledge in all domains of linguistics.

Having completed her Master's in 1936, EFJ had wanted to go to Vienna to study with Trubetzkoy, who had sent her a kind invitation (see the mention in letter 78, March 1, 1973). However, he died shortly after. Instead, she went to Paris to study phonology with the French phonologist André Martinet (1908-1999) and to learn experimental phonetics which was not taught in Copenhagen. EFJ calls Martinet "an excellent teacher," he and his Danish wife also showed EFJ much hospitality. EFJ praises another teacher, Marguerite Durand (1904-1968), as a great phonetician. From her, EFJ learnt to handle the instruments and "to evaluate the curves."

During the sojourn in Paris, EFJ went to the Third International Congress of Phonetic Sciences in Ghent. Here she met Roman Jakobson, and also the German neurologist and phonetician Eberhard Zwirner (1899-1984). For both of them this was the start of a life-long friendship with EFJ. Zwirner invited EFJ to come and study with him in Berlin, and she went there in the spring of 1939. However, the situation was very difficult immediately before the war, and one consequence of this was that Zwirner's laboratory had been closed. However, his measurements were still accessible, and on the basis of these results EFJ wrote her first two phonetic articles (EFJ 1940b, 1940-41c). She returned to Copenhagen in August 1939 two weeks before the Second World War broke out (EFJ: 1981a: 63-66).

EFJ's publications span 73 years, from 1932 to 2005 (an exhaustive list of her scientific publications can be found in Skytte 2016: 208-220⁶). Early on she wrote on phonology and contributed the first in a long series of remarkably limpid and loyal reviews (viz. of Trubetzkoy and RJ) to the *Bulletin du Cercle Linguistique de Copenhague*. "Her thorough review of Louis Hjelmslev's important intro-

6. Skytte's list is up to 2001 based on a bibliography elaborated by research librarian Lizbeth Bruzelius Larsen. EFJ's bibliography is now available on the net at: <https://cc.au.dk/en/infrastructuralism/tools/bibliographies/eli-fischer-joergensens-bibliography/>

duction to his glossematic theory *Omkring Sprogteoriens Grundlæggelse* [EFJ 1943] undoubtedly paved the way into his principal work for many students, and it initiated a series of papers which culminated with her impressive and incisive critique of various aspects of glossematics [EFJ 1966k]" (Grønnum et al. 2010: 255). In a Review, published in 1946, but based on a presentation in the Linguistic Circle in 1942, EFJ wrote with enthusiasm on RJ (1941a), *Kindersprache, Aphasie und allgemeine Lautgesetze*, including a summary of her experiments on speech sound and sound symbolism, inspired by RJ's ideas.

In 1943, EFJ was appointed lecturer in phonetics at the University of Copenhagen, a new post attached to Louis Hjelmslev's chair in linguistics. In the early years she did not dispose of any instrumentation of her own but had to carry out experiments in the basement of the Institute of Speech Pathology, which had some instrumental equipment, but not a functioning spectrograph (see box, p. 35) until the late fifties. In 1948, EFJ published a mimeographed version of a textbook in general phonetics (written in Danish). Both André Martinet and John Lotz (1913-1973) used the book in New York for their lessons in phonetics, and asked her several times in letters from 1950-51 to have the book translated into English (see EFJ's correspondence with these two linguists at the Royal Library in Copenhagen). The textbook was published in Danish in 1960, but it was never translated.

In 1946-47, EFJ received a scholarship to study with Hélène Coustenoble (1894-1962) and Daniel Jones (1881-1967) in London. From England she came to Holland and during a cold winter learnt to speak Dutch⁷. Back in Copenhagen, EFJ resumed her experiments on the auditory dimensions of speech sounds and in sound symbolism, inspired by RJ. Hjelmslev suggested that she expand these investigations and make a doctoral thesis out of it. She asked RJ to discuss the results with her and if possible help her to get some economic support to go to the USA (letter 17, March 3,

7. This later enabled EFJ to give the opening speech in Dutch at the Tenth International Congress of Phonetic Sciences in Utrecht in 1983, to the extreme delight of her hosts (Grønnum et al. 2010: 252).

1951). 1952 thus found EFJ in America on a Rockefeller scholarship. The first two months she stayed in New York and met Martinet and Lotz at Columbia University, and also went twice a week to follow the work at the Haskins Laboratories. She then went to MIT at Cambridge for two months, collaborating with RJ and other scholars. After that she worked a week at the Haskins Laboratories, where she was introduced to speech synthesis. From there she went to Oklahoma, where she received a solid dose of competent linguistic inspiration through the teaching of Kenneth Pike (1912-2000). She also participated in the Linguistic Institute arranged by the Linguistic Society of America⁸ in the summer at Bloomington, Indiana.

However, she changed her subject for the dissertation, since “it turned out that the available statistical methods were not yet very satisfactory, so I put it aside and only used some of it in a short paper for a Roman Jakobson Festschrift” (EFJ 1981a: 70).

She chose a new subject for her next attempt at a doctoral dissertation, viz. an investigation of Danish stops. She did have some spectrograms⁹ which she had produced at the MIT, but she needed more. In January 1954, she went to Stockholm for a couple of weeks. “This was the start of a close cooperation with Gunnar Fant, who was on the way to becoming an international authority on acoustic phonetics” (EFJ 1981a: 70). Fant (1919-2009) had been at MIT during various periods in 1949-52, and had worked closely with RJ (and Morris Halle, 1923-2018) during the production of *Preliminaries* (RJ 1952h). The correspondence (Letter 16, December 7, 1950) shows that the contact between EFJ and Fant actually was initiated by RJ’s contact with both of them.

During the 1950s, EFJ carried out extensive perceptual tests based on stimuli obtained by cutting and splicing of tapes, in order

8. The description of the USA sojourn is partly inspired by EFJ 1981a and Grønnum et al. 2010. However, both these sources give the impression that the sojourn started in Cambridge, which is not in accordance with the report that EFJ gave to the Rockefeller Foundation (KB: 2009/48, Æske 3).

9. Visual representations of the spectrum of frequencies of sound signals as they vary over time, see also box p.35.

to investigate the role of explosion noise for the identification of stops. She also undertook some rather sophisticated investigations of air pressure in the oral cavity with a manometer constructed for medical purposes. But the dissertation on stops was, unfortunately, never finished: in 1958, EFJ was thrown from a horse, and she got a concussion the effects of which lasted for a long time. For five years, she could only work for short periods. She was able to lecture on familiar subjects but she could not read. As a result EFJ gave up her plans for a doctoral dissertation altogether. The material for the dissertation was, however later published in a number of articles. In spite of her health problems in this period, she was the official faculty opponent in Stockholm in 1960 at Gunnar Fant's doctoral thesis defence which shows how central she was in this expanding field.

EFJ became a phonetician at a time, before the Second World War, when it was still possible to have read practically everything that was published, and EFJ was a diligent and excellent reader who knew all the relevant literature. Already in 1941, 30 years old, she published, in German, an often quoted survey of phonology (EFJ 1941b) which was translated into English ten years after to be used at the Summer Institute of Linguistics, Oklahoma. It is also characteristic that she was given the difficult task of presenting in a plenary at the Eighth International Congress of Linguists, Oslo, 1957 an overview of the new techniques of acoustic phonetics in relation to linguistics. EFJ not only read practically everything, she also had a large network: she would know personally almost everybody worth knowing in phonetics at the time.

In 1966 she obtained a full professorship, a personal chair in phonetics, the first one at the University of Copenhagen, and her own department, the Institute of Phonetics. Within a few years the department grew to a tenured staff of seven. An important step was also the founding of the Institute's Annual Report, *ARIPUC*, which became widely quoted and also functioned as "a means of exchange" to get other journals of the same type for the Institute's library.¹⁰

EFJ saw the connection between teaching and writing (research)

10. Here EFJ could use her experience from The Linguistic Circle and its journal *Acta Linguistica* (from 1965 renamed *Acta Linguistica Hafniensia*).

as very important. Her renowned *Trends in Phonological Theory* [EFJ 1975b], which is still a standard work in the history of phonology, was thus based on her manuscript for a series of lectures on phonology in the early seventies. The Institute taught general phonetics to about 700 first-year students from the various language departments each fall term. This period culminated in 1979 with the Ninth International Congress of Phonetic Sciences held in Copenhagen with EFJ as the president and the hardest working member of the congress committee. The hard work resulted in a highly successful congress. Shortly after, in February of 1981, EFJ had to retire having reached the mandatory retirement age of 70.

In 1968 EFJ had been admitted to the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters, the first Danish woman to become a member of the Academy (Marie Curie had already been elected as an international member). EFJ received honorary doctorates from the Universities of Aarhus (1978), Lund (1978), Copenhagen (1993) and Bayreuth (2001). In 2001, ninety years old, EFJ published one of her three largest works, on accent in older Danish. This was based on her preparatory research for her very first possible subject for a doctoral thesis (see letter 17, March 3, 1951). EFJ died the 27th of February 2010.

2. Roman Jakobson, until 1939, with a special focus on The Prague Circle, the International Congresses of Linguists and those of Phonetic Sciences

Roman (Osipovič) Jakobson was born October 10, 1896, in Moscow. He graduated from Moscow University in 1918. As a student he participated in the Russian avant-garde movement in literature. He was a co-founder of the Moscow Linguistic Circle in 1915; he also co-founded the Society for the Study of Poetic Language [OPO-JAZ] - the two groups together are now known as the Russian school of Formalism. He had already met his future phonological collaborator N.S. Trubetzkoy, in 1914.

RJ went to Prague in 1920, with a Russian Red Cross delegation and later decided to remain there. He was propelled into the study of language proper; the springboard was his concern with poetic

language, which, in the broad sense (verbal art), remained one of his main concerns during the early Prague years. In fact, the first manifesto of the future Prague School of phonology was contained in RJ's work ("O českém stixu", On Czech Verse, 1923) which opened the first epoch in the development of RJ's views on phonology (Ivić [1965] 2014: 23).

His doctoral dissertation (Charles University, 1930) was on the metrics of the South-Slavic epic. He got an appointment as a docent at the Masaryk University in Brno in Medieval Czech literature and language (1933), and a chair of Russian philology and Old Czech literature in 1937. His work on metrics led him to a new approach to phonology, i.e. to the role of sound in language. This turn to phonology and his friendship with Trubetzkoy who was in Vienna (they visited each other frequently), can be followed in RJ's correspondence with Trubetzkoy (RJ 1975h).

The first meeting of the Prague Linguistic Circle took place on October 6, 1926, in Vilém Mathesius' (1882-1945) faculty office. There were six participants, RJ being one of them (Mathesius [1936] 1966: 137-38). RJ functioned as the vice-president of the Circle until he left Czechoslovakia in 1939. At the beginning the Circle mostly had a local scope, i.e. the development of the scientific milieu in Czechoslovakia. However, this changed after a great success at the First International Congress of Linguists in The Hague, April 1928¹¹. The Dutch organizers had asked the participants to answer in advance six essential questions concerned with linguistic research (for the question concerning phonology, see section four below). The Praguian success was in particular due to a statement on the aim of phonological theories, prepared by RJ but co-signed by N.S. Trubetzkoy and S. Karcevskij (1884-1955) and submitted to the congress. After the unexpected success at the congress in The Hague, the Prague Circle discovered the international scientific public as an important addressee for their work (Ehlers 2005: 2-3).

The Circle could draw heavily on the experience gained at the Hague Congress when preparing its participation in the First International Congress of Slavic Philologists, held in Prague, October

11. For more details on this congress, see Appendix, 8.1.1.

1929. The Circle presented the first two volumes of *Travaux du Cercle Linguistique de Prague* (TCLP), including the collective theses of the Circle (Mathesius [1936] 1966: 142-43), and seems to have had a dominating role in the debate (Ehlers 2005: 5). Because of the achievements of Trubetzkoy and RJ in phonology, and in opposition to the principles of the hitherto dominating Neogrammarians, phonology became the *cri de guerre* for the Prague School. The group felt that for the Second International Congress of Linguists, which was to be held in Geneva at the end of August, 1931, phonology would be the main issue. They thus wanted to define their standpoint, and decided to prepare the Geneva debate by organizing an International Phonological Conference in Prague, in December 1930 (Mathesius [1936] 1966: 144).

32 linguists participated in the Phonological Conference in Prague. The basis for the discussions was provided by twenty-two papers on main phonological issues. The proceedings were published in time for the Geneva Congress as TCLP 4, and aroused a vivid interest in international linguistic quarters. “In Geneva phonology was really one of the main issues discussed in plenary sessions, but after the Prague conference the cause of phonology was virtually won” (Mathesius [1936] 1966: 144-45)¹². Trubetzkoy’s paper introducing the discussion met no serious opposition and the *Internationale Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Phonologie* (International Phonological Association)¹³, which had been established during the closing session of the Prague Conference, was unanimously declared by the congress to be an organization affiliated to the CIPL, i.e. the Permanent International Committee of Linguists (See Mohrmann 1949: 23). RJ did not present any paper at this congress, but he did participate.¹⁴

12. Hjelmslev (1939), in his obituary on Trubetzkoy, gives a similar statement about phonology at the Geneva Congress: “Die Phonologie ist von diesem Zeitpunkt an Gemeingut der Sprachwissenschaft.”

13. For more details, see Appendix 8.3.

14. RJ wrote an article on the congress (1931t): “Der Genfer Linguistenkongress”, *Prager Presse*, Sept. 13, and his participation is also confirmed in the proceedings (*Actes du Deuxième Congrès International de Linguistes, Genève 25-29 Aout 1931*. 1933: 18).

A special aspect in the Prague Circle's struggle for recognition of the phonological approach was the relation to phonetics and the phoneticians. This issue was dealt with at an organizational level around the First Congress of Phonetic Sciences, 1932, Amsterdam.

The congress in Amsterdam in 1932 was originally – like the former ones in 1914 and 1930 – planned as a congress on experimental phonetics. However, the Dutch committee widened its scope on the initiative of its president, the psychologist Jac. van Ginneken (1877-1945). He had the idea that all those who were interested in any aspect of speech sounds should meet and work together, and the name of the congress changed to (the first) 'Congress of Phonetic Sciences' (EFJ 1984e: 4). The congress program included a meeting of the International Phonological Association mentioned above. Van Ginneken ascribed a central role to phonology in his opening speech, and in Amsterdam in general, phonology began to be recognized by its competitor discipline (Ehlers 2005: 12-13).

Still, both representatives of traditional phonetics “who had always, more or less explicitly, taken the communicative function of speech sounds into account,” and the expanding group of more linguistically oriented experimental phoneticians were skeptical towards phonology. The latter because they found phonology too idealized (EFJ 1984e: 5, Ehlers 2005: 11).

At the Second Congress of Phonetic Sciences in London in 1935 “phonology (with special reference to the principles of the Cercle Linguistique de Prague)” was chosen as one of the thematic foci. Various participants observe that phonology had a dominating role at this congress. RJ did not participate.

The Prague phonologists had prepared a section organized by the *Internationale Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Phonologie*. Trubetzkoy regarded this section as an opportunity to recruit adherents to Prague phonology whose ideas had been formulated in the collective “Projet de terminologie phonologique standardisée” (TCLP 4: 309-322).

The leading Danish structuralist Louis Hjelmslev who had mostly worked in grammar, and not much in phonetics, presented a paper on the principles of the theory of “Phonematics”, as he termed it. It was followed by a paper on the application of this theory to Danish by his collaborator and close friend, the phonetician Hans-

Jørgen Uldall (1907-1957). It could only be seen as a provocation to present at this occasion a paper which went against the “orthodox” phonological points of view.

By *phonematics* I understand a science which treats phonemes exclusively as elements of language [...] The psychological method and the subjective analysis must be replaced by a purely systematological method and by an objective analysis. It follows from this that both phonetics and phonology are different from phonematics. The phonological phoneme is defined as a *sound-idea* or a *phonetic intention*, and phonology establishes the systems of phonemes exclusively on sound-ideas and language feeling (Hjelmslev 1936: 49).

Hjelmslev thus claimed that in phonematics¹⁵ the individual phonemes should be defined, not on the basis of their phonetic qualities, but on the basis of their functions in the language system, for example their possibilities of combination. Trubetzkoy was concerned with Hjelmslev’s wish to define the phoneme without regard to its realization in the phonetic substance. Trubetzkoy thus foresaw how the fight between the Prague phonologists and the advocates for glossematics would eventually focus on the role of substance in their respective theories.

In a letter to RJ, Trubetzkoy expressed his views on what happened at the congress (please bear in mind that RJ did not participate) saying that the congress had brought new followers, but that Hjelmslev must now to a certain degree be considered an enemy (EFJ 1997b: 19 and Gregersen 1991, 1: 248).

We do not know RJ’s answer to Trubetzkoy, but he seems to have shared Trubetzkoy’s ideas on organizational issues. In 1933 RJ (RJ [1933a], SW II. 541) wrote that the Prague Linguistic Circle had been able to be very active at the First International Congress of Slavic Philologists (1929) because of its “militant and disciplined organization.” And in a letter, dated April 16, 1929, from RJ to Trubetzkoy, we read: “The initiative core of the circle has now concluded that the circle in its function as a parliament of opinions, as a

15. Later ‘phonematics’ and ‘phoneme’ were changed to ‘cenematics’ and ‘ceneme’ in the glossematic theory.

platform of free discussion, is a relic, and that it has to be transformed into a group, a party, which is tightly interlocked as far as scientific ideology is concerned” (RJ 1975h: 122, n.4, translated into English by Toman (1995: 154). See also Raynaud 1990: 160-161).

In contrast to Trubetzkoy, RJ seems to have had quite a good personal relationship with Hjelmslev, but RJ was often quite critical in discussing the glossematic theory (see also section 6.2).

At the last completed International Congress of Linguists before the Second World War, Copenhagen 1936, The Prague Circle, as on other occasions, presented themselves with a volume of their *Travaux*. Trubetzkoy and other members of the Prague Circle gave a very positive evaluation of the reception of phonology by this congress, concluding that, apart from a few participants, phonology was widely accepted and also known and/or used by young researchers from different parts of the world (Ehlers 2005: 14-15). EFJ, though both interested and living in Copenhagen, did not participate because she was ill. But RJ did.

Finally, in 1938, our two protagonists met each other, at the Third International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, Ghent 1938. EFJ (1984c: 5) later wrote: “I think it was not until the third congress in Ghent, which was the first congress I attended, that there was a real breakthrough in the understanding between phonologists and phoneticians, owing particularly to the contributions by Zwirner, RJ and Van Wijk.” The contribution by RJ (1939a) was important for the further theoretical development. He argues for a new classification of consonants in an elaborate exposition of some basic principles which anticipates his later ‘distinctive feature’ theory.

EFJ did not present a paper, but, as mentioned above, already in 1941 EFJ (1941b) wrote a review article on Phonology, published in *Archiv für vergleichende Phonetik*, edited by Diedrich Westermann (1875-1956) and Zwirner. It is a thorough presentation of the different theories. It is worth noting that, referring to the proceedings from the Ghent Congress, she mentions the differences between Trubetzkoy and RJ (p.75), for example RJ’s binary principle in the classification of *p, t, k*, in contrast to Trubetzkoy’s multidimensional classification. At the end of the article, she also expresses her criticism of the Prague phonologists’ theoretical approach to phonology as a

science completely independent of phonetics, while at the same time she argues that the Prague phonologists in their practice do not observe this sharp division.

3. Roman Jakobson and Danish linguists and linguistics

There were some special bonds between Roman Jakobson and Denmark. Denmark was one of the first countries where a majority of linguists accepted structural linguistics and thus also the ideas of the Prague Circle [...] Denmark, on the other hand, meant something special for Jakobson because it was the first country where, in the spring of 1939, after a period of anxiety and fear of being arrested by the Gestapo, he could again breathe freely. In a letter from 1950 he writes to Hjelmslev: “Our life in Denmark was just like a beautiful dream plus a most stimulating linguistic experience”, and in a letter to Brøndal in the autumn 1939 he uses the same words (EFJ 1997b: 13).

However, the first contacts between RJ and Danish linguists had been made a decade earlier, at the First International Congress of Linguists in the Hague 1928, where the Danes Viggo Brøndal, Louis Hjelmslev and Louis L. Hammerich (1892-1975) met RJ, Trubetzkoy and Karcevskij for the first time. There was no Danish participation in the international phonological conference in Prague in 1930, but at the Second International Congress of Linguists, Geneva 1931, RJ met Brøndal, Hjelmslev and Hammerich again.

Viggo Brøndal was by that time a full-fledged structuralist of his own making. He had studied with, among others, Saussure’s favorite pupil Antoine Meillet (1866-1936) and had earned a doctor’s degree from the University of Copenhagen already in 1917 with a dissertation on substratum theory. Gradually however, he had moved into more fundamental questions with his original theory of the epistemological basis of the word classes. Brøndal’s reaction to the ideas of the Prague Circle was very positive and he felt a spiritual affinity between his own ideas and those of the Prague phonologists. RJ apparently corresponded intensively with Brøndal during his stay in Brno but no letters from that period have survived (see letter 95 from RJ to EFJ December 13, 1977). Brøndal also lectured

twice in the Prague Linguistic Circle on phonetic and phonological problems and he even published an important contribution (Viggo Brøndal 1936) in the Prague Circle's *Travaux* (Baecklund-Ehler 1977: 23). According to EFJ (1997b: 15), it is however "rather surprising that he never discusses Prague phonology in his writings and only quotes their works rarely and very briefly." There is no doubt that RJ and Brøndal had common interests and a common background in their European erudition, but EFJ's conclusion is that although both RJ and Brøndal mention their stimulating discussions, ultimately they stuck to their own theories. However that may be, Brøndal was very active in the effort to save RJ from being arrested by the Nazis, see below.

Hjelmslev's reaction to Praguian ideas was of a quite different nature. He was impressed in particular with the efficient organization of the Prague Circle. At the congress in Geneva 1931, he took the opportunity to contact RJ and other members of the Prague Circle in order to get advice about the organization and also in order to establish from the start a close cooperation between the two organizations (EFJ 1997b: 16-17). The Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen was founded in September 1931, and the contact with Prague and particularly with RJ was continued. Hjelmslev and Brøndal gave lectures in Prague, RJ was invited to Copenhagen several times (Baecklund-Ehler 1977: 23-24, EFJ 1997b: 17).

The Copenhagen Linguistic Circle initially established two subcommittees, a grammatical and a phonological one. The latter was established because RJ had asked Hjelmslev to set up such a committee as part of the initiative to create an "Internationale phonologische Arbeitsgemeinschaft". The work of this committee was discontinued relatively early because of disagreements, but the theories of Prague phonology were discussed in the plenary sessions of the Circle (EFJ 1997b: 17-18). In the academic year 1931-32 four meetings dealt exclusively with works of the Prague phonologists (Rapport 1931-1951: 23-24).

EFJ's teacher, the Germanic philologist Hammerich, was also attracted to structural linguistics, but his relationship with RJ became more important later, and concerned another issue (see below).

RJ (1949d) wrote that Hjelmslev's rejection of phonetic criteria

at the London meeting was most stimulating, but RJ continued to insist that it is impossible to reduce language to its ultimate invariants without reference to their empirical correlates. However, according to EFJ, these disagreements on the role of substance in linguistic analysis did not interfere with the positive relationship between Hjelmslev and RJ. As structuralists they still had a more general common cause, for which both wanted to fight. In 1937 RJ took the initiative to found a journal for structural linguistics, which was to be published under the joint auspices of the linguistic circles of Prague and Copenhagen, and Hjelmslev was very interested. In 1937 and 1938 they had several negotiations concerning this project. The political events prevented this idea from being realized. Instead the journal *Acta Linguistica*, with the subtitle *Revue internationale de linguistique structurale* was founded in 1939 in Copenhagen with Hjelmslev and Brøndal as the editors and with RJ as one of 24 members of an international council (EFJ 1997b: 20).¹⁶ From 1948/49 until the International Council was dissolved in 1981 immediately before RJ's death, he was even the president of the council (on Hjelmslev's proposal, see letter from Hjelmslev to RJ, July 10, 1948, KB: 2008/17: Æske 1).

Already before the German invasion in Czechoslovakia, in March 1939, RJ was dismissed from his chair at the University of Brno because of his Jewish descent, and he wanted to get out of the country. With the help of Brøndal and Hjelmslev he succeeded in coming to Denmark at the end of April 1939. At the outbreak of the world war in September, RJ thought that he might be safer in Norway and left Denmark immediately.

During the 4-5 months in Copenhagen RJ lived near both Brøndal and Hjelmslev, and RJ and his wife saw both of them often. They also met other members of the Linguistic Circle. In May 1939 RJ read a paper in the Copenhagen Linguistic Circle on "das Nullzeichen" (RJ 1940a), and he gave two guest lectures at the University on the structure of phonemes. Among the members of the

16. See also Baecklund-Ehler 1977: 23-24, and for a more detailed exposition Gregersen 1991, 2: 103-III.

Linguistic Circle RJ also met Carsten Høeg (1896-1961), professor of classical philology, several times. They shared a common interest in Old Church Slavonic and Byzantine music.

RJ had a particularly close contact with the young linguist Helge Poulsen (1911-1989), who had studied in Prague, and whose Czech wife, Milena (1916-1993), took RJ's wife (his second Czech wife Svatoava Pirkova-Jakobson, by family and friends called Svatja), under her wings. During RJ's stay in Copenhagen his attention had been drawn to a manuscript in the Royal Library containing a Low German manual of spoken Russian, written by a man named Tönnies Fenne in 1607. The manuscript contained both a vocabulary, a phraseology, some connected religious texts and a number of proverbs; and RJ found that it offered a wealth of information on the history of the Russian language and on Russian folklore besides the valuable information on Low German. A project was set up to publish an annotated version. L.L. Hammerich together with Hjelmslev's teacher, the famous Indo-European scholar Holger Pedersen (1867-1953), obtained from the Danish Rask-Ørsted foundation a grant of 2.000 Danish Kr. (equaling in 2018 prices around 8.850 Euros) 1500 Kr. of which were spent in 1939. With this money RJ could uphold a living in Denmark, and he started working on the manuscript in collaboration with Helge Poulsen, who undertook a transliteration of the Low German text. But when RJ left Copenhagen a few months later, this collaboration was interrupted, and it was not until after the war, in 1946, that he succeeded in getting contact with Poulsen again, so that he could receive Poulsen's transliteration and a photostat of the manuscript.¹⁷

RJ started working on it immediately, this time in collaboration with some of his American students, with a view to preparing an annotated edition, but he was not sure how to get it published. Upon the advice of both Hammerich and Hjelmslev he approached the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters, of which he had in the meantime, 1949, become a member (based on a recommenda-

17. The paragraph is mainly based on EFJ 1997b: 22-26. The precise information on the grant has been unearthed by Frans Gregersen in the archives of the Rask-Ørsted foundation.

tion written by Hjelmslev¹⁸). The proposal was accepted in 1957, and a committee was set up comprising the Academy members RJ, Hammerich, and the professor of Slavic languages in Århus, Stender Petersen (1893-1963), who some years earlier had discovered the manuscript, and further Elizabeth van Schooneveld, who in 1950 had based her Ph.D. thesis on the manuscript, and finally Taylor Starck of Harvard. An important meeting concerning the organization of the project was held in the Royal Academy on the 28th of July 1958.¹⁹ The first volume containing a facsimile of the manuscript appeared in 1961. The next volume, containing a transliteration, and a translation into English with a long introduction and a commentary appeared in 1970, edited by RJ and Hammerich. They worked closely together on this volume, partly by correspondence, but they also had occasion to meet personally in the United States in 1962 and in Copenhagen in 1958 and 1964.

Two more volumes were planned containing vocabularies and grammatical descriptions, one treating the Russian and one the German text. But in the seventies both RJ and Hammerich were occupied with too many other projects, and in 1975 Hammerich died. The task as an editor was then taken over by A. H. de Baar, assisted by a number of co-workers. The two volumes appeared in 1985 and 1986 after the death of RJ, but both of them published by the Royal Danish Academy and financially supported by Danish foundations (EFJ 1997b: 26). Even if EFJ was in no way involved in this project, it is often mentioned in her correspondence with RJ.

After the war Hjelmslev was eager to have RJ as the president of the International Council of *Acta Linguistica*, and RJ remained in this position until the International Council was dissolved by the editors in 1981. As president, RJ had a dispute concerning an article by Hans Chr. Sørensen who in his Slavic studies did not adhere to RJ's theories (see letter 11+notes, September 21, 1949). RJ also proposed four linguists who became members of the International Council,

18. Archives of The Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters.

19. The minutes of the meeting have been found in the archives of The Royal Danish Academy with the great help of Rikke Reinholdt Petersen. The paragraph is mainly based on EFJ 1997b: 26, but she does not give the references to 1958.

and helped to get financial support for the journal from American foundations. As an author, RJ only contributed to the first number of *Acta Linguistica*, in 1939. However, *Acta Linguistica* is often discussed in the correspondence below.

RJ's importance for Danish humanities, and for linguistics in particular, was confirmed when he received an Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy at the University of Copenhagen (1979, June 1), with EFJ as a central player in the process²⁰.

4. Phonology and Phonetics

4.1 *The Prague Circle and the relationship between phonology and phonetics*

Until the 1920s, phonology and phonetics did not constitute independent disciplines and the vocabulary used to refer to aspects within the field was itself in considerable flux. However, during the twentieth century phonetics and phonology have emerged as independent disciplines (Durand and Laks 2002: 10-11), even if in practice they must be considered interdependent.

The first manifesto of the future Prague School of phonology was contained in RJ's work ("O češskom stixě", 1923) which opened the first epoch in the development of RJ's views on phonology. Here "Jakobson was already a militant "phonologist"" (Ivić [1965] 2014: 23). RJ's booklet attracted the attention of Trubetzkoy who wrote a laudatory review (Trubetzkoy 1923) but did not himself immediately engage in phonology. It was also RJ who introduced the term "phonology" in the Prague milieu following his 1923 book.

As mentioned above, the central status of phonology in linguistics was confirmed in 1928 at the First International Congress of Linguists in The Hague, in a statement prepared by RJ, co-signed by N.S. Trubetzkoy and S. Karcevskij (1884-1955), and submitted to the congress. According to the theses in this statement, the aim of a phonological theory should be: (1) to set up phonological systems,

20. On RJ in Norway (and the possible influence on RJ from the prominent Norwegian linguist and politician Alf Sommerfelt (1892-1965)), see Jahr 2015; on the flight from Norway to Sweden, see the detailed description in Jangfeldt 1997.

(2) to account for the significant differences between the acoustico-motor images, (3) to establish correlations (see below), (4) to formulate general laws concerning the structure of phonological systems, and (5) to account for historical change in terms of a teleological development of the system (EFJ 1975b: 20).

A phonological correlation was defined as “a series of binary oppositions defined by a common principle which can be thought of independent of each pair of opposed terms,”²¹ e.g. the pairs *p/b*, *t/d*, *k/g* are all distinguished by the presence or absence of voicing. The concept of correlation may be said to imply the (later) concept of distinctive features, and as it emerges from the quotation, even the idea of binarity was already present in the theses from 1928. In the 30s RJ did not use the term ‘correlation’ anymore; Trubetzkoy, however, retained it but gave it a different content. (Ivić [1965] 2014: 25)

Trubetzkoy, whose outlook had till then been mainly historical, was stirred by these new ideas, and he began systematically to elaborate them in a long series of articles which appeared in quick succession (EFJ 1975b: 20). In the 1930s he became the most prominent figure in Prague phonology.

For the success of phonology as a movement Trubetzkoy’s joining was of tremendous importance, not only because of his extraordinary capabilities, but also because he already possessed a well-established reputation and a stable academic position. On the other hand, in the Prague Circle itself RJ exerted a stronger influence, primarily because he was more regularly present” (Ivić [1965] 2014: 51, n.9).

Trubetzkoy treated vocalic oppositions in his pioneer monograph of 1929 (*Zur allgemeinen Theorie der phonologischen Vokalsysteme*) and again in his majestic posthumous work *Grundzüge der Phonologie* (Trubetzkoy 1939). He was comparing many vowel systems distinguishing

21. “Une corrélation phonologique est constituée par une série d’oppositions binaires définis par un principe commun qui peut être pensé indépendamment de chaque couple de termes opposé.” (*Actes du Premier Congrès International des Linguistes, La Haye, du 10-15 avril 1928*. 1930: 33).

three main types of vocalic properties: localization, degree of aperture, and resonance. Consonantal properties were first discussed by Trubetzkoy in (1931a), and again in a somewhat different form in *Grundzüge*. In most cases only bilateral (one-dimensional) oppositions are set up. Only in the case of the place of articulation series (p, t, k) is a multilateral opposition assumed to exist. This would become a central challenge for RJ who wanted to employ only bilateral (binary) oppositions (see below). *Grundzüge*, which is a comprehensive work, soon became recognized as the central work of Prague phonology. By contrast, Morris Halle ([1983] 2014: 152) regrets that RJ's ideas of a binary system of distinctive features already exposed in 1938 (RJ 1939a) did not get recognized until the breakthrough with *Preliminaries to Speech Analysis* (Jakobson 1952h), see below.

In the theses from 1928 the relationship between phonology and phonetics is not so clearly defined. But in the Prague terminology project (TCLP 4, 1931: 309)²² we find explicit definitions and a clear distinction:

“Phonologie. – Partie de la linguistique traitant des phénomènes phoniques au point de vue de leurs fonctions dans la langue”, (Phonology. – Part of linguistics which treats the phonic phenomena from the point of view of their functions in language (la langue)).

“Phonétique. – Discipline auxiliaire de la linguistique traitant des phénomènes du langage, abstraction faite de leurs fonctions dans la langue”, (Phonetics. – Auxiliary discipline for linguistics which treats the speech phenomena disregarding their functions in language (la langue)).

Note that phonology is a part of linguistics whereas phonetics is an auxiliary discipline which is defined negatively, or even as a natural science. The latter reflects the growing influence of acoustic phonetics on the discipline.

Phonology, with its insistence on the fact that the object of linguistics should be the distinctive role played by phonemes and the abstract nature of their organization rather than their detailed

22. The CIPL (the Comité International Permanent de Linguistes) the organizers of the linguistic congresses, established already in 1931 a commission on terminology. RJ became a member from the start (Mohrmann 1949: 34).

acoustic or articulatory specifications, provided a *principium divisionis*. It allowed Trubetzkoy to distinguish those who are “with ‘us’ and those who are not” (in a letter to RJ) (Durand and Laks 2002: 15).

Later Trubetzkoy wrote: “The absence of a sharp division between phonology and phonetics was a methodological shortcoming of the classic handbooks of phonology [...]” ([1939] 1969: 8). And “[Phonetics], the study of sound pertaining to the act of speech [...] would have to use the methods of the natural sciences, while [phonology], the study of sound pertaining to the system of language would use only the methods of linguistics, or the humanities, or the social sciences respectively.” ([1939] 1969: 4).

While Trubetzkoy thus maintained the parallel distinctions phonology/*langue* vs. phonetics/*parole* until his last work *Grundzüge*, published in 1939 one year after his death, RJ in the same year, in a paper at the University of Copenhagen (RJ 1962a, but written in 1939), distanced himself explicitly from this parallelism, emphasizing that the phoneme must also be realized in speech performance. However, RJ in the same paper maintains the equivalence between phonology/phonetics and form/substance (EFJ 1975b: 22). In (RJ 1956a: 7), in co-operation with Halle, he returns to the problem and the authors describe the relationship in this way: “While phonetics seeks to collect the most exhaustive information on gross sound matter in its physiological and physical properties [...] phonology [...] intervenes to apply strictly linguistic criteria to the sorting and classification of the material gathered by phonetics.” In the same text, they also adopt the description of phonology as ‘functional phonetics’. RJ’s theory of distinctive features (see next section) contributed substantially to bridging the gap between phonology and phonetics which he had emphasized in his early writings (EFJ 1975b: 23).

4.2 *Jakobson’s Distinctive Features from 1932 to Preliminaries (1952)*

The phonological theories were closely connected with the concept of the phoneme. In 1911 the Russian linguist Lev Ščerba (1880-1944) offered an important definition: “The phoneme is the shortest general phonetic notion in a given language which is capable of being associated with notions of meaning and of differentiating words”

(EFJ 1975b: 325). This concept of the phoneme as the minimal distinctive unit in phonology was challenged by RJ, who has referred to his “Phoneme and Phonology” (1932a), as the initial expression of his view of phonemes as composed of distinctive features (e.g. RJ 1962c: 636). In 1932 he defined the phoneme as “a set of those concurrent sound properties which are used in a given language to distinguish words of unlike meaning.” (RJ [1932a] 1962SW1: 231).

The first analysis following this definition was presented in 1937-38, first in the Linguistic Circle of Prague, subsequently at the Congress of Phonetic Sciences in Ghent. According to Ivić, this paper (RJ 1939a) opened the second epoch in the development of RJ’s views on phonology, an epoch characterized by a consistent effort to define each phoneme in any linguistic pattern by an exhaustive set of distinctive features (Ivić [1965] 2014: 33).

The systematic elaboration of the theory of distinctive features was troubled by the vagueness of distinctions along the axis of possible places of articulation of consonants, e.g. *p, t, k*. RJ broke the linearity of this axis and transformed it into the three binary dimensions: grave/acute, compact/diffuse (back/front) and strident/mellow (according to present-day English terminology). A gradual relationship was replaced by three binary contrasts (Ivić [1965] 2014: 34). Thus for example in languages with *p, t, k* you could describe them as follows: *k* is *compact* and in contrast to *p, t* which are *diffuse*, while *p* is *grave* in contrast to *t* which is *acute*.

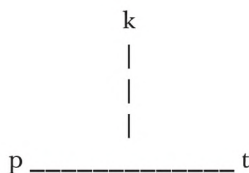
RJ expanded his theory in a short paper on child language (1939/1949c) and later in the well-known book *Kindersprache, Aphasie und allgemeine Lautgesetze* (1941a).

The paper, RJ 1939/1949c, stems from RJ’s desire to study the hierarchy of phonological phenomena on the basis of material furnished by a hierarchy appearing in children’s acquisition of language. The purpose was to assess this hierarchy in studying patterns where it appears incomplete. In RJ 1941a, he broadened this approach including a study of aphasia. The basic conclusion in this work is that the same hierarchy of phonological distinctions holds both for children’s language acquisition and for aphasia, albeit inverted: Phenomena which are the *last* to appear in acquisition are the *first* to be lost in aphasia. RJ also attempts to show that the same

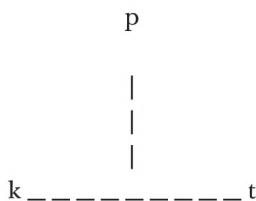
laws of hierarchy are valid for all the languages studied and probably have universal validity (Ivić [1965] 2014: 39-40). The theory is still a central issue for debate and has been tested several times, with conflicting results.

At first the child distinguishes only between *p* and *a*, next the opposition between oral and nasal consonants (*p/m*) is acquired, and later the oral consonant is split up into *p/t*. In certain cases it is stated that one opposition presupposes another one (for example the opposition in degree of aperture of back vowels presupposes the corresponding opposition of front vowels). But in other, more frequent, cases it is stated that one phoneme or category presupposes another, e.g. that *f* presupposes *p*, and that fricative presupposes stop. (RJ 1941a, EFJ 1975b: 37-39). In this book, RJ does not use the term ‘binarism’, maybe because the phenomena in children’s language and aphasia cannot provide weighty arguments for his solutions in controversial cases of distinctive feature analysis. In his general system, presented also in RJ 1938 (1939a), and brought as a figure in RJ 1941a, you have what may be construed as in figure A.

A) Figure from RJ 1941a: 59 describing his general system



B) Figure construed from RJ’s description of the acquisition process, based on RJ 1941a: 32ff.



Box 1: The Acoustic Theory of Speech Production: the source-filter model

Speech output in humans (and communicative sounds from many nonhuman species) is commonly considered to result from a combination of a source of sound energy (e.g. the larynx) modulated by a transfer (filter) function determined by the shape of the vocal tract. The result of the filtering is the sound you hear – and may record outside the lips and show on a spectrogram. Here you see a shaped spectrum with broadband energy peaks, so-called formants. The formants occur, and are seen on spectrograms as dense black marking, around frequencies that correspond to the resonances of the vocal tract. There is a difference between oral vowels on the one hand, and consonants and nasal vowels on the other. The production of consonants and nasals introduce side chambers to the principal air conduit, resulting in anti-resonances, so-called spectral zeroes, in the spectrum. By convention, oral formants are numbered consecutively upwards from the lowest frequency, F₁, F₂, F₃. Front vowels are characterized by higher F₂, back vowels by lower F₂, *ceteris paribus*. Rounded front vowels have a lower F₃ than unrounded front vowels, *ceteris paribus*.

The acoustic theory of speech production is often traced back to the experiments of Johannes Müller (1848), but with the widespread use of spectrograms it got a more sophisticated form during the 1950s, e.g. in the Preliminaries (RJ 1952h). Fant (1960) was a milestone in the acoustics of speech.

The most widespread sound spectrograph, commercially called the Sonagraph, was developed by the Bell laboratories during the Second World War. It could handle speech utterances of 2.4 seconds. The analysis took 5 minutes during which the spectral picture was traced on a paper attached to a cylindrical drum. A spectrogram obtained by this instrument displays time horizontally and frequency vertically. Densely blackened bands trace the formants as they vary through time.

[This box is mainly based on Rubin and Vatikiotis-Bateson 1998 and Wood 2005.]

However, in the acquisition process the fundamental opposition seems to be between labial (p) and non-labial consonants, so you would have figure B. Even if RJ himself suggests an explanation

why the opposition $p < > k, t$ in figure B is more important during the acquisition process than in the complete adult pattern, it was not the best place to argue for binarism (Ivić [1965] 2014: 40).

In (1949 d, e) RJ introduced the “tabulation” of distinctive features, launching distinctive feature matrices. Ivić ([1965] 2014: 43) sees these two papers as transitional papers to the third phase in RJ’s development as a phonologist, initiated by *Preliminaries* in 1952 (RJ 1952h). According to Ivić ([1965] 2014: 46) the two major innovations of *Preliminaries* are (1) emphasis on the restricted number of distinctive features that occur in the world’s languages (11-12) and (2) the twin definitions of each distinctive feature, on both the motor and acoustic levels, with a statement suggesting that the latter is the linguistically more relevant dimension.

Here we depart from the trajectory of the binary distinctive feature system in order to set a larger scene. It is at this point that the correspondence between our two protagonists becomes essential to an understanding of the history.

4.3 Acoustic Phonetics. A meeting point between phonetics and phonology after the Second World War

In her report to the Eighth International Congress of Linguists in 1957, Oslo, EFJ gave a historical overview: “Concerning instrumental phonetics, you could also historically talk about a certain distance between linguistics and instrumental phonetics, only few people²³ were linguists and instrumental phoneticians at the same time, and there was not much contact between linguists and instrumental phonetics” (EFJ 1957: 435).

Ignatius G. Mattingly (1999: 2) four decades later gave a similar picture of acoustic phonetics in the USA after World War II. Up to that point, linguists and conventional phoneticians had avoided acoustic phonetics. Thus, Martin Joos (1907-78), e.g. in “Acoustic Phonetics” 1948, “was probably the first linguist to realize its potential value for phonetic research.”

Acoustic phonetics developed rapidly in the USA after the Sec-

23. She herself was one of them

ond World War. Mattingly (p. 2) mentions three factors: (1) the invention of the sound spectrograph (see box 1 above), (2) the general acceptance of the new acoustic theory of speech production (see box), and (3) the more recent availability of digital computers for phonetic research. This resulted in a new situation. Collaboration between people with different qualifications became imperative. RJ was quick to recognize this new situation, and only a few years after the end of the war, he organized collaboration with specialists in acoustics, first and foremost with the Swedish engineer Gunnar Fant (from 1966 professor at KTH, the Royal Swedish Institute of Technology), but also with specialists from other scientific fields.

With *Preliminaries*, RJ, Fant and Halle (RJ 1952h) established the foundations of a new concept of phonology. The *Preliminaries* was published by a multidisciplinary group with a great many special qualifications (linguistics, phonology, articulatory/acoustic/auditory phonetics, acoustics of the vocal tract). The authors of *Preliminaries* specify that the definition of the various distinctive features had been established on the basis of theoretical knowledge from vocal tract acoustics on speech production, and of spectrographic representations from the sound spectrograph (see box 1 above) (Boë 1997: 27-28).

4.4 John J. Ohala's description of the work process around the *Preliminaries*.

John J. Ohala (1999: 64-65) has given a detailed description of the work process around *Preliminaries*. We shall present his description, which is based partly on personal communications by Fant, since it gives both a vivid picture of the elaboration of this important work and a good background for understanding RJ's interest in having EFJ connected to the further development of the research.

As Ohala writes, in 1949-51 Cambridge, Massachusetts, was the scene of one of the most fundamental innovations in phonetic history: the development of the phonetically-defined Jakobsonian distinctive features. In the 1930s, RJ had not only developed a system of features based on acoustic-auditory properties but he had also insisted that some of the same features could apply both to conso-

Box 2: Ohala on the history of distinctive features

RJ emigrated to the United States in 1941, eventually moving to Harvard in 1949. This was the same year that Gunnar Fant came to Cambridge for two years of study [...]. The first few months of his stay in Cambridge (before moving to the M.I.T. Acoustics Lab), Fant spent in the Psychoacoustics Lab at Harvard. In December 1949 he gave a seminar there which was attended by RJ. Until then a great deal of acoustic analysis had been done on vowels but much less had been carried out on consonants. Fant presented some new results he had obtained on the acoustic analysis of stops, especially on the spectra of stop bursts. As Fant reports:

Roman was intrigued. Here was the missing link in his theory of perceptual equivalence of vowel and consonant features. ... the single peak concentration of energy for the velar stop [k] ... conforms with the Jakobsonian feature of compactness. In the labial and alveolar stops ... the spectral energy is spread, conforming to the feature diffuse. ... There is a low frequency dominance for the labial [p] and a high frequency dominance for the alveolar [t]. These two are contrasted as being grave versus acute.

Subsequently Fant, with RJ's help, started [...] his x-ray study of the vowel and consonant articulations of Russian, the informant being an emigré Russian actor. In addition, RJ proposed a collaboration with Fant to give an acoustic base to the features that he, RJ, had been using in his previous work. Halle, who was "fluent" in both the languages of physical acoustics and of linguistics, acted as "translator" and secretary (Fant, 1996; personal communication).²⁴ Most of these working sessions took place in RJ's home. Fant reports (personal communication, June 1998):

I was given the role of a kind of 'medium'. For example, Roman would ask "What is the nature of 'flatness' due to lip rounding, retroflexion, or pharyngealization?"²⁵ If I was silent for too long, the question would be repeated. "Be quiet, Roman, I'm thinking!" I would have to say. I did my best to give some common denomination to the features he proposed.

In the end, 12 binary features were proposed (in RJ 1952h). Fant acknowledges that the acoustic basis for some of the features may be "obscure" and he has himself later published critiques of them (Fant, 1973). Nevertheless, he holds that one of the important characteristics of the features is that they are defined relativistically, i.e. tilting toward what is called today 'relative invariance' of the distinctive elements of speech.

nants and vowels, and noted how certain sounds had common resonator shapes. Since John Ohala has devoted Ohala 1999 to an extensive treatment of the genesis of *Preliminaries* we have chosen to bring an excerpt from this study in box 2 above.

Ohala (1999:65) summarizes that *Preliminaries* was the first systematic attempt to develop “a system of features that could be used to describe the (contrastive) structure and behavior of speech sounds in, potentially, any human language in a way that united the articulatory and acoustic-auditory aspects of sounds and laying particular weight on the acoustic side.”

4.5 *EFJ* in relation to Ohala’s description

In a letter (Royal Library, Copenhagen) to Gunnar Fant, May 23 1952, EFJ, having been in Cambridge for five weeks, corroborates Fant’s picture of RJ’s relationship to acoustics as given above in box 2²⁶:

I have read “*Preliminaries*” with great interest and some skepticism. The main difficulty with a book like this is that Roman Jakobson is so full of ideas that he forgets to look a little critically and objectively at each one of them. And he knows far too little about acoustics. When he gets a curve or a chart, he is delighted, because it’s something “quantitative”, but it’s typical that when the other day he showed me your new chart for rounding, etc. in Swedish vowels and when I asked

24. Ohala does not mention it, but it might have been useful that Halle was also fluent in Russian [author’s note].

25. In fact, you will find references to these three phenomena in the paragraph on the distinctive opposition ‘flat-plain’ in *Preliminaries*, RJ 1952 h: 31-36 [author’s note].

26. ”Jeg har læst ”*Preliminaries*” med stor interesse og en del skepsis. Hovedvanskeligheden ved en bog som den er jo at Roman Jakobson er så fuld af ideer at han glemmer at se lidt kritisk og objektivt på hver enkelt. Og han ved alt for lidt om det akustiske. Når han får en kurve eller et diagram er han henrykt, for så er det noget ”kvantitativt”, men det er typisk at da han forleden viste mig Deres ny diagram for rounding etc. ved svenske vokaler og da jeg spurgte ham hvilke vokaler symbolerne *i₁*, *i₂* etc betegnede, sagde han at det anede han ikke, men derfor er han alligevel glad for skemaet [...]”.

him what vowels the symbols i_1 , i_2 etc. denoted, he said that he had no idea, but nevertheless he is still happy with the chart [...] [author's translation].

Since RJ very much wanted EFJ to collaborate directly with him on his project on contemporary Russian, it is interesting to place her within Ohala's outline of the entire group: She was a theoretical linguist, having published in 1949 an important article, very often quoted, also by RJ, on phonemic analysis, and at the same time she worked as an experimental phonetician. She did not participate in the compilation of the first version of *Preliminaries* (published January 1952). However, she is mentioned in the Preface to the second printing (May 1952) where the authors write: "The corrections and additions were made possible through the numerous valuable suggestions received from our correspondents. We are especially indebted to [...] Eli Fischer-Jørgensen [...]" (she is one of thirteen professors mentioned). It is not specified where the input from the correspondents has left its mark. In section 6.2.1 of this introduction we will see how the correspondence can help to detect Fischer-Jørgensen's contributions to the modifications in the second printing, and to two further presentations of the ideas in *Preliminaries*, written by RJ and Halle: *Fundamentals of Language* (RJ 1956a) and *Manual of Phonetics* (RJ 1968f).

5. Roman Jakobson, Eli Fischer-Jørgensen and the linguistic community 1939-1982, with special focus on phonology and phonetics

The Fifth International Congress of Linguists was planned for September 1939 in Brussels, but it was cancelled because of the outbreak of the war. The international community of linguists had to wait until 1948 to have another grand meeting, at the Sixth International Congress of Linguists in Paris. RJ had prepared a report, but it was read by John Lotz, because RJ was prevented from participating. EFJ did participate, without a paper, but together with Hjelmslev she gave a resumé of the congress in *Acta Linguistica* (Hjelmslev 1950).

After the Paris sojourn, EFJ went to Brussels where she participated in a congress of anthropology. Attempts to organize a fourth phonetics congress in conjunction with the congress of anthropologists were only partially successful. In Brussels EFJ heard Blancquaert, president of the above mentioned Third Congress of Phonetic Sciences in Ghent, mention a possible fourth congress of phonetic sciences, in Chicago (see letter 3, March 25, 1949).

After RJ's and EFJ's first meeting in Ghent 1938, the next direct contact between the two was a letter from EFJ to RJ, posted March 3, 1949. For three years, i.e. until 1952, they had quite an intense mutual contact. They exchanged animated letters, and they met again in person in Copenhagen, May 1950, and again in Cambridge, Mass. 1952. In 1950 in Copenhagen, characteristic of EFJ's role, she was initiating an important direct confrontation about the distinctive feature theory between RJ and Hjelmslev, based on EFJ's introduction (referred to in EFJ 1966k).

After EFJ's stay in USA in 1952 there was an interruption in their mutual correspondence, and the two linguists did not meet again during the following five years (neither RJ nor EFJ attended the Seventh International Congress of Linguists in London in 1952).

The resumption of the direct contact took place at the Eighth International Congress of Linguists, Oslo 1957. Skytte (2016: 64) quotes the Swedish phonetician Eva Gårding (1906-2006) for the observation that EFJ was "the queen of the congress" and RJ "the king".

EFJ gave a report (already quoted in section IV) entitled: *What can the new techniques of acoustic phonetics contribute to linguistics?* (EFJ 1957 (1958): 433-478). Once more she presented the "state of the art", concerning the relationship between phonetics and linguistics, and phonetics and phonology, respectively.

At the same time there was an initiative to start the phonetic congresses afresh. As mentioned above, after the war it was difficult for the organizers to restart the congresses: every time a university declared itself ready to organize the next congress, it backed down again.

RJ had become a member of the Permanent Council of the phonetic congresses after the death of Prince Trubetzkoy, and during

the 40s and 50s RJ was in constant contact with Louise Kaiser (1891-1973), who had been the honorary secretary since the first congress, in particular concerning the compilation and publication of *Manual of Phonetics* (1957), but also concerning the congresses. When, at the end of 1957, The Catholic University of Milan seemed to be ready to organize the congress scheduled for 1958, Kaiser proposed that the council elect RJ to the vacant post as chairman, and he accepted. However, The Catholic University of Milan also backed out. RJ did accept the election anyway, but under the condition that Kaiser would remain as the honorary secretary. However, Kaiser wrote a letter to the Council members with her resignation²⁷.

A solution was found at a Symposium commemorating Trubetzkoy, organized by Zwirner in Münster, July 24-25, 1958. Here, or in the subsequent days in Copenhagen, RJ persuaded EFJ to become the new honorary secretary, helping him as the newly elected chairman, a choice strongly supported by Zwirner²⁸.

With EFJ, Jakobson would have had an honorary secretary: (1) who to a great extent shared his fundamental ideas on the role of phonology, but, as Zwirner wrote to him: “She certainly is not always a convenient yes-woman without her own opinion, but her opinions are well founded”²⁹; (2) who, unlike himself, was an acknowledged expert in instrumental/acoustic and auditory phonetics; (3) and who, unlike himself, lived in Europe, and had close contact to many centers of the phonetic/phonological community, e.g. in Scandinavia, the Netherlands, Germany and France; moreover she had many contacts also in the USA. In 1956, when Zwirner decided to restart the important pre-war phonetic-linguistic journal, *Archiv für vergleichende Phonetik* (1937-1942), in a new, more international, format under the new name of *Phonetica* (1957-), she had been the

27. This reconstruction of the “missed 1958 congress” is mainly based on letters from the MIT-archives: MC.0072. Box 5. Folder 35-37.

28. The reconstruction of these events is based on “pairwise letters” between RJ, EFJ and Zwirner, from both the MIT archives and the KB archives.

29. In a letter from Zwirner to RJ, November 20, 1958. MIT. Box47. Folder 38: [...] dass wir in ihr eine kenntnisreiche, fleissige und in ihrem Urteil unbestechliche Sekretärin gefunden haben. Sie ist sicher nicht immer eine bequeme Jasagerin ohne eigene Meinung, aber ihre Meinungen sind begründet.

principal adviser for him concerning international correspondents, choice of language and name of the journal³⁰.

EFJ's central role in the international linguistic community already in the mid 50es has not really been recognized, probably because it came to an abrupt end when EFJ (see section one above) was thrown off a horse and suffered a concussion that seriously interfered with her work for the next five to six years. It also prevented her from becoming secretary of the Permanent Council. In three letters between RJ and EFJ from 1958, you can pursue this theme (see section 6.2.3).

At the Fourth International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, Helsinki 1961, RJ left the post as Chairman of the Permanent Council and was elected an Honorary Member. EFJ herself was elected member of the Permanent Council and remained in this role until 1991, the final eight years as vice-president. RJ did not participate in the subsequent International Congresses of Phonetic Sciences which EFJ attended regularly.

As mentioned above, EFJ organized the Ninth International Congress of Phonetic Sciences in Copenhagen in 1979. She had hoped that RJ would be able to attend, but in the event he addressed the congress in absentia, an address read by EFJ's Danish colleague Jørgen Rischel (1934-2007). This congress is the central topic in several letters between EFJ and RJ from the late 1970s. At the end of RJ's life, the correspondence takes another turn again, partly because the correspondents are now approaching an age where illnesses and greetings from mutual friends compete for space in the letters with purely linguistic matters. However, EFJ's review of Jakobson and Waugh's *The Sound Shape of Language* (RJ 1979d) makes for some scientific content here as well. Their correspondence continued until a few months before RJ's death, 18 July, 1982.

30. See correspondence in Royal Danish Library, Acc: 2005/99, ks. 29.

6. Reciprocal influence between EFJ and RJ

Having given in the previous sections (1-5) a general introduction to EFJ and RJ and their positions in the history of phonetics and phonology, we shall now discuss in this section the reciprocal influence between the two correspondents. There is no doubt that concerning “influence”, the direction was from RJ to EFJ, a fact that has been also made public by EFJ herself. We will therefore begin with a short analysis of this direction of influence. In the next step, we will give a more thorough analysis concerning EFJ’s possible influence upon RJ, taking the correspondence as the point of departure. Let it also be noted here that influence should not be seen as confined to the lives of our protagonists. In the correspondence below, arguments, primarily around distinctive features, are presented for us as RJ’s and EFJ’s present colleagues to read and judge the possible consequences of.

6.1 EFJ and RJ: What is his influence on her linguistic ideas and her career in linguistics?

In EFJ’s published autobiographical statements, you may find many observations on the influence of RJ’s theories on her. But one also finds her critical remarks to RJ’s ideas. In her speech to the Roman Jakobson Centennial Symposium in Copenhagen 1996, Fischer-Jørgensen told how she had received the Prague *Travaux* already in 1931 from L. L. Hammerich, her then teacher of German Philology:

Thus when, in the beginning of 1933, I became a member of the Linguistic Circle (of Copenhagen), I was already a convinced adherent of Prague phonology. However, I did not accept all their ideas. [...] Thus it was Roman Jakobson’s views that appealed to me; and when I later read his book *Kindersprache, Aphasie und allgemeine Lautgesetze*, I was completely fascinated both by the boldness of his theories and by their immediate plausibility, and for a while my interest turned to auditory phonetics and particularly to sound symbolism (EFJ 1997b: 18-19).

As can be seen from this quotation, EFJ was already in her formative years as a linguist much inspired/influenced by RJ's linguistic ideas, and they were decisive for her choice of research topics. EFJ herself singles out RJ among the Praguians. Why then did she choose to go to study with Trubetzkoy? One good reason could be that Trubetzkoy had a chair in a German speaking city, Vienna, while RJ was in Czech speaking Brno, but whatever her reason was it is worth trying to verify if EFJ's statement "Thus it was Roman Jakobson's views that appealed to me" is confirmed in her written works from the 1930s. Reading her Master's thesis (EFJ 1934), you can find some indications which confirm the statement, but they are not very explicit. On the other hand, her enthusiasm for the *Kindersprache* is evident in a long feuilleton in the Danish newspaper, *Social-Demokraten*, 25 September, 1941, where she explains the essence of this newly published book to a general public.

In (EFJ 1994: 54) she emphasizes her enthusiasm in particular for two points in the Prague theory: viz. the search for general laws for phoneme systems, and the search for general laws for their historical development.

In the same publication (pp. 52 ff), EFJ summarizes her objections against the distinctive feature theory in five points: (1) The terminology is problematic: 'distinctive feature' is used both for a part of the distinctive opposition and for the opposition itself (which makes half the number). (2) She thinks that you ought to distinguish more clearly between 'distinctive features' in a given language and the general phonetic dimensions which in themselves are not 'distinctive' but may be used for distinctions in specific languages. (3) She finds it problematic to postulate a limited number of universal distinctive features. According to her, it is not as important to aim at a minimal number as it is to aim for an exhaustive description. (4) She finds it meaningless to conceptualize the general dimensions as solely binary. In the description of specific languages she cannot see why it is important to reinterpret the degree of aperture of the vowels into binary oppositions. (5) Finally, she proposes to describe the general phonetic dimensions (e.g. place of articulation) physiologically, acoustically and auditorily, and to keep the three definitions separate, and then in the actual use in a

given language to examine whether the physiological or the auditory factor has the most important role in the different distinctive oppositions.

It must be added that although EFJ criticizes the distinctive feature theory, she explicitly prefers it to the glossematic analysis. This was voiced at different occasions, e.g. at the International Congress of Linguists in 1957, Oslo. Here she gave the introductory report in a plenary session on phonetics and linguistics (see section II), and i.a. presented the statement that “it seems to the present author that the analysis into distinctive features is preferable to Hjelmslev’s analysis of taxemes into glossemes³¹” (EFJ 1957 (1958): 471). This, however, did not prevent EFJ from expressing some of the critical points in relation to RJ’s theory mentioned above.

This last quotation is an example of how EFJ often is in a position between on the one hand Hjelmslevian glossematics and RJ and Prague phonology, or distinctive feature theory on the other. The correspondence reflects that this is also partly true for her career. In letter 17 (March 3, 1951), she tells RJ how she, inspired by *Kindersprache*, had started her own experiments, and had been encouraged by Hjelmslev to do a project on it for a doctoral dissertation. While EFJ was in the USA during the following year, RJ (letter 26, April 7, 1952) urged her to stay and work on his project on contemporary Russian, he even ‘communicated’ it to Hjelmslev, but she did not accept the offer. Later EFJ gave up this thesis idea, as the available statistical methods were not satisfactory at the time, and took up a more traditional subject, viz. an investigation of Danish stop consonants. A letter from EFJ to RJ (letter 30, September 11, 1953) shows that her interest in the Danish stops also had some background in her talks with RJ. “I am writing an article about the Danish stops (experimental investigation with a phonemic introduction) where I have tried to formulate the rules you asked me for once.”

RJ influenced EFJ very much concerning the scope of linguistics (general laws for phonological systems and their history), as well as

31. The argument against glossemes was that they were totally devoid of any substance.

to her interest in sound symbolism, and in auditory phonetics in general. EFJ, however, saw herself as a linguist with “contributions from outside the schools.” She mentions herself among Scandinavian linguists, “who, generally, have been influenced by both Prague phonology, American phonematics and glossematics.” (EFJ 1975b: 376).

6.2 RJ and EFJ: What is her influence on his linguistic ideas and acting in the linguistic community? What is in it for him?

In RJ’s published works you do not find any direct statement about EFJ’s significance for him personally. However, in his prefatory greetings to a Festschrift for EFJ (RJ: 1971c), you find some indications of what, in her work, had been important for him. He emphasizes how EFJ’s “thorough examination laid bare the cardinal contradictions and fluctuations in the gradual elaboration” of the glossematic theory. RJ also mentions EFJ’s own ‘functional’ and ‘relational’ approach, thus two terms characterizing RJ’s own theory. In this way he places her nearer to his own position than to Hjelmslev’s. This seems to be a central point for RJ.

However, in the correspondence (and some unpublished RJ-notes) you get a more nuanced idea of EFJ’s relevance for RJ. We shall try to give an outline of this picture, as it can be deduced from the correspondence and notes in four different periods.

6.2.1 1949-1952

In the very first letter from RJ to EFJ (letter 2, March 14, 1949), he expresses interest in EFJ’s activity as an interpreter of cenematics (i.e. the expression part of Louis Hjelmslev’s theory of glossematics) and other phonemic theories, and he sees her efforts as related to his own work in progress on (the unfinished) “Sound and Meaning”; he praises EFJ’s work, both her phonetic and her phonemic studies; he proposes a “closer and more regular scholarly contact”. In another letter (letter 18, March 29, 1951) he is eager to get EFJ involved in the project on contemporary Russian (which had its main focus on the sound pattern), and to connect EFJ and her sound and colour-project to his psychological collaborators. EFJ

sent a long letter (letter 25, March 31, 1952) with many detailed critical remarks on (RJ 1952h) *Preliminaries* (1st printing, January), including a problematization of the absolute necessity of the binary principle. In the 2nd printing (May) she is mentioned in the list of correspondents who have given “valuable suggestions” and thus made possible “the corrections and additions” (*Preliminaries*, 2nd printing: vii). As mentioned above, RJ tried to convince EFJ to stay in the USA, working with him, for another six months, and he had asked her to formulate “the rules” of Danish stop consonants. It is important here to remember that for RJ the relation between the various stop consonants (e.g. p, t, k) had been an important issue from the beginning of his theorizing on distinctive features. EFJ did in fact undertake an experimental investigation of stops, and the resulting paper (EFJ 1954) was later quoted with a certain emphasis by RJ in a couple of his works, first in his “Retrospect” (RJ 1962c: 638).

The letters thus clearly show how much RJ wanted EFJ to collaborate directly with him on his project on contemporary Russian. They also indicate his motives:

If she had accepted, he would have had 1) a theoretical linguist who was an expert in phonemic/phonological theories; 2) a phonetician with experience in instrumental phonetics; 3) a linguist-phonetician with a particular interest in speech perception, and particularly in the special Jakobsonian field of sound symbolism; 4) a critical mind who could corroborate the Jakobsonian proposals; 5) a linguist-phonetician who could test and develop RJ’s ideas. Maybe it also mattered for RJ that EFJ in the linguistic milieu was known to be an expert on Hjelmslevian glossematics (see below).

The direct contact from RJ to EFJ ended in 1952 and was only resumed again when they met in 1957. Apparently the direct contact was discontinued, because RJ reacted to the fact that EFJ would not remain in the USA and work with him. They had also disagreed profoundly on binarism, but as shown above, this difference in points of view did not make RJ give up the idea of wanting EFJ to stay for a longer time in the USA.

Letter 25 from EFJ, March 31, 1952, concerning the *Preliminaries*, seems to have had a direct effect on the corrections from the first printing in January 1952 to the second printing, May 1952. In the

letter EFJ writes: “p. 5-6 you speak about redundant variations and use the Danish examples t-d-ð. I doubt whether the formulation is quite correct. As far as I know the length of the vowel is irrelevant. t-d are found initially in monosyllabics, d-ð finally [...]”³²

In the book these corrections concerning the paragraph on Danish may be found:

First printing	Second printing
<i>The strong position for a consonant is at the beginning of a syllable with a stressed and/or long vowel. Any other position is weak.</i>	<i>In monosyllabic words the strong position for a consonant is at the beginning of the syllable and the weak position, at its end.</i>
<i>e.g. <u>t</u>aa “toe” – daa “buck”</i>	<i>e.g. <u>t</u>ag “roof” – <u>d</u>ag “day”</i>
<i>for example: <u>r</u>ette (r’edə) “to comply” – <u>r</u>edde (r’eðe) (“to save”).</i>	<i>for example: <u>h</u>at [had] “hat” – <u>h</u>ad [hað] “hate”.</i>

It is of course possible that others have also problematized the formulation in the first printing, but the corrected text is in line with both EFJ’s statement of the irrelevance of the length of the vowel and her reference to the restriction to “monosyllabic”.

In the letter from EFJ kept at the MIT archives, a reader, most probably RJ, has marked two other paragraphs in the margin: The first one is:

“In the definition of the vocalic feature I should prefer to omit the ‘gradual onset’. The combination of two quite different things in one feature is not very satisfactory”³³. This does not give rise to any change in the second printing. However, in later descriptions of the distinctive features, this part of the definition has in fact been left out (RJ 1956a and RJ 1968f).

32. In the letter, EFJ’s description continues concerning other positions of the consonant. Here, we have only quoted the passage concerning monosyllabic words, because RJ, Fant and Halle substitute the first more general formulation with this specific one; for technical (re)printing reasons their new text could not be longer than the original one. For the full text of EFJ’s letter, see letter 25 below.

33. “gradual onset” is actually EFJ’s paraphrase of the text in RJ 1952h: 18: “whose onset is not abrupt.”

The other passage concerns the distinction tense-lax. Here EFJ writes: “I am very doubtful about the distinction tense-lax in vowels [...] Generally French [to which the authors of Preliminaries referred, ed.] is considered as having only tense vowels. Why not start with a language which is normally considered as having this distinction, e.g. German and Dutch [...].” In their paper “Tenseness and Laxness” (RJ 1962b) RJ and Halle in fact refer to an investigation of the Dutch vowels, in line with EFJ’s recommendation.

You could also point out another role of EFJ for RJ, viz. that of an internal and consistently loyal opposition to Louis Hjelmslev. Though working closely with Hjelmslev, EFJ was opposed to his desire to exclude substance from the analysis of form, and in EFJ 1949c, she gives a thorough analysis of this point, concluding: “mais dans la pratique on tient compte de la substance à toute étape de l’analyse” (p. 231). RJ and Halle (RJ 1956a) quote this line in criticizing “the algebraic view”, exemplified by Hjelmslev. It is worth noting that this reference to EFJ as an “inside critic” of glossematics is not directly expressed in the letters. However, knowing the context, you might infer it from RJ’s letter of July 30, 1950 (letter 15 below): “[...] Thank you for your lucid exposition of our view on the ultimate phonemic entities [...] I have been impressed by the wonderful correspondence between your and my approaches [...].” RJ is here referring to a meeting in the Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen (May 26 1950), where EFJ had presented Hjelmslev’s as well as RJ’s methods for analyzing the ultimate phonemic entities, a meeting where both theorists were present (see also EFJ 1966k: 24ff.).

6.2.2 1952-58

For about six years, RJ wrote no letters to EFJ, or if he did, none have survived. She wrote at least three letters to him without getting any answer. They met at the International Congress of Linguists in Oslo in 1957, and in Münster and Copenhagen at the end of July 1958. The correspondence began again with a postcard from RJ (31 below, August 2, 1958). They had, however, not forgotten each other in the interim. EFJ wrote a paper to the RJ Festschrift (EFJ 1956a), corresponding with the editor, Halle, who was working with

RJ. RJ on the other hand suggested EFJ, together with Gunnar Fant and other phoneticians, as members of the Permanent Council of the International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (letter to Louise Kaiser 1956, MIT. Box 42, Folder 53).

6.2.3 1958-1966

This period in the correspondence is characterized by: a) organizational problems in the international phonetic/phonological community; b) the discussion of their mutual relationship (in particular in the first letters); c) EFJ's bad health after the horse riding accident, and RJ's offers to help her; d) the Danish linguistic community, in particular *Acta Linguistica*, and the death of both Paul Diderichsen (1905-1964) and Louis Hjelmslev; e) we will further mention a point not shared in the correspondence, but indicated by some RJ-notes, i.e. that RJ seems to pay attention to some of EFJ's more general critical points concerning his theory of distinctive features (see below pp. 53-54).

As mentioned in section 5 above, at the start of this period their mutual relationship is very much associated with the organization of the international phonetics congresses. A letter from EFJ to RJ (letter 32 below, August 8.58) indicates that he has asked her to take on the task of becoming the new (honorary) secretary of the Council, and that she has accepted, according to her letter, to show her "bonne volonté" because he had accused her for attacking him so often³⁴. EFJ thought of taking over the position in February 1959, but because of her accident in the autumn, this did not happen.

In the correspondence (letter 31 below, August 2, 1958), RJ (having also spoken with Alf Sommerfelt, who had an important func-

34. In Eli Fischer-Jørgensen's commemoration speech for Roman Jakobson (EFJ 1997b: 23), she refers to her discussion with Roman Jakobson of the binary principle: "I remember once meeting him in America - it was in the beginning of our acquaintance - and his first words were "I know you are my enemy!" I was very astonished and asked him how he had got that idea, and he answered; "You do not believe in the binary principle." So I explained that I found the binary principle very important, but speaking a language with four degrees of aperture in the vowels it was somewhat difficult for me to accept the binary principle as an absolute universal. He understood this, and we have been friends ever since."

tion in relation to UNESCO (see Appendix, 8.4)), proposes three locations for the following congress of phonetic sciences: Japan, MIT, Zwirner in Münster. A few months previously he had received a letter from the Finnish phonetician Antti Sovijärvi (1912-1995) asking for “a formal letter informing that the International Congress for Phonetic Sciences of 1961 will definitely be arranged in Helsinki”, based on a suggestion made by Louise Kaiser in November 1957, so it is remarkable that RJ does not mention Helsinki in his letter to EFJ. She gives a very thorough answer:

I should think that Japan is the best place for the congress, if we can get money. If not, perhaps we should choose Helsinki. Sovijärvi is perhaps no great organizer, but he offered it first, and I am a little afraid that there may still be people who would not go to Germany [Refers to Jakobson having suggested Zwirner, (ed.)] (particularly in Norway and Holland). I know that Selmer would not come), so perhaps it would be better to wait another three years. - MIT would be fine, but it presents the same money-problem for Europeans as Japan, and as the next Linguistic Congress is planned for USA, we would not get money twice; it would be better to have several years in between. -- (letter 32, August 8, 1958)

In fact, a list of the following four congresses more or less agrees with EFJ's observations, the first two directly: 4th Helsinki 1961, 5th Münster 1964, 6th Prague 1967, 7th Montreal 1971. In this case, you might assume some direct influence on RJ, and thereby on the decisions of the Permanent Council. Considering EFJ's friendship with Zwirner, it is noteworthy, that she does not support Münster for the first coming congress. In a letter to Zwirner from March 1958 (MIT. Box 47. Folder 38) RJ had been open to the possibility of having a Congress in Münster already in 1959. However, the secretary, Louise Kaiser, rejected it because of a concurring congress, and she further referred to a decision from 1952, made by the members of the Permanent Council present at the International Congress of Linguists, London, 1952, saying that the next Congress of Phonetic Sciences would not be in Germany (Letter March 8, 1958, MIT. Box 42. Folder 53). If Sommerfelt had supported Zwirner, he, as one of the few decision makers in 1952, had somehow on his own disre-

garded the old decision from London. It was very important for Zwirner to get the congress to Münster before his retirement, so RJ was under pressure from opposing forces: Louise Kaiser's objections and Zwirner's desire to have the congress. To RJ therefore, the proposal from EFJ, "his chosen" secretary, to postpone Münster was probably very welcome. At least, the case demonstrates EFJ's flair for understanding the phonetic/phonological community.

In a letter to Zwirner (August 1958, KB) EFJ says that RJ had used all means to convince her to become the honorary secretary, in particular emphasizing that she could not possibly refuse to become his collaborator, considering that she had always attacked him. In letter 32 to RJ (August 8, 1958), she emphasizes that she has never attacked him, but only criticized his theories, and this for her is in fact to be viewed as a compliment. In a subsequent letter (letter 33, November 27, 1958), written after her accident with the horse, she emphasizes the difference between those who criticize the theories and those who create them. She feels the distance between RJ and herself (in scientific respects) very clearly: "I belong to the millers who sit in the valleys grinding their corn. But the mills are driven by the torrents of water, which you, the giants, throw down from your mountain peaks."

RJ answers her by inviting her to MIT as a visiting scholar, for her "complete recovery and relaxation."

I thank you for the gracious personal note in your last letters but I resolutely reject your theme of "distance between us". We are on the contrary wonderfully close to each other by the scope, style and leaning of our work, by its emotional underneath and by the sense of humor which prevents us from becoming doctrinaires (Letter 34, December 21, 1958).

RJ often quotes EFJ's criticism of Hjelmslev's theory, and also EFJ's results from phonetic research. But did RJ use/accept EFJ's criticism of his own theories and concepts? It is very difficult in RJ's works to find explicit references to her general presentation of his theory and concepts. However, in the MIT Archives you find some indications that he took at least a part of EFJ's general criticism into consideration. In the folders in the MIT Archive concerning the

notes and reference material to his “Retrospect” (RJ 1962c, including a part of his article from the proceedings from the Helsinki-congress 1961), you find some index cards with her name and some concepts and quotations, some of them referring to EFJ’s above-mentioned report to the International Congress of Linguists in 1957, in which she presented the distinctive feature theory, including various critical points. In RJ’s notes, he refers to her criticism of the inconsistent use of the terms distinctive feature and distinctive opposition (EFJ 1957 (1958): 472), and it seems rather obvious that in his article (RJ 1962c) he takes into account this criticism.

Elsewhere in the report (EFJ 1957 (1958): 474), EFJ introduces the term “relational definition”, which is quoted and underscored in RJ’s notes. In his published text you find the following:

First and foremost, a “strong concentration of explosion” distinguishes /k/ from /p/ and /t/ (according to E. Fischer-Jørgensen’s comparison of her detailed acoustic analysis ...) [Fischer-Jørgensen 1954] [...] To the fallacious phonological attempts “to define /t/ and /k/ irrespective of each other” the analysis into features opposes a strictly relational definition. (RJ 1962c: 638)

It seems rather clear that the term “relational definition” must have been taken from EFJ (from the Oslo Proceedings 1958), but this is, in fact, not mentioned - neither in the text nor in RJ’s references.

The two examples indicate that even if RJ did not express it explicitly, he did in fact take EFJ’s input seriously, at least concerning some important concepts. Avoiding a precise reference to the EFJ report, he avoids leading the reader directly to EFJ’s critical points of his theory. In her text, she problematizes the binary principle (p. 472), and mentions four problems involved in the phonetic description of the distinctive features. In fact, “relational definition” is her solution to only one of these problems.

With the death of both Diderichsen and Hjelmslev, EFJ became the central figure in the Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen and also in the editorial board of *Acta Linguistica*, where RJ since 1948-49 had been the president of the International Council. Actually, the dis-

cussion about resolving *Acta Linguistica's* problems³⁵ had started shortly before Hjelmslev's death, when he asked EFJ and two other Danish linguists to take on the responsibility of the journal. In this period EFJ succeeded in mobilizing RJ to obtain a subvention from the Farfield Foundation, and she also convinced him to promise the editors of the reorganized journal an introductory article with some reference to Hjelmslev's role. However, she never received the article. In her letters to RJ from this period, EFJ comments on how much energy she herself spent on her obituary for Hjelmslev.

6.2.4 1966-1982

This period in the correspondence is characterized by some important texts: a) EFJ: Form and Substance in Glossematics (1966k); b) two letters from Trubetzkoy to Jørgen Forchhammer and to EFJ respectively; c) EFJ 1975b: *Trends in Phonological Theory. A Historical Introduction*; d) a translation into Danish of selected works by RJ (RJ: 1979f); e) RJ 1979d: *The Sound Shape of Language*. In addition, two important events took place in 1979: RJ's Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy at the University of Copenhagen (June 1) and the International Congress of Phonetic Sciences in Copenhagen (6-11 August) with EFJ as the president and main organizer.

The form-substance-problem is not directly mentioned in the correspondence, see earlier paragraph on 1949-1952. RJ thanks EFJ for having received her article "Form and Substance in Glossematics" (1966k), but he does not comment on it in the correspondence. However, in RJ's later published linguistic writings this paper is important. In RJ 1979d, he quotes EFJ (1966k) twice. "In the Danish science of language of the middle of this century, so-called 'glossematic' theory, developed and propounded by Louis Hjelmslev (1899-1965), argued against feature analysis as a new jump from linguistic form to physical substance; but as Eli Fischer-Jørgensen (1966k) rightly sensed, the artificial separation of substance from the plane of linguistic form does not account for the buildup of op-

35. The international journal *Acta Linguistica*, started on the initiative of RJ and with Hjelmslev as one of two editors, due to Hjelmslev's debilitating disease slowly but surely ground to a halt and by 1965 had ceased to appear.

positions as a manifestly formal, logical operation profoundly inherent in the verbal code.” (RJ 1979d: 44). On page 52 in the same work, RJ directly refers to a meeting in the Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen, partly referred to in the EFJ-article: “On May 26, 1950, in a lively discussion in the Copenhagen Linguistic Circle, a staunch partisan of glossematics [RJ refers to Hjelmslev], which presumed to liberate ‘form’ from ‘substance’, attacked the Praguian views of language [represented by RJ] (cf. Fischer-Jørgensen 1966: 26ff.)”. RJ thus uses EFJ as a “qualified witness” of his views on glossematics. It is interesting that he still in 1979, 83 years old, 39 years after the meeting and 14 years after Hjelmslev’s death, indeed deems it necessary to write that his (“the Praguian”) theory was “*attacked*”. Apparently, RJ stuck to his initial conception of a militant war between (two closely allied) paradigms, cf. also his use of the term ‘enemy’ for EFJ because she had criticized his stubborn allegiance to binarism.

In 1975 the Danish publisher Nyt Nordisk Forlag encouraged RJ to publish a collection of some of his studies in Danish translation. He accepted, and wrote in his response: “If you intend to have a preface, may I suggest Professor Eli Fischer-Jørgensen as its competent author.” (RJ: letter to Vibeke Møller, December 15, 1975, MIT). Actually, EFJ also got involved in editorial problems to do with choice of articles, translation and proof correcting problems; this is accounted for in some of the letters. In a letter from June 12, 1979 (letter 105 below), RJ wrote to EFJ: “thanks for your magnificent introduction.” Thus, for the third time RJ enlisted EFJ for collaboration, and this time the project succeeded.

In 1979 RJ published his last large linguistic work (with Linda Waugh). In the index (see 2nd edition), EFJ is mentioned in ten places (thereby she is among the “top ten” as regards number of quotations): twice for the problem form and substance, twice for the 1954-article on stop consonants, twice for her perception and sound symbolism experiments, three times on the tense-lax distinction. In the book, EFJ’s work is quoted twice in support of fundamental principles in the RJ theory. The first one concerns binarism, an issue they had discussed for more than 25 years, and where they fundamentally disagreed:

The question of the copresence of two binary oppositions compact ~ noncompact and diffuse ~ nondiffuse does not present particular difficulties in analysis as long as one uses a consistently relational approach. The question of whether there exist sets of four vowels along the diffuse ~ compact axis requires further investigation. In particular, the four-term system assumed for the Danish vowel pattern may still be revised, as Eli Fischer-Jørgensen hints (1972a: 199f.), with respect to the possible role of the lax-tense feature [...] (RJ 1979d: 131).

By introducing the tense-lax opposition, RJ thus tries to involve EFJ in support for his description of the Danish vowel system in a binary way. However, in her review of the book she explains that she does *not* find valid arguments for a tense/lax opposition in Danish vowels:

[...] Danish is mentioned as a possible candidate for the presence of four steps, and I am quoted for having hinted at a possible solution in terms of **tense/lax** (1972). It is true that I quoted an Africanist, who had found a perceptual similarity between my Danish vowels and some of the so-called **tense/lax** harmony vowels in an African language, but in the following paragraph I argued against this solution, and in fact I do not think that it is possible to find acoustic or articulatory valid arguments for a **tense/lax** opposition in Danish vowels [...] (EFJ 1981b: 212).

On another issue, the search for “universals”, they fundamentally agree. Here Jakobson quotes a recently published work of EFJ’s (1978b). “Therefore, the author wisely supports “the hypothesis of *almost* universal values”” (RJ 1979d: 237). With the quoted statement, EFJ lends a hand to save the “universalisms” from *Kindersprache* and later RJ-works, in the same way that RJ himself had done in Oslo in 1957 (RJ 1958a), in defending the relevance of both universals and near-universals.

The book from 1979 is mentioned several times in the correspondence: RJ writes: “I hope to bring to you in June Linda’s and my book, The Sound shape of Language, announced for June, and you will see how great is your place in our book and in the world science of today and tomorrow” (letter 99, February 9, 1979); “Lin-

da's and my book has arrived. I'm eager to have your critical remarks" (letter 105, June 12, 1979).

And RJ got his critical remarks. Both in a letter and in particular in the review referred to above, which EFJ had sent to RJ, December 20, 1980. The review is quite long and has many critical remarks. This is reflected in RJ's answer to the letter:

First and foremost, all my thanks for your beautiful and substantial review of our book. Nobody could write it more substantially and wisely than you. I am sad that we have not read it "before the appearance of the book." A few of our mistakes would disappear and many seemingly controversial solutions would appear in a less cursory and fragmentary form and would become more convincing or at least attractive. Anyway, I am happy, and I'm sure Linda [Waugh, ed.] too, that your masterpiece of criticism is to appear. (letter 114, December 31, 1980)

6.3 Conclusion concerning "influence"

As stated at the beginning of this section, there is no doubt that concerning "influence" in the reciprocal relationship between the two linguists, the main direction was from RJ to EFJ. EFJ was particularly inspired by RJ's research program, while she was critical concerning several methodological and conceptual issues. You might say that she sometimes asked for the theoretical precision that she was used to from Hjelmslev's work. At the same time she, working as a phonetician, had too much respect for the empirical data and would not accept adapting them to the theory, as RJ could be tempted to do.

You also find some influence of EFJ on RJ, though not so much on the core of his linguistic theory. Their discussion of the generality of the binary principle was very intense on a psychological level, but apparently none of them changed their mind and accepted the other's opinion. Concerning the search for universals, they fundamentally agreed, and EFJ's research supported the revised RJ-theory, i.e. both universals and near-universals are relevant. However, the change in his view had taken place several years before the quoted EFJ-text.

On the other hand, as demonstrated in section 6.2.3 above (1958-1966), we find that RJ took EFJ's criticism of his concepts of the distinctive feature seriously. Furthermore, you find a change in the description of Danish in *Preliminaries*, from the 1st to the 2nd printing, most probably as a result of EFJ's critical remarks, see section 6.2.1 above.

At the organizational level, it seems probable that EFJ had some influence on RJ's approach to the choice of congress locations. The result agreed with her suggestions, and these suggestions reached him at the exact moment, when she was ready, as he wished, to become the honorary secretary of the Permanent Council.

While you have to search a little to find signs of direct influence from EFJ on RJ, it is easy to document that he is consistently very interested in close collaboration with her, firstly trying to connect her to his study of contemporary Russian, secondly in the organization of the congress of phonetic sciences, and thirdly as an author of a fitting introduction to his book published in Denmark.

On these three occasions, RJ is positioned as the "master" while EFJ positions herself as his "assistant". In working with and writing about linguistics this casting is thus quite obvious, RJ is the theory maker, the project leader, the chairman, the author, EFJ the theory reviewer, the project participant, the secretary, the introduction writer. This asymmetry is reflected everywhere in their correspondence.

7. RJ and EFJ as Historians of Linguistics

However, there is one aspect in which they seem equal, both for a neutral observer of their work and for an evaluation of their correspondence on this issue, i.e. the role as historians of linguistics. As historians of linguistics and interpreters of other linguists' theories, they are on a par with each other, though with different experiences. They have both, on several occasions, given accounts of the History of Linguistics, e.g. RJ (1973k) *Main Trends in the Science of Language* and EFJ (1975b) *Trends in Phonological Theory. A Historical Introduction*. The symmetry is reflected in their correspondence. In the first letter (March 3, 1949) EFJ writes:

I have the plan of giving a sketch of the differences between “cene-matics” and the other phonemic theories (the Prague school, the London school, the Americans) with some concrete examples to show the different results of the analysis” (letter 1, March 3, 1949).

RJ answers (March 14, 1949):

As for your mention of the theories of the Prague School and the Americans, I still less believe in the existence of such schools. America presents a great variety of approaches and some Yale linguists are erroneously considered in Europe to represent the American linguistic doctrine. It is rather an interesting but not at all typical minority. And in the linguistic life in such American important centers as Harvard, New York, or San Francisco, you will find almost no traces of the influence of this group. I feel still more that the notion of “Prague School” is an artificial abstraction. I feel almost nothing in common with Mukařovský, no common denominator between Vachek and Havránek, etc. Trubetzkoy’s “psychologism” often considered in international literature as a mark of the Prague School was emphatically refuted from the beginning, by almost all Prague phonemicists (letter 2, March 14, 1949).

EFJ comments (March 25, 1949):

You are certainly right that here in Europe the Yale school is generally considered as rather representative of American linguistics. It is difficult to get an objective knowledge of American linguistics. Before the war and during the war there has not been much contact. – Now it is better, and we get several American periodicals now (letter 3, March 25 1949).

The tone in these paragraphs reflects different experiences, but not so much different status.

The History of linguistics turns up again in different situations. RJ (May 20, 1966) thanks EFJ for her excellent papers on Hjelmslev and Diderichsen (obituaries), while she is disappointed that he does not succeed in writing about Hjelmslev. RJ was the president (chosen by Hjelmslev) of the international council of *Acta Linguistica*,

and he was a friend of Hjelmslev who had also helped him in his flight to Denmark, so it would have made good sense if he had written some words on the occasion of Hjelmslev's death.

In 1973 RJ asks EFJ for the dates of the Danish voice physiologist and phonetician Jørgen Forchhammer (1873-1963), because he is studying the correspondence between Trubetzkoy and the Dane. EFJ replies that she has a letter to Forchhammer from Trubetzkoy. RJ published this letter, from 1932, in which Trubetzkoy gives a detailed response to Forchhammer's sharp criticism of the Prague division between phonology and phonetics (RJ 1975h: 457-462). EFJ in addition writes that she has a letter to herself from Trubetzkoy from the year of his death, probably the last extant letter written by Trubetzkoy (published in (RJ 1975h: 466) - EFJ thus gets a part in the *History of Linguistics*, even before the Second World War.

Finally, EFJ's historical review of phonology in the 20th century is very much appreciated by RJ (letter 84, November 3, 1975), who writes that he is "very touched by your attitude to my research work." He further comments on EFJ's long chapter on generative phonology as follows:

I believe that the main merit of the transformationalists lies in a more consistent and more comprehensive application of the paradigmatic axis to syntactic problems. As to their phonology, it seems to me rather a regression to a mechanistic and cumbersome approach and an eradication of the important distinction between morpho-phonological and intrinsically phonological structuration (letter 84, November 11, 1975).

EFJ (November 17, 1975) answers that she agrees completely with him in his characterization of generative phonology.

For several decades generative phonology with its morphophonemic point of view and its focus on the relationship between phonology and syntax (Chomsky and Halle 1968) took over the dominating role. Generative phonology also changed the definitions of distinctive features, giving almost exclusively articulatory definitions, leaving aside the acoustic and auditory ones, and at the same time increasing the number of features in the descriptions. Morris

Halle of course incarnates the link between Jakobsonian distinctive features and generative phonology.

Purnell and Raimy (2015: 523-524) emphasize that three important claims of distinctive feature theory, elaborated in a comprehensive form by RJ and his collaborators, have remained generally agreed upon. The first claim is that phonemes are made of distinctive features that cannot be further decomposed. The second claim is that there is a finite set of features applying to all speech sounds. The third claim, and one that has faced various challenges, is that features are essentially binary or oppositional. Some recent approaches, e.g. by Elan Dresher 2009, have directly referred to a sample of RJ presentations as important examples of theories based on a “contrastive hierarchy”. The discussion points in the correspondence between RJ and EFJ thus not only have relevance for the history but also for the contemporary state of phonology. The aspirations of RJ and the critical points which EFJ raises are still alive today as real challenges for the discipline of phonology.

In the correspondence reprinted and annotated below, the reader meets two leading representatives of phonology. The letters give a personal dimension to a field in which the usual scholarly articles are often devoid of personal content. They also show the tension between RJ’s visionary approach and EFJ’s insistence on being faithful to the phonetic facts. Further, they show how the discussions of the relationship between phonology and phonetics are related to the linguistic community’s life as it evolves in congresses and academic institutions. The correspondence also reflects the connections between RJ and the competing Hjelmslev-dominated structuralism in Copenhagen. Finally, the reader often gets interesting background information concerning the general societal development.

8. Appendix. The organizational framework for structural linguistics: International Congresses, Linguistic Circles and Linguistic Journals.

RJ and EFJ were writing their letters at a time when structural linguistics was being established as different from the various philologies, notably Indo-European philology, which until then had been identical with the general study of language. This entailed creating various networks for collaboration and/or competition. RJ was a master in such matters and one of the merits of the correspondence is that we may have a glimpse of his work behind the stage. In the following we describe the various arenas.

The network of linguists is established by different means, i.e. international congresses, linguistic/scientific societies/clubs/circles and scientific journals. At *congresses* links between linguists could be forged, reinforced or broken and consensus could be created on important research strategic points and goals. An important advantage in establishing, taking over and publishing a *journal* was that you would get access to the most recent research (through the paper proposals), that you could exchange with other journals and that you would get books for reviewing, thereby in fact creating a reference library which was up to date. Books were an important asset for professionals and students alike (Gregersen 1991, 2: 103f.). Finally, *circles* were the mundane means of creating collaboration between more or less like-minded researchers locally. They also acted as local hubs for welcoming guests from abroad and thus became an important instrument for international exchange.

In the following, we shall present some examples of congresses, journals and circles which are relevant for the correspondence between RJ and EFJ, first the international organizing, then the more locally based. For the International Congresses of Linguists and the International Congresses of Phonetic Sciences we mention the participation of the two correspondents and of Hjelmslev who is by far the most frequently mentioned person in the correspondence.

8.1 *International Congresses of Linguists*

8.1.1 *1st International Congress of Linguists*³⁶

The first International Congress of Linguists was held in The Hague in 1928. It was the purpose to unite, for the first time, linguists from different branches of the field and to discuss a number of issues together. The initiative to the congress came from the professors Jos. Schrijnen (1869-1938), professor at the Catholic University of Nijmegen and Christianus Uhlenbeck (1866-1951), emeritus professor from the University of Leiden.

The congress was scheduled to last from the 10th to the 15th of April 1928. In July 1927, the group of organizers, with Uhlenbeck as president and Schrijnen as secretary-general sent a letter to a large number of linguists from different countries to announce their plan. They stated that the goal of the congress would be for linguists to meet each other in order to discuss the interests of the science with the aim of finding an agreement on a number of practical questions. They wrote that the questions within the language sciences were becoming more and more general, multiple fields of research approached each other and were thus on the route to becoming one general linguistics. In the invitation, the congress is explicitly described as an alternative to the philological congresses, where general linguistic problems had been treated only “fragmentarily” (*Actes du Premier Congrès International de Linguistes, La Haye du 10-15 avril 1928*. 1930: v-vii, Mojet 2018).

Schrijnen and his collaborators established a very robust organizational concept which all the linguistic congresses in the subsequent three decades inherited more or less in its entirety (Mohrmann 1949). To structure congress proceedings, Schrijnen and Uhlenbeck sent out six practical problems, mostly concerning terminology and fundamental research methods for their discipline, and of a suitable general character. The addressees were invited to respond with motivated propositions. These were also sent to a

36. The description of this first congress is mainly based on the Proceedings (*Actes du Premier Congrès International de Linguistes, La Haye du 10-15 avril 1928*. 1930) and Mojet (2018) but see also Mohrmann (1949) and Sterkenburg (2012).

“rapporteur” and for each problem, the “rapporteur” elaborated a reasoned report. Together with these reports, the propositions (42 in total) were once again distributed to the participants before the event, i.e. as the preparation for the congress itself. During the days of the congress, there were five plenary sessions and a number of separate sessions. Every session had a president and a secretary. The plenary sessions would decide which groups should get together for separate discussions. The discussions of the separate sessions were subsequently presented again at a plenary session. It was thus a working congress structured to reach general conclusions and consensus. All notes and reports from the congress were collected and edited by a specially appointed committee. The *Actes du Premier Congrès de Linguistes. Tenu à la Haye du 10-15 Avril 1928* were published in 1930 in Leiden (*Actes du Premier Congrès International de Linguistes, La Haye du 10-15 avril 1928*. 1930: vii, Gregersen 1991, 1: 207, Mojet 2018).

The congress was held 12 years after the *Cours de Linguistique Générale*, a posthumous work of Ferdinand de Saussure (1857-1913), had been published based on students’ notes in 1916 by Charles Bally (1865-1947) and Albert Sechehaye (1870-1946). “The *Cours* set out a new theoretical framework which became influential in the discipline of general linguistics. One main point of this framework, the principle of a synchronic study of language, was already a trend among scholars of general linguistics of which Saussure’s work became an important part” (Mojet 2018). We may place the establishment of and the endeavours of the congress within the context of a general turn within the discipline towards a synchronic study of language.

The congress established a permanent international committee – now known as the CIPL “Comité International Permanent des Linguistes” – consisting of a general secretary and ten other members. The permanent committee’s task was to organize an international congress every three years and to appoint a president for the congress.

8.1.2 Subsequent congresses

The First International Congress of Linguists marked the end of the period of *reception* of the *Cours* and inaugurated its constitution as

heritage, a common patrimony (synchrony/diachrony, langue/parole, the arbitrariness of the sign, value) open to the plurality of interpretations of the different linguistic schools (Puech 2015: 7). The second congress was organized in Geneva by the Saussurian scholars Bally and Sechehaye in 1931. With the choice of Saussure's city of birth, the scene was set to give him a particular place in the contemporary history of linguistics. At the congress you saw an official tribute to Saussure as the main figure in the new orientation of linguistics (Bally in *Actes du Deuxième Congrès International de Linguistes, Genève 25-29 Aout 1931*. 1933: 29), and as the forerunner for both the Geneva School and the Prague School (Schrijnen in *Actes du Deuxième Congrès International de Linguistes, Genève 25-29 Aout 1931*. 1933: 38).

At this The Second International Congress of Linguists, the central members of the Prague School were important speakers. While these scholars had tentatively presented themselves as a group at the first congress in The Hague, now the Prague School confidently took center stage with their program of practicing structuralism (Mojet 2018). At this congress also Hjelmslev participated and thus had the opportunity to contact RJ and other members of the Linguistic Circle of Prague to get advice about the organization and also in order to establish from the start a close cooperation between the Prague Circle and the Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen which he initiated after his return from the congress.

Also at the Third International Congress, at Rome in 1933, the Prague School had a prominent role, thus a central part of the secretary-general's report in the preliminary session was dedicated to Prague phonology. RJ participated, while neither EFJ nor Hjelmslev did (*Atti del III Congresso Internazionale dei Linguisti (Roma, 19-26 settembre 1933)*, 1935: 15-16). At the Fourth International Congress, held in Copenhagen in 1936, RJ presented a paper on phonology, Hjelmslev one on morphology, EFJ did not participate because of sickness. The programmed Fifth Congress in Brussels (1939) was not held because of the outbreak of the Second World War; however, the preliminary material to the congress was published in 1939.

The Prague Linguistic Circle had had a prominent role at the first four congresses, before the Second World War. This situation was changed at the Sixth Congress, Paris 1948. The Prague Circle

had lost its three most important members, Trubetzkoy and Mathesius had died, RJ was in the USA. It could have become “his congress”, but for various reasons he did not go to Paris at all. RJ had prepared a report for one of the four plenary sessions, but it was read by John Lotz. EFJ refers to RJ’s report in letter 8 below from July 28, 1949. Hjelmslev also gave a report in a plenary session. The Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen had made a thorough preparation to the congress and sent a large delegation (including EFJ), but in spite of these efforts it did not have a dominating role at the congress (Gregersen 1991, 2: 2ff., 172ff). Neither RJ, nor EFJ, nor Hjelmslev attended the Seventh Congress, London 1952.

At the Eighth Congress, Oslo 1957, all three participated, each with a report in a plenary session. “On a statistical basis, one of the most copiously treated subjects appears to have been [experimental phonetics and acoustical engineering]”, as Velten (1960: 516) writes in his review of the proceedings. On this theme, he further quotes EFJ’s report³⁷. RJ reported in another main session on typology, with the contribution “Typological studies and their contribution to Historical comparative linguistics”. Hjelmslev reported in a session on the question whether meaning can be structured. A Swedish participant, Eva Gårding, is quoted above for the description of RJ as “the King” and EFJ as “the Queen” of the congress (See Skytte 2016: 64). This congress is important for the correspondence, since RJ and EFJ here resume their contact and afterwards their correspondence after a break of 4-5 years, and since RJ, without reference, quotes EFJ’s report (see section 6.2.3. above).

The Ninth Congress was at MIT, Mass., at RJ’s home ground. However it was the 33 years old Noam Chomsky, appointed plenary speaker at the congress, who dominated the scene.

RJ attended the Tenth Congress in Bucharest (1967), EFJ the Twelfth Congress in Vienna (1977), however this arena has less importance for their correspondence in this period.

37. See Introduction: the sections 1 and 6.2.3.

8.2 *International Congresses of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhSs)*

As an, not officially planned, offshoot of the First International Congress of Linguists was formed an International Society of Experimental Phonetics which held its first Congress at Bonn from June 10 to 15, 1930.³⁸ A second one was planned for 3-7 July 1932 at Amsterdam, however, the organizers decided to make the sphere of activity much more extensive and to have the phonetic sciences treated in the widest sense. In the end, the result was the First International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, including the First meeting of the *Internationale Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Phonologie*, the latter was a construction spearheaded by the Prague Circle (see below, 8.3).³⁹

While the organizers of the first International Congress of Linguists had an explicit idea of strengthening a development towards an autonomous science, “general linguistics”, an idea furthered by the connection to the *Cours* (see section 8.1. above), the situation was different at the congresses of ICPhSs. Here there was an agreement concerning the object, i.e. “speech sound”, but the organizers deliberately welcomed approaches from many different sciences. The ICPhSs congress was not structured around selected problems and “rapporteurs”, but more loosely structured according to fields connected to different sciences: physiology of speech and voice, the development of speech and voice, anthropology of speech and voice, phonology, linguistic psychology, pathology of speech and voice, comparative physiology of the sounds of animals, musicology. The appointed Permanent Council reflected the same division with representatives of the different fields (RJ did participate at the congress, EFJ and Hjelmslev did not).

The second congress of phonetic sciences was at London in 1935; here Hjelmslev and Uldall presented their new, ‘provocative’ theory (see pp.21-22 above): in fact, RJ sent a letter to Hjelmslev in which

38. Zwirner (1982) has emphasized that already in 1914 an International Congress of Experimental Phonetics was held in Hamburg, so altogether we have three “first” congresses in phonetics, with invitations from different organizers/organizations.

39. The paragraph above is mainly based on *Proceedings of the International Congress of Phonetic Sciences. First meeting of the Internationale Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Phonologie. Amsterdam. 3-8 July 1932. 1933.*

he asked the Danish linguist to participate in the session of the *Internationale Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Phonologie* at the congress. RJ and EFJ did not participate.

The first two congresses managed to bring together people with very different background, but as EFJ (1984: 5) writes: “you feel a certain tension in the reports of the discussion.” In contrast to the CIPL organized congresses you did not have a common theoretical heritage like the *Cours*.⁴⁰ At the third congress at Ghent, 1938 (where RJ and EFJ met each other, and also Hjelmslev participated), there “was a real breakthrough in the understanding between phonologists and phoneticians” (EFJ 1984: 5). At this congress you also see an increase in papers dealing with acoustic phonetics, from 5% in 1935 to 17% in 1938.

It was a difficult task to resume these congresses after the Second World War. The Chairman of the Permanent Council since the first congress, J. van Ginneken, died in 1945 and under his successor E. Blanquaert “attempts to have a fourth congress, in conjunction with the International Congress of Anthropology at Brussels [in 1948], were only attended with partial success” (Kaiser, in *Manual of Phonetics*. 1957: IX), see also letter 3 of March 25, 1949 below. In the intervening period those members of the Permanent Council of ICPhS who attended the International Congresses of Linguists held meetings during these congresses⁴¹. In the organization’s problematic years in the first part of the fifties three central protagonists were Louise Kaiser, Alf Sommerfelt and RJ, from about 1957-58 also Zwirner and EFJ (as described in sections 5 and 6.2.3 above). The congresses were taken up again only in 1961 (Helsinki), 1964 (Münster), 1967 (Prague) and since then every four years. In 1979, it was at Copenhagen, organized by EFJ and her team.

In the correspondence, the congresses of phonetic sciences have a central place in the years 1957-61, and then in the period up to the Copenhagen Congress in 1979. RJ did not participate after 1961, while EFJ continued to participate regularly at the congresses, and

40. For the first two congresses, see also pp. 8-9 above.

41. For example at the 7th International Congress of Linguists, London 1952, see 6.2.3.

was a member of the Permanent Council until 1983. At the 1983 congress, she delivered the opening address. Hjelmslev participated only at the second and third congresses.

8.3 Internationale Phonologische Arbeitsgemeinschaft / International Association for Phonology (Phonemics).

At the Phonological Meeting, 1930, organized by the Prague Linguistic Circle, it was decided to create the *Internationale Phonologische Arbeitsgemeinschaft* (the idea of this organization can be traced back to informal talks at the First International Congress of Linguists, The Hague, 1928) (Ehlers 2005: 105-106). At the Second International Congress of Linguists, Geneva 1931, it was decided to establish informal relations between the CIPL and this new organization (*Actes du Deuxième Congrès International des Linguistes, Genève 25-29 Aout 1931*, 1933: 245). Then in 1932 it had its First meeting during the Congress of Phonetic Sciences (see above). The number of members grew quickly and in 1936 it was decided to give the organization a new format. At a special assembly at the International Congress of Linguists at Copenhagen, an International Association for Phonology (Phonemics) was organized, with Vendryes as president, and Trubetzkoy and RJ as secretaries. The Association was to exist only as a totality of separate national groups, holding normally a joint general meeting along with the International Congresses of Linguists (Whatmough & Twaddell 1937).

8.4 UNESCO

A new international organization with a certain importance for the economy of linguistics appears after the Second World War, i.e. the UNESCO, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The linguists had a close contact to UNESCO through one of its founders, the Norwegian linguist Alf Sommerfelt, a close friend of RJ, who was the Secretary-General of CIPL (see above) from 1946 until his death by an accident in 1965. In 1944 he was elected president of a commission appointed to prepare the foundation of UNESCO; from 1946 to 1953 he was a member of its

administrative council and in 1948 its vice-president. CIPL took part in the international Council of Philosophy and Humanistic Studies, which was established in 1948 and was affiliated to UNESCO; in 1949 Sommerfelt became vice-president of this council.⁴² The International Congresses of Linguists in 1948, 1952 and 1957 were financially supported by UNESCO. Sommerfelt's relation to UNESCO is important for understanding the letter 31 of August 2, 1958 below.

8.5 Geographically rooted organizations

In the following we will shortly present some locally based linguistic organizations which are relevant for our correspondence.

8.5.1 Linguistic Circles in Europe

In the 20th century “linguistic circles” became an important organizational form. RJ was strongly involved in the creation of four of them. It is characteristic that the Circles are formed by “self-consciously established groups of scholars who crossed institutional affiliations to discuss shared interests and support each others’ (and sometimes, the group’s communal) work” (Thomas 2014).

The Moscow Linguistic Circle

The first meeting in the Moscow Linguistic Circle, with seven participants, was held in the dining room of RJ's parents, in 1915. RJ served as its President until he left Moscow for Prague in 1920. According to RJ, it was an association of young explorers who inquired into “the burning questions of linguistics, conceived as the science devoted to language in its various functions, including first and foremost the analysis of poetic language” (RJ 1981, in SW VII, 1982: 280). The members also conducted urban fieldwork by collecting dialect and ethnographic data in the vicinity of Moscow. The findings were taken up in lively discussions at the meetings of the Circle. The Moscow Circle had 34 active participants in 1920. It stopped in 1924 (Thomas 2014). The period of the Moscow Circle is

42. Stammerjohann 2009 on Sommerfelt.

referred to in letter 51 from EFJ (April 30, 1964, below), where she comments on RJ's description of it in RJ 1962c.

The Linguistic Circle of Prague

In 1926 RJ, Mathesius and four other participants founded the Prague Linguistic Circle, at a meeting held in Mathesius' study. The group set up more meetings, which quickly accelerated in frequency. In 1930 the Circle had 17 members, Mathesius, RJ and Trubetzkoy being the most prominent ones. Members took turns presenting their work, although visitors from abroad also contributed. It was an external event, however, that famously cemented the group's solidarity, i.e. the great success at the First International Congress of Linguists in The Hague in 1928. With new self-consciousness, the Praguians began to publicize their ideas locally and at scholarly meetings throughout Europe. They published 8 volumes of the series *Travaux du Cercle Linguistique de Prague* in the period 1929-1939, and further in 1935 started the journal *Slovo a slovesnost* (Word and Literature), which was stopped by the Nazis in 1943. Both publications have later been resumed (Thomas 2014, Raynaud 1990: 127-184). In this connection we should also mention the "Bulletin d'information" of the *Association Internationale pour les études phonologiques/ Internationale Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Phonologie*, n.1 (1932), n.2 (1935), (Raynaud 1990: 175). RJ discusses the very notion of the Prague School in letter 2 below, March 14, 1949.

The Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen

In 1931, the Danish linguist Louis Hjelmslev who had met RJ and his colleagues at conferences took the initiative to try to replicate the Prague Circle in Copenhagen. There were ten founding members, and in 1935 ca. 15 active participants out of ca. 50 members (Gregersen 1991, 2: 72ff., EFJ 1992a: 3). The Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen was modeled on the Prague group in several ways: it was officially autonomous (although most members were affiliated with the University of Copenhagen); meetings were held in homes or offices and comprised the presentation of papers followed by discussion allotting an equal amount of time for discussion as for presentation; the group's membership was small and its organizational

hierarchy minimal; participation was by a member's own initiative, outside any institutional superstructure (EFJ 1992a, Thomas 2014). While the leading personalities in the Prague Circle fundamentally agreed and collaborated with each other, the Copenhagen Circle in its first decade had two leading personalities in strong competition, viz. Viggo Brøndal and Louis Hjelmslev (Gregersen 1991, 2: 72-III). After the death of Viggo Brøndal in 1942, Louis Hjelmslev remained the unrivaled and unchallenged main theorist, and the Glossematic theory which he had developed together with Hans Jørgen Uldall got a more dominant role in the life of the Circle. The Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen published the *Bulletin du Cercle Linguistique de Copenhague* (1934-1970)⁴³. From 1937 to 1939, RJ and the Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen tried to start a co-sponsored new journal *Acta Linguistica*, but with the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1939 they had to abandon the idea of a joint publication, and the Copenhagen Circle had to publish it alone, with a first issue in 1939. It is still published today; however, in 1965 the name was changed to *Acta Linguistica Hafniensia*. The journal has a central role in the correspondence in the first years after Hjelmslev's death in 1965. On the model of Prague, the Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen also has published *Travaux du Cercle Linguistique de Copenhague* (TCLC) since 1944. Volume V in this series, *Recherches structurales 1949, Interventions dans le débat glossématique*, a festschrift for Hjelmslev on the occasion of his 50 years birthday, became the TCLC's breakthrough. This publication has a central role in the start of the RJ-EFJ correspondence, see letter 1 below. The Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen, *Acta Linguistica Hafniensia* and *Travaux du Cercle Linguistique de Copenhague* still exist.

The Geneva School

In his plenary speech at the Second International Congress of Linguists, Geneva 1931, Schrijnen had talked about the central role of both the "Prague School" and the "Geneva School". Secheyay (1927) had used the latter term, and mentions in particular two

43. The idea of a Bulletin probably was taken from the *Bulletin de la Société de Linguistique de Paris*. Later the Bulletin was taken up again, in a short form, as a supplement to the *Acta Linguistica Hafniensia*.

members, Charles Bally (1865-1947) and himself, Albert Sechehaye (1870-1946), but also Sergej (or Serge) Karcevskij (1884-1955) as representatives. The “Geneva School” was related to the University of Geneva, but only got a proper organization in 1940-41 with the foundation of *Société Genèveoise de Linguistique* and the journal *Cahiers Ferdinand de Saussure*. The journal is still published, but since 1957 the Geneva organization has the name *Cercle Ferdinand de Saussure* (Godel 1961: 294).

Germany

In Germany, structuralism did not get much traction before the Second World War. Gerd Simon recognizes Eberhard Zwirner as the founder of German structuralism (Ehlers 2005: 260). He also has an important role concerning the relationship between EFJ and RJ, and it is relevant to mention two journals where he was active as an editor: *Archiv für vergleichende Phonetik* (1937-1943) which he edited together with Diedrich Westermann, and *Phonetica*, which he founded in 1957.

8.5.2 USA

The Linguistic Society of America

Descriptive linguistics received much recognition at the American universities during the 1920s. In 1924, the Linguistic Society of America was constituted, with the journal *Language* as its publication. The Linguistic Society organizes annual meetings, and during summers the *Linguistic Institute* with a more than a month long program. In letter 21 (December 11, 1951), we learn about EFJ’s participation in the Linguistic Society’s Summer Meeting of 1952. In letter 48 (November 11, 1961), we hear that EFJ has been invited to teach at the Linguistic Institute 1962. For different reasons, she was not able to accept this invitation. In 1976, however, she taught at the LSA Linguistic Institute (see letters 87 and 89 (May 10 and July 12 1976)). Since very few Europeans taught at those occasions, this tells us something about her standing in the field of linguistics in the 60’s and 70’s.

The Linguistic Circle of New York

In 1941 RJ immigrated to New York. In America, he struggled to find employment and to create a linguistic collaborative milieu in which he could feel at home. He tried to draw colleagues into a working group on the familiar model. By design, the Linguistic Circle of New York of 1943 shared many characteristics of the Moscow and Prague groups: a focus on language and literature; a local orientation, delimited by an association with the host city; voluntary membership, not tied to any institutional affiliation; a relatively flat hierarchical structure; meetings dominated by presentation and discussion of members' and guests' original works; and, soon, a house publication (the journal *Word*, from 1945). However for RJ it never obtained the status as the circles of Moscow or Prague. He started out as co-Vice President in 1945, but by 1949 receded to one of about 10 members of the Executive Committee. By 1958 RJ's name disappears from the list of officers. His last publication in *Word* dates to 1955. The New York Circle did not meet informally in members' living rooms or offices but favored institutional settings as auditoriums (and had 100 members in 1944), and while the Moscow, Prague and Copenhagen Circles produced explicitly collective works, there is no record of a convergent "New York School" of language study (Thomas 2014). Later, however, a distinct Columbia School, focused on the work of William Diver (1921-1995), has had a visible presence. The Columbia School is in fact concerned with many of the themes of European structuralism which were not received by the dominant currents of American structuralism, notably the sign.

8.6 The organizational framework and the present correspondence

The correspondence between EFJ and RJ reflects how important it is to participate in the international congresses, both as participants but also as organizers. Many letters also reflect the importance of the journals, both as a place for publishing, but also as a means to get books for reviewing and to exchange copies with other journals. However, journals need funding, and this is also often reflected in the correspondence. The correspondence shows two linguists deeply involved in networking.

It is a commonplace to note that authors' correspondence with publishers invariably involve money as their main topic. It is equally important to realize that when creating a discipline such as general linguistics, fund raising becomes a means for making networking work and for creating consensus or dissent a *sine qua non*. In this respect, nothing much has changed in the life of the discipline. From another perspective, everything has changed and this correspondence will give the reader an acute sense of a heroic past when the discipline was in making.

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Jakobson, Roman & Fischer-Jørgensen, Eli. MIT and KB. In part 1, the INTRODUCTION, it is referred to simply as *the correspondence*, and the letters are labelled with number and date. The detailed information will be found in part 6: the correspondence in the book and in part 5: List of letters and documents, below.

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44. For systematic reasons we keep 1957 as Skytte 2016. The Actes seem, however to have been published in 1958.

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PART 2

The Roman Jakobson Papers at MIT: an Outlook

Giuseppe D'Ottavi

In 1980, Roman Jakobson (RJ), who was by then Professor Emeritus at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Cambridge), handed a package containing about 200 letters and postcards over to the MIT Archives and Special Collections, the bulk of which consisting of 196 letters that Prince N.S. Trubetzkoy (1890-1938) sent to RJ between 1920 and 1938. This material, the core of RJ's *N.S. Trubetzkoy's Letters and Notes* (1975), was the first nucleus of the Roman Jakobson Papers now held at MIT Archives (ID MC.0072)¹.

In the following years, five further accessions took place: 1983 (audio tape recordings of the Symposium and Memorial Service held on 12 November 1982 in memory of RJ), 1984 (two accessions, including correspondence, reprints, some manuscripts related to the preparation of *Selected Writings*, rare books, oversize posters, phonograph records), 1985 and 1986 (correspondence with publishers, lecture notes, printed material, including published volumes)².

Today, after a seventh and last accession (recorded in 2012 as coming from the Jakobson Foundation and intended to complete

1. Beyond some writings by Trubetzkoy (the article "On Racism" and the Tolstoj lecture, both dating from 1935), a list of his courses at the University of Vienna (1923-1938) and some notes from different Russian academics, the book also publishes - in the original - eighteen letters from Trubetzkoy to different linguistic personalities, including N.N. Durnovo (1876-1937), V.G. Bogoraz-Tan (1865-1936), A. Meillet (1866-1936), J.J. Mikkola (1866-1946), J. Forchhammer (1873-1953) and a letter addressed to EFJ in 1938 (see letter 77, EFJ to Stephen Rudy, 01.02.1973; letter 79, RJ to EFJ, 06.03.1973, and letter 95, RJ to EFJ, 13.12.1977). Most of these documents are now located in Box 123 and Box 199b, Folders 49-63.

2. The constitution of RJ's collection is alluded to by K. Pomorska in a letter to EFJ of 08.06.1983 (not included in this volume).

the preceding ones with the rest of the material still in possession of the Foundation), the Roman Jakobson Papers at MIT appear to us among the most varied and rich collections linked to a single personality in the panorama of 20th century humanities.

Documents are in several languages, Russian and English being the most represented; writings in Czech, Polish, German, French and Italian are also present. The time span covered is even more extended than RJ's already long life: the oldest documents date back to the late 1880s (they concern RJ's family), while the most recent, relating to the affairs of the Jakobson Trust (actual denomination of the Jakobson Foundation) slightly exceed 1986, the year of the death of RJ's last wife, Krystyna Pomorska (1928-1986).

Between these two extremities lies a gathering whose extent (141.5 cubic feet, as detailed by the MIT Archives) and typology (manuscripts, drafts, galley proofs, lectures and course notes as well as students' papers, notebooks, notecards, typescripts, roneos, mimeographed works, correspondence, letters of recommendation, offprints and entire volumes, engravings, photographs, newspaper articles, multimedia records, diaries, address books etc) testify, first and foremost, to a very keen archival consciousness. The whole range of RJ's interests, research programmes and (not only scholarly) production is documented (linguistics, phonetics, poetics, philology, Slavic mythology and folklore, literature, cognitive studies, art and cinema) as well as his very role as a central orchestrator of academic life and engineer of scholarly institutions. In this way, the collection reflects, albeit sometimes unequally³, the entire course of RJ's life and career, a career that is embedded squarely within the general history (and geography) of the Humanities.

Stephen Rudy (1949-2003), Professor of Russian and Slavic Languages at New York University, a long-date friend and collaborator of RJ, was responsible for the first arrangement of the material. A team of MIT archivists and Eastern European language experts - Jana Heffernan, Dana Hajdu, Victor Shteynbok and Donna Webber - carried out the cataloguing, which was completed in Septem-

3. The early Russian years (1896-1920) and the first part of the Czech period (1920-1939) are relatively scarcely represented in the collection.

ber 1986. Impressive for its care and clarity, the resulting *Guide to the Papers of Roman Jakobson* (available in a unique exemplar at the MIT Hayden Library stacks)⁴ not only represents an excellent entry point to the collection in its entirety but also stands as a truly comprehensive study in its own right of the legacy of RJ, the most comprehensive one available to date.

The minimal archival unit is the folder; each folder contains a variable number of printed material or manuscript sheets (none of which, throughout the whole collection, carries an archival numbering) referring to a specific publication project (achieved or not), correspondent, institution, topic or simple occasion. With the exception of multimedia or oversize items, folders are filed into 137 cardboard boxes, in turn divided into 12 Series according to broad thematic criteria. Within Series, documents are generally organized chronologically (in the case of writings for instance, or official documents) or alphabetically (this being the case with the voluminous RJ correspondence).

Series 1 to 5 collect documents concerning RJ's life and academic career and Series 7, 9 and 10 gather essays (both published and unpublished), reprints, reviews and newspaper articles written by others about RJ and his work. Series 11 holds a large set of research material in the form of an indefinite number of small autograph cards bearing bibliographic records and reading notes that RJ never stopped producing and, in fact, used and reused throughout his life.

Documents relating to RJ's scholarly published and unpublished writings have all been gathered in Series 6 and classified by means of a reference to the bibliography compiled by S. Rudy in 1990. Here, almost every single RJ work (press articles, reviews, essays, books...) is accompanied by any sort of item that preceded or followed it, or is related to it in some way. Such constellated material has been filed in the following order, as available: first edition, reprint, later editions, translations; galley proofs, final manuscript and/or typescripts; autograph drafts, research and working notes;

4. Shelfmark P85.J3.R6 1986. A revised and updated version (2012) is available online at <https://libraries.mit.edu/archives/research/collections/collections-mc/mc72.html>.

external sources and documentation; lecture notes, handouts and texts; related correspondence and any material concerning the life of the publication (including reviews and returning comments by scholars, friends or general audience). This principle of textual genetic arrangement *avant la lettre* is due to RJ himself, who had planned and implemented it in order to prepare the publication of his *Selected Writings* (1962-1988). Among the most exhaustively documented enterprises, we found the work on the Slavic epic *Tale of Igor's Campaign* (Grégoire, Jakobson, Szeftel 1948) – whose documentation even includes the letters with which RJ sent copies of the volume to several library directors (and their replies as well)⁵ and – of special relevance for the present work – also *Preliminaries to Speech Analysis* (Jakobson, Fant, Halle 1963)⁶. For this book in particular – an ambitious attempt to design a unique descriptive model for phonemic features for all languages – we are able to follow the complex editorial gestation: from the project of an analytical description of the phonology of contemporary Russian language started up at Harvard (1950)⁷, to the first edition (published as *Technical Report* n. 13 of the MIT Acoustics Laboratory in January 1952) up to the very last, completely revised edition published in 1963. Likewise, each phase (conception, development, writing and re-writing, up to proofreading), spanning over more than thirty years, of one of the pinnacles of Jakobsonian production – *The Sound Shape of Language* (1979) – is documented, in this case too, beyond the book's publication date⁸. Series 6 includes also materials related to the compilation of *Selected Writings*, with notes and directions about the arrangement and contents of each volume⁹.

Unpublished works are also filed in the same Series 6: research notes, drafts, courses, conferences and lectures notes testify to unfinished and never published articles or books, even if texts stay – very often – in a fairly advanced state of composition. We find here

5. Boxes 10 and 11.

6. Box 12, Folders 30-46 plus 2 oversize folders. Background material for the *Preliminaries* includes drawings, plotter outputs and x-rays.

7. Box 2, Folders 55-59.

8. Box 25, Folders 96-106; Box 26, Folders 1-55.

9. Box 30, Folders 44-64.

for instance the full typed transcription of ten lectures, plus the opening address, given in Tokyo on the occasion of the II International Seminar in Linguistic Theory (July 1967)¹⁰ or the transcription (reviewed by RJ himself) of a long interview broadcast on French television between 1972 and 1974¹¹, whose recording is presently missing and in which RJ proved his excellence in self-narrative, a genre dear to him.

Series 8 has been assembled by bringing together the general correspondence, i.e. not linked to a specific project, publication or occasion. Given the temporal scope and the names concerned – Leonard Bloomfield (1887-1949), Umberto Eco (1932-2016), Jacques Lacan (1901-1981), Claude Lévi-Strauss (1908-2009), Vladimir Nabokov (1899-1977) among others –, this Series alone represents nothing less than an essential source for the history of linguistics and the humanities in general.

Finally, Series 12 covers materials from the last accession, being inventoried, as for now, in a still expeditious way. Here, beyond photographic documentation or travel files, drawings, VHS tapes or audiocassettes, are found some of the confidential documents as well as newspapers articles testifying to the FBI's suspicion of espionage on the part of RJ which he was involved in during the 1950s¹².

RJ left his personal library to MIT as well. Currently, only a small part of it is recorded as such: queries submitted to MIT Libraries catalogue only return roughly 80 items classified as having belonged to RJ, while an empirical search was able to locate a fairly large amount of volumes bearing his *ex-libris*: works by Émile Benveniste (1902-1976), Otto Jespersen (1860-1943), Daniel Jones (1881-1967), Louis Hjelmslev (1899-1965) as well as of many others, with dedications and/or signs of reading. One item stands out: that is a copy of *Cours de linguistique générale* by Ferdinand de Saussure (1857-1913), with RJ's autograph possession note and signs of reading¹³. Having pos-

10. Box 34, Folders 81-92.

11. *Archives du XX^e siècle* (O.R.T.F) by Jean José Marchand; Box 36, Folders 20-24 and Box 119c, Folder 86.

12. The affair is contextualized and briefly illustrated by Diamond (1992), notably p. 111-137.

13. Shelfmark Institute Archives – Non circulating Collection 1, PS121.S259 1922.

sibly served RJ from Prague times onwards, this exemplar is, as simply as that, the item ultimately responsible for the spread of Structuralism throughout the world. It is not common to be able to link the genesis and the development of an intellectual movement to a single material object: that is exactly the case with the copy of the *Cours* owned by RJ and now part of MIT Libraries collection.

To date, the Roman Jakobson Papers at MIT Archives have been explored to a minimal extent, researchers having approached them on an occasional basis only. Beyond a few generic notices or passing mentions¹⁴, only the correspondence seems to have attracted scholarly attention. Morris Halle (1988) published thirty letters and post-cards (1944-1946) written by Leonard Bloomfield to RJ; Jindřich Toman (1994) edited a certain amount of letters exchanged between RJ and Moscow and Prague personalities (1921-1945) as well as his family¹⁵; Cristina Altman (2015) published twenty-three letters (1945-1968) of J. Mattoso Câmara Jr. (1904-1970) and RJ coming both from MIT Archives and from Mattoso Câmara collection at the Biblioteca da Universidade Católica de Petrópolis (Rio de Janeiro); the great part of the correspondence between RJ and Claude Lévi-Strauss has been recently published in France (2018)¹⁶.

A sole article (Joseph 1989) takes advantage of the textual genetic potential of the collection, untangling the multiple layers of RJ's *Six Lectures on Sound and Meaning* (1978, 1976¹), disclosing RJ's peculiar attitudes before Saussurean lore and finally beautifully demonstrating the historical value of RJ's manuscripts.

This is the second edition (1922) of the book originally published in 1916. On the history of the Russian reception of the *Cours* see Jakobson (1956) and Čudakova and Toddes (1982); Chidichimo and Sofia (2017) have recently shed some light on the topic by means of unpublished archival papers.

14. See for instance Baran, Gidnin, Grinzer, Nikolaeva, Rudy & Shumilova (eds.) (1999) or Thomas (2014).

15. See also Toman (1995) for other documents also coming from MIT collection.

16. Pierre-Yves Testenoire is presently working to complete the edition with further letters coming from MIT Archives, from the manuscripts section of the Bibliothèque nationale de France and from the archives of the Collège de France (Paris). On RJ correspondence see also Morávková (ed.) (1997), Baran (2000), Havránková and Toman (eds.) (2001), Depretto (ed.) (2018).

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PART 3

The Eli Fischer-Jørgensen Papers at KB (Royal Danish Library, Copenhagen)

Viggo Bank Jensen

EFJ twice has handed over collections of scientific papers and correspondences to KB, The Royal Danish Library.

The first one was handed over in 2005: Acc. 2005/99 *Videnskabelig korrespondance* (Scientific correspondence).

This collection consists of 38 cassettes (Ks.). In Ks. 1 there is an overview of the whole collection, in Ks. 1-30 you find correspondence with more than 700 correspondents (in Ks. 15 the correspondence with RJ). In Ks. 30-32, there are letters on specific themes, i.e. Festschrifts, congresses and her book *Trends in Phonological Theory until 1975* (EFJ 1975b). In Ks. 33, you find manuscripts written by Paul Diderichsen, and some of his correspondence. In Ks. 34-38 you find different manuscripts by Louis Hjelmslev, and a large correspondence between EFJ and Hjelmslev, partly divided by subjects. In Ks. 38, you also find various papers concerning Hans Jørgen Uldall. The contents of Ks. 33-38 reflect how EFJ took the responsibility for the heritage of some of the core members of the Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen.

The second collection was handed over in 2009, via Frans Gregersen: Acc. 2009/48 *Videnskabelige papirer, heri papirer af og om blandt andre Paul Diderichsen og Louis Hjelmslev* (Scientific papers, herein papers of and on, among others, Paul Diderichsen and Louis Hjelmslev). It consists of 26 boxes. The larger part of the content consists of EFJ's manuscripts for lessons, presentations and articles. In this collection you find a few letters from RJ.

For about 40 years, EFJ had one or another central function in the Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen, and as a consequence she has also contributed to organizing the Circle's papers. In the archive of the Linguistic Circle at KB (Acc. 2008/17), you find some of the correspondence between EFJ and RJ, i.e. letters concerning Linguistic Circle matters.

PART 4

Editorial principles

Viggo Bank Jensen and Giuseppe D'Ottavi

In this publication, we bring the entire correspondence between Russian born but international Roman Jakobson (1896-1982) (RJ) and the Danish phonetician and general linguist Eli Fischer-Jørgensen (1911-2010) (EFJ), as far as we have been able to track it down at the MIT Archives and Special Collections (Cambridge, Mass.) and at the Royal Danish Library (Copenhagen).

The MIT Archives and Special Collections (Cambridge, Mass.) hold the manuscript heritage of RJ. The main bulk of the correspondence with EFJ is filed under the shelfmark MC.0072, Box 41 Folder 36), but we have found items of the correspondence in several other folders as well, cf below section 5 ‘List of letters and documents’ detailing their provenience. As to the Roman Jakobson archives, cf. above, Part 2: The Roman Jakobson Papers at MIT, an Outlook.

The Royal Danish Library (KB: *Det Kongelige Bibliotek* in Danish) holds two collections of papers by EFJ. The main part of the correspondence with RJ is found in KB Acc. 2005/99, Box 15. KB further keeps a collection of papers from the Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen which contains several items of the correspondence between EFJ and RJ since the letters pertain to Circle matters.

The exact archival details are listed here:

Documents and letters from the Roman Jakobson Papers at MIT Archives within the scope of this edition are scattered throughout the collection. They come from:

- Box 4 Folder 27 (Series 3, Universities - Foreign, “Denmark 1967-1980”);
- Box 5 Folder 34 (Series 4, Conferences and Congresses, “IX In-

ternational Congress of Phonetic Sciences in Copenhagen 1979”);

- Box 5 Folder 35 (Series 4, Conferences and Congresses, “International Congresses of Phonetic Sciences, permanent council, correspondence 1939-1972”);
- Box 12 Folder 44 (Series 6A, Published Writings by Jakobson, “*Preliminaries to Speech Analysis: Correspondence 1948-1961*”);
- Box 39 Folder 24 (Series 8A, General Correspondence, “Unidentified correspondence”);
- Box 39 Folder 37 (Series 8A, General Correspondence, “Acta Linguistica”);
- Box 41 Folder 36 (Series 8A, General Correspondence, “Eli Fischer-Jørgensen; this holds the bulk of the documents);
- Box 48 Folder 27 (Series 8B, Correspondence with Publishers, “Danish Publishers: Other Publishers”).

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen’s letters and documents related to her connection with Roman Jakobson are also scattered through KB archives. For the present edition, we were able to collect them from:

- KB Acc. 2005/99, Box 15 (“Eli Fischer-Jørgensen: Videnskabelig Korrespondence [Scientific Correspondence] I.a”);
- KB Acc. 2008/17, Box 7 (“Lingvistikredsens Arkiv” [Archives of the Linguistic Circle]);
- KB Acc. 2009/48, Box 1, 15, 17 (“Eli-Fischer Jørgensen: Videnskabelige Papirer [Scientific Papers]”)
- KB Acc. 1992/5, Box 100 (“Louis Hjelmslev: Efterladte Papirer [Posthumous Papers]”)

Both correspondents have themselves been active in organizing their archives. They have also both often kept a copy of their letters, so in many cases we have both the original letter and the sender’s copy. In general, there are only small and insignificant differences between original and copy. Based on this fact, we have chosen to bring also the text of those items, where all we have is the sender’s copy. If both versions have survived in the archives, we publish the version kept in the recipient’s archive.

In general, the letters are rather easy to read. The greatest problems

were found in the interpretation of EFJ's autographed phonetic signs. The chronological ordering of the correspondence reveals only a few lacunae, and these seem to consist mainly of postcards or similar brief, informal items. When in a letter there is a reference to an item missing in this book, it is mentioned in a note.

We have numbered the letters with cardinal numbers. We have labelled some letters with cardinal numbers + bis, either because they are enclosed letter copies or because they have a more indirect relevance for the correspondence. Other types of enclosures to a specific letter have been labelled with the relevant letters' cardinal number + enclosed document a/b etc.

Editorial procedures

Sequence Letters are presented chronologically. When the editors supply a dating, the letter appears in sequence according to the presumed date.

Bibliographical note/Header of the letter In the header of each letter is a bibliographical note which gives a description of the letter (e.g. KB Acc 2005/99, Ks.15, Autograph Letter, 139 x 216 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 2 sides). Description of the physical document may include its letterhead, the image on a postcard, and enclosures. This note also includes the postmark.

The ownership of the physical property is given with the designated library abbreviation, MIT/KB, collection name/number and accession information (as shown in the example above). It is thus also marked if the letter transcribed is a copy, (e.g. MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Letter Copy, 215 x 280 mm; non Signed, 1 leaf, 1 side, in the letter August 12, 1949 & KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15, Typed Letter Carbon Copy, 210 x 297 mm; Carbon-Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side, in the letter September 7, 1975).

If we have the recipient's original, but also the sender's copy, we also give accession information concerning the copy, (e.g. MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Letter, 190 x 247 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side. [Copy: KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15]) (letter August 13, 1951).

The bibliographical description indicates whether the letter is handwritten or typed; whether it is a posted letter, an aerogram, a postcard or a telegram; it also indicates the number of leafs and sides, and whether it is signed, initialed (by the sender), or not signed at all. A leaf is a physical piece of paper; a side is a page written on, indicated as recto or verso. A postcard may bear an address on the recto (1 leaf, 1 side) or on the verso (1 leaf, 2 sides).

Recipient/Sender/Place Recipient and Sender (title, name, address) are presented as written in the letter, but placement has been regularized by the editors. The Sender may (partly) be given by a Stamp, a Stamp Header or a University Letterhead; this is marked in the transcription.

Sender address as written in Postcards or on Envelopes is marked by [From].

Recipient address as written in Postcards or on Envelopes is marked by [To:].

Where place is incomplete, editorial emendation is given in square brackets, preceded by a question mark if uncertain.

Date In the transcription, the dates are given as written by the sender, but placement is regularized. If the date, or any portion of it, is incomplete or incorrect, editorial emendation is given in square brackets; if an emended date, or any portion of it, is uncertain, the emendation is preceded by a question mark. When the date of a letter is corrected or derived from internal or external evidence, the rationale for the assigned date or date-range is given in a note; it is a rather rare problem in the correspondence.

Editorial emendation Editorial emendations to the text are supplied only when necessary for the understanding of content. Other than obvious typographical errors (overtypes, space slips, extra spacing, false starts, typos, accidental substitutions), there are no silent emendations. We have made one general exception: when EFJ writes “mean time”, we consistently transcribe as “meantime” instead. EFJ sometimes use English spelling, e.g. “colour”, but is not always consistent. We have not corrected for consistency in such cases.

Placement and indentation of date, address, closing and signature lines are regularized. Paragraph indentations are standardized.

Illegibility Illegibility is noted in square brackets [*iff.*]. Damage to the original manuscript that obscures or obliterates the text is described in a note and is indicated in the text as illegibility.

Signature The closing and signature lines are regularized. An autograph signature or initial can be assumed for an autograph letter; in a typed letter, the notation “{ sender’s name }” indicates a handwritten signature or initial. A typed letter may have both an autograph and a typed signature.

Translation In the correspondence there is only one letter written entirely in a language other than English (Letter 1 bis). In that case we bring the Danish original and an English translation. Translations of passages not written in English will be brought in notes.

A list of major **Transcription Signs and Abbreviations** is found below.

Annotations

In the notes Roman Jakobson is referred to as RJ, and Eli Fischer-Jørgensen as EFJ.

Identification of persons mentioned The first reference gives a person’s full name (including birth name, years of birth and death, and a brief statement of identification, often including a description of the person’s relationship to EFJ or RJ. See further the Index of names.

Dates Approximate dates are preceded by c. (circa) or a question mark. If only the birth year or the death year is known, it is given as e.g (b. 1935) or (1852-?) or (d. 1956).

Titles In editorial material (translations, annotations, appendices), titles are presented with the capitalization and spelling conventions of the original language.

References References to unpublished materials give the archive and manuscript identification of the documents. References to published materials give a full bibliographical citation at the first mention, and a short-title reference thereafter. The Bibliography includes all published materials cited in the text and notes.

Cross-reference Cross-reference that refers back to materials published in the present edition is given by indicating the number and date of the letter and the number of the pertinent note, e.g., see note 3 to letter 1, March 3, 1949, above. References are more rarely given forward, they are then marked with below. It is presumed that most readers will read sequentially; those who wish to pursue a single figure will be able to do so by use of the Index.

List of names A list of all names whether mentioned by the correspondents or by the editors, is brought below as Part 8. In a few cases we have been unable to find the relevant dates. In such cases we use a question mark.

A list of major Transcription Signs and Abbreviations

Rendering of the original text:

<interlinear or marginal inserted text>

~~stroke-out, removed, erased text~~

underlined text

TEXT IN CAPITALS

[conjecture]

[[]] space left blank in ms

Editorial additions:

/2/, /3/...	Page turned
{ }	Enclosed Text is handwritten (in Typed Documents)
[From:]	Sender address as written in the ms (in Postcards or Envelopes)
[it .]	illegible character, word or passage
[Other Hand]	Following Text shows a different Handwriting
[<i>s.d.</i>]	no date
[<i>s.d.n.l</i>]	no date nor place
[<i>sic</i>]	as such in text
[<i>s.l.</i>]	no place
[To:]	Recipient address as written in the ms (in Postcards or Envelopes)

Collections:

MIT MC.0072	Roman Jakobson Papers, MC 72 Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Institute Archives and Special Collections, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
KB	Royal Danish Library, Modern Manuscripts Collection, Copenhagen.

PART 5

List of published Letters and Documents
giving their unique provenience

Giuseppe D'Ottavi

1949

1. EFJ to RJ, 03.03.1949 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36; Copy: KB Acc. 1992/5, Kps. 100)
1. (bis). Fortroligt [Confidential], 02.03.1949 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
2. RJ to EFJ, 14.03.1949 (KB Acc. 1992/5, Kps. 100; Copy: MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
3. EFJ to RJ, 25.03.1949 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
4. RJ to EFJ, 13.06.1949 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
5. EFJ to RJ, 10.07.1949 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
6. EFJ to RJ, 19.07.1949 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
7. RJ to EFJ, 21.07.1949 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
8. EFJ to RJ, 28.07.1949 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
9. RJ to EFJ, 12.08.1949 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
10. EFJ to RJ, 25.08.1949 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
11. EFJ to RJ, 21.09.1949 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
12. RJ to EFJ, 13.10.1949 (KB Acc. 1992/5, Kps. 100; Copy: MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)

1950-1959

13. RJ to EFJ, 01.03.1950 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
14. EFJ to RJ, 09.03.1950 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36; Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
14. (bis) [List of books to be reviewed by RJ in *Acta Linguistica*] (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)

15. RJ to EFJ, 30.07.1950 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15; Copy: MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
16. EFJ to RJ, 07.12.1950 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36; Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
17. EFJ to RJ, 03.03.1951 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
18. RJ to EFJ, 29.03.1951 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15; Copy: MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
19. EFJ to RJ, 24.04.1951 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36; Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
20. EFJ to RJ, 13.08.1951 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36; Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
21. EFJ to RJ, 11.12.1951 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
22. EFJ to RJ, 09.01.1952 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
23. EFJ to RJ, 17.02.1952 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
24. EFJ to RJ, 02.03.1952 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
25. EFJ to RJ, 31.03.1952 (MIT MC.0072 Box 12 Folder 44; Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
26. RJ to EFJ, 07.04.1952 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
27. EFJ to RJ, 06.05.1952 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
28. EFJ to RJ, 17.10.1952 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36; Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
29. EFJ to RJ, 21.12.1952 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36; Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
30. EFJ to RJ, 11.09.1953 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36; Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
31. RJ to EFJ, 02.08.1958 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
32. EFJ to RJ, 08.08.1958 (MIT MC.0072 Box 5 Folder 35; Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
33. EFJ to RJ, 27.11.1958 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36; Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
34. RJ to EFJ, 21.12.1958 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
35. EFJ to RJ, 05.01.1959 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36; Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
36. RJ to EFJ, 24.04.1959 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
37. EFJ to RJ, 27.04.1959 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
38. EFJ to RJ, 06.05.1959 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36; Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)

39. RJ to EFJ, 10.06.1959 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
40. EFJ to RJ, 18.06.1959 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
41. RJ to EFJ, 08.07.1959 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)

1960-1969

42. EFJ to RJ, XX.01.1960 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
43. RJ to EFJ, 24.03.1960 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
44. EFJ to RJ, 23.04.1960 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
45. EFJ to RJ, 10.07.1960 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36; Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
46. RJ to EFJ, 22.12.1960 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15; Copy: MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
47. EFJ to RJ, 29.12.1960 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36; Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
48. EFJ to RJ, 11.11.1961 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36; Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
49. RJ to EFJ, 08.01.1962 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15; Copy: MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
50. EFJ to RJ, 20.01.1962 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
51. EFJ to RJ, 30.04.1964 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36; Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
52. EFJ to RJ, 03.11.1964 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36; Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
53. RJ to EFJ, 20.11.1964 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15; Copy: MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
54. EFJ to RJ, 26.11.1964 (MIT MC.0072 Box 39 Folder 37; Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
55. EFJ [as a Member of the Editorial Committee of *Acta Linguistica*, with S. Egerod & H.C. Sørensen] to RJ, 21.12.1964 (MIT MC.0072 Box 39 Folder 37; Copy: KB Acc. 2008/17, Æske 7)
56. RJ to S. Egerod [Editorial Committee of *Acta Linguistica*], 11.01.1965 (KB Acc. 2008/17, Æske 7; Copy: MIT MC.0072 Box 39 Folder 37)
57. EFJ to RJ, 02.02.1965 (MIT MC.0072 Box 39 Folder 37; Copy: KB Acc. 2008/17, Æske 7)

58. RJ Assistant to EFJ, 01.06.1965 (MIT MC.0072 Box 39 Folder 37)
59. EFJ to RJ, 29.06.1965 (MIT MC.0072 Box 39 Folder 37; Copy: KB Acc. 2008/17, Æske 7)
60. Farfield Foundation to EFJ, 30.06.1965 (MIT MC.0072 Box 39 Folder 37)
61. RJ to EFJ, 13.07.1965 (KB Acc. 2008/17, Æske 7; Copy: MIT MC.0072 Box 39 Folder 37)
62. EFJ to RJ, 01.08.1965 (KB Acc. 2008/17, Æske 7)
63. EFJ to RJ, 13.11.1965 (KB Acc. 2008/17, Æske 7)
64. RJ to EFJ, 03.12.1965 (KB Acc. 2008/17, Æske 7)
65. RJ to EFJ, 23.12.1965 (KB Acc. 2008/17, Æske 7)
66. EFJ to RJ, 27.12.1965 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
67. EFJ to RJ, 11.03.1966 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15; Copy: KB Acc. 2008/17, Æske 7)
68. RJ to EFJ, 20.05.1966 (KB Acc. 2008/17, Æske 7; Copy: MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
69. EFJ to RJ, 27.05.1966 (MIT MC.0072 Box 39 Folder 37; Copy: KB Acc. 2008/17, Æske 7)
70. EFJ to RJ, (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36) [The letter is dated 30.11.1966, but it must be a wrong date; it might be 03.11.1966 or 30.10.1966, at least before letter 71, see note in letter 70]
- 70a. “Danish consonants with reduction” (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36) Autograph Document, 210 x 298 mm; non Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.
- 70b. “Danish phonemes” (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36) .
71. RJ to EFJ, 10.11.1966 (KB Acc. 2009/48, Æske 17)
72. EFJ to RJ, 28.02.1967 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
73. RJ to EFJ, 12.04.1967 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15; Copy: MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)

1970-1982

74. EFJ to RJ, XX.01.1970 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
75. RJ to EFJ, 11.02.1971 (KB Acc. 2009/48, Æske 17)
76. Stephen Rudy (RJ’s Assistant) to EFJ, Undated [BUT before 01.02.1973] (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)

77. EFJ to Stephen Rudy (RJ's Assistant), 01.02.1973 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
78. EFJ to RJ, 01.03.1973 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
79. RJ to EFJ, 06.03.1973 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
80. EFJ to RJ, 16.04.1973 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36; Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
81. EFJ to RJ, 22.03.1975 (MIT MC.0072 Box 48 Folder 27)
82. RJ to EFJ, 04.04.1975 (KB Acc. 2009/48, Æske 1)
83. EFJ to RJ, 07.09.1975 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
84. RJ to EFJ, 03.11.1975 (KB Acc. 2009/48, Æske 15)
85. EFJ to RJ, 17.11.1975 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
85. (bis) RJ to Vibeke Møller (Nyt Nordisk Forlag), 15.12.1975 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
86. RJ to EFJ, 31.03.1976 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
87. EFJ to RJ, 10.05.1976 (MIT MC.0072 Box 48 Folder 27; Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
88. Martha Taylor (RJ's Assistant) to EFJ, 02.07.1976 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
89. EFJ to RJ, 12.07.1976 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
90. Martha Taylor (RJ's Assistant) to EFJ, 30.07.1976 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
91. EFJ to RJ, 23.09.1977 (MIT MC.0072 Box 5 Folder 34)
- 91a. EFJ to RJ, 23.09.1977 [9th ICPHs - Provisional Program] (MIT MC.0072 Box 5 Folder 34)
92. RJ to EFJ, 05.10.1977 (MIT MC.0072 Box 5 Folder 34)
93. EFJ to RJ, 04.11.1977 (MIT MC.0072 Box 5 Folder 34)
94. EFJ to RJ, 15.11.1977 (MIT MC.0072 Box 5 Folder 34; Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
95. RJ to EFJ, 13.12.1977 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15; Copy: MIT MC.0072 Box 5 Folder 34)
96. EFJ to RJ, 19.08.1978 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36; Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
97. RJ to EFJ, 05.09.1978 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
- 97a+b. Two undated handwritten documents [attached to RJ to EFJ, 05.09.1978] (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
98. EFJ to RJ, 11.12.1978 (MIT MC.0072 Box 48 Folder 27; Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)

99. RJ to EFJ, 09.02.1979 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15; Copy: MIT MC.0072 Box 4 Folder 27)
100. EFJ to RJ, 28.02.1979 (MIT MC.0072 Box 4 Folder 27; Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
101. EFJ to RJ, 29.03.1979 (MIT MC.0072 Box 4 Folder 27; Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
102. RJ to EFJ, 27.04.1979 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
102. (bis) RJ to Ole Karup Pedersen, 27.04.1979 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15) [“Copy for Prof. Fischer-Jørgensen”]
103. EFJ to RJ, 08.05.1979 (MIT MC.0072 Box 4 Folder 27)
104. EFJ to RJ, 26.05.1979 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
105. RJ to EFJ, 12.06.1979 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15; Copy: MIT MC.0072 Box 4 Folder 27)
106. RJ to EFJ, 15.06.1979 (MIT MC.0072 Box 5 Folder 34)
107. Krystyna Pomorska to EFJ, 22.06.1979 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
108. EFJ to RJ, 29.06.1979 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
109. EFJ to RJ, 13.08.1979 (MIT MC.0072 Box 5 Folder 34)
110. EFJ to RJ & Krystyna Pomorska, 28.09.1979 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36; Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
111. RJ to EFJ, 18.10.1979 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15; Copy: MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
112. EFJ to RJ, 23.12.1979 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
113. EFJ to RJ, 20.12.1980 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36; Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
- 113a. ”Ode til mit Glossematiske Glossarium” [Ode to Glossematics Glossarium] (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
114. RJ to EFJ, 31.12.1980 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15; Copy: MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
115. Lorraine Wynne to EFJ, 23.01.1981 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
116. EFJ to RJ, 29.07.1981 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)
117. EFJ to RJ, XX.12.1981 (MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
118. RJ to EFJ, 26.02.1982 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15; Copy: MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36)
119. EFJ to RJ, 25.03.1982 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15;)

120. Krystyna Pomorska to EFJ, 20.07.1982 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)

The research carried out at The Royal Danish Library has in addition to the letters we have published here uncovered some correspondence relating to the publishing of the selection of papers by RJ which is the theme of Letters 85ff.

Since this correspondence is in Danish and not between our two correspondents directly, we have chosen not to include it here but as a matter of courtesy we bring below the relevant information for anyone who wants to delve into this specific theme:

Søren Hansen (Nyt Nordisk Forlag) to EFJ, 04.02.1976 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15) [in Danish]

Søren Hansen (Nyt Nordisk Forlag) to EFJ, 08.03.1976 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15) [in Danish]

EFJ to Søren Hansen (Nyt Nordisk Forlag), 07.04.1976 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15) [in Danish]

Søren Hansen (Nyt Nordisk Forlag) to EFJ, 16.06.1976 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15) [in Danish]

Søren Hansen (Nyt Nordisk Forlag) to EFJ, 05.10.1978 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15) [in Danish]

In addition to this correspondence, there are some letters exchanged between Krystyna Pomorska and EFJ on the subject of RJ. They are:

Krystyna Pomorska to EFJ, 07.04.1983 (KB Acc. 2009/48, Ks. 17)

Krystyna Pomorska to EFJ, 08.06.1983 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)

EFJ to Krystyna Pomorska, 27.05.1983 (KB Acc. 2009/48, Ks. 17), [Annex to this letter: "Brøndal breve"]

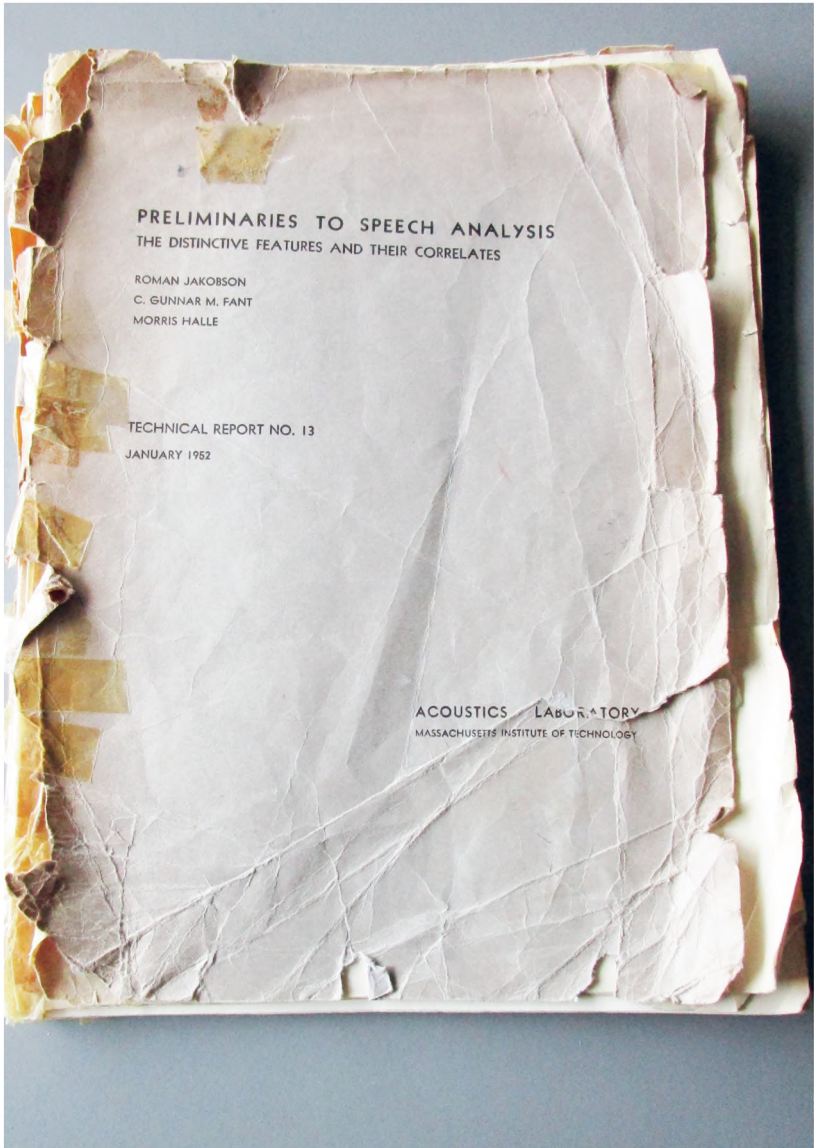
UnDated Document ["Brøndal breve"] (KB Acc. 2009/48, Ks. 17), Autograph Document, 210 x 291 mm; non-Signed; 3 leafs, 5 sides [Notes for EFJ to KP, 27.05.1983?]

Krystyna Pomorska to EFJ, 08.06.1983 (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)

Krystyna Pomorska (as a Member of the Organizing Committee of the First Roman Jakobson Colloquium, MIT 5-6 October 1984) to EFJ, UnDated Letter (BUT before 05.10.1984) [”Dear Eli, you are cordially invited...”] (KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15)

PART 6

The Correspondence



EFJ's very much worn copy of *Preliminaries to Speech Analysis*, i.e. RJ 1952h, by RJ, Fant and Halle. This work plays an important role, both in RJ's theory development and in the present correspondence, see in particular letter 25 of March 31, 1952. The copy is kept at the EFJ collection, University Library of Southern Denmark.

1949

I.

EFJ to RJ, 03.03.1949

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Letter, 225 x 285 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[Copy: KB Acc 1992/5, Kps. 100]

[Stamp Header:]

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen

Lektor

Teglværksgade 4,^{IV}

København Ø

3/3-49

Dear professor Roman Jakobson,

Please find enclosed a circular about a planned volume “Studies in Glossematics”¹. It has been sent to those members of the [“]Cercle linguistique de Copenhague” who are supposed to be interested in Hjelmslev’s² theories. If we get sufficient money (at the moment it is not quite certain), we will also ask a few linguists outside the

1. See *ibis*. The volume, edited by EFJ with C.A. Bodelsen, P. Diderichsen and J. Holt, would be published later in the year as issue nr. 5 (“Recherches structurales 1949”) of the journal *Travaux du Cercle linguistique de Copenhague*.

2. Louis Trolle Hjelmslev (1899-1965) was the founder of the Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen and of Glossematics, a particular current of Structuralism which, in order to seize language in its autonomous entirety, aims at building a comprehensive theory of linguistic systems. EFJ met Hjelmslev at the Linguistic Circle in 1933, and ten years later she was appointed lecturer in Phonetics at the University of Copenhagen, a new post attached to Hjelmslev’s chair of Linguistics. According to EFJ herself, she never “felt inclined to apply Glossematic theory” (EFJ 1975b. *Trends in Phonological Theory. A Historical Introduction*. Copenhagen. Akademisk Forlag, 376 n.9). (See also the INTRODUCTION).

cercle. In U.S.A. we have thought of Lotz³, Martinet⁴ and Trager⁵. I should be glad to have your opinion on this point.

We should of course be particularly glad to receive a contribution from you, because most of us here in Copenhagen are rather unknown names. Diderichsen⁶ said that you had been interested in Hjelmslev's case book⁷. Perhaps you might write something on case systems? I think that most people here will choose a subject from the plane of expression, so that a morphological subject would be particularly welcome. I have the plan of giving a sketch of the differences between "cenematics"⁸ and the other phonemic theories (the Prague school, the London school, the Americans) with some concrete examples to show the different results of the analysis. Hjelmslev

3. János (John) Lotz (1913-1973), from the late 1940's professor of Linguistics at Columbia University and Director of the Center for Applied Linguistics (Washington), was a specialist of Phonology and Metrics of the Hungarian language. From 1935 to 1947, he was associated with the University of Stockholm, and thus had much contact to Scandinavian linguists. He became a close collaborator of RJ during the latter's stay in Sweden 1941.

4. André Martinet (1908-1999), greatly influenced by both Copenhagen and Prague Circles, taught Linguistics at Columbia University from 1947 to 1955, and later at the Sorbonne (Paris). In his later works, Martinet strongly opposed the disregarding of the substance by the theorists of glossematics, both in the field of phonology as well as in morphology. EFJ (1975b) places Martinet in the chapter on Prague Phonology.

5. George L. Trager (1906-1992), President of the Linguistic Society of America (1960), was a structural linguist and an expert on American Indian Languages. He wrote a review of Hjelmslev's *La Catégorie des cas* (1935/1937) (*Language* 17 [1941], pp. 172-174). During the 1950s, he worked at the Foreign Service Institute of the State Department.

6. Paul Diderichsen (1905-1964), a close friend of EFJ, was a professor of Danish language at the University of Copenhagen. He developed a formal descriptive model of the sentence based on an interplay between topologically defined fields and syntactically defined sentence members.

7. Louis Hjelmslev 1935/37. *La Catégorie des cas. Etude de grammaire générale*, 1, 1935, *Acta Jutlandica*, 7(1), (Aarhus, Universitetsforlaget), 2, 1937 *Acta Jutlandica*, 9(2), (Aarhus, Universitetsforlaget, Levin & Munksgaard). In 1972, EFJ edited a new and revised edition of the two volumes.

8. "In Glossematic terminology, expression analysis is also called 'cenematics' [...] Hjelmslev emphasized himself that cenematics differs radically from phonology", EFJ (1975b: 128).

has just given some lectures on the system of Danish⁹ and French¹⁰, so that it is now possible to see how the theory works, and how the “substance” comes in in practice.

As it is emphasized in the circular, we do not expect the contributors to agree with Hjelmslev, but to be interested in his ideas.

I should be very grateful for an answer at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

{ Eli Fischer-Jørgensen }

9. Louis Hjelmslev 1948/51. “Grundtræk af det danske udtrykssystem med særligt henblik på stødet” [Outline of the Danish expression system with special reference to the *stød*], lectures given at the Society for Nordic Philology on the 23th and 30th November 1948 and published in *Selskab for nordisk filologi. Aarsberetning for 1948-1949-1950* [1951], pp. 12-24 (English translation in Hjelmslev 1973: 247-66).

Stød is a suprasegmental unit of Danish phonology, which in its most common form is a kind of creaky voice (laryngealization). The phonology of the *stød* has been widely studied, and several different analyses have been elaborated to account for it. Most of the time the presence of *stød* in a word is predictable based on information about the syllable structure of the word. But there are minimal pairs where the presence or absence of *stød* determines meaning. EFJ 1987c is a study of the Danish *stød*.

10. “Le système d’expression du français moderne” (16 December 1948; 3, 10 and 24 February 1949); a summary based on Fischer-Jørgensen’s notes from the lectures has been published in *Bulletin du Cercle Linguistique de Copenhague* 1941-1965 (“Bulletins VIII-XXXI”), p. 217-222.

1 (bis).

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Document, 225 x 285 mm; non Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

København, den 2/3 1949

Fortroligt.

I anledning af at Louis Hjlemslev fylder 50 aar den 3. oktober 1949, har man tænkt - saafremt det fornødne økonomiske grundlag kan tilvejebringes - at udgive en samling "Studies in Glossematics", der kan give et indtryk af hvor meget Hjlemslevs ideer beskæftiger de lingvister der har lært dem at kende.

Med titlen sigtes ikke alene til studier der ortodokst følger den af Hjlemslev fremstillede procedure, men lige saa meget til arbejder der diskuterer de glossematiske teorier eller som ud fra samme grundsynspunkter giver en konkret analyse efter en afvigende metode.

Hvis de kan tænke Dem at levere et bidrag til en saadan samling, beder vi Dem inden d. 20. marts meddele redaktionen hvad De agter at skrive om, og hvormeget De antager at Deres bidrag vil komme til at fylde. Det vil sandsynligvis ikke blive muligt at optage bidrag paa mere end 10-12 sider à 2700 typeenheder.

Bidragene må være indsendt til redaktionen senest 31. maj 1949. De maa være affattet paa engelsk eller fransk. Forfattere der ikke er i stand til at levere deres bidrag paa et af disse sprog, maa snarest muligt meddele redaktionen dette, og opgive til hvilket sprog de ønsker deres bidrag oversat. Man vil da søge at faa oversættelses-spørgsmaalet ordnet paa den hensigtsmæssigste maade.

Redaktionens adresse er dr.phil. P. Diderichsen, Engbakken 28, Holte.

C.A. Bodelsen.

P. Diderichsen.

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen.

Copenhagen, 2/3 1949

Confidential.

On the occasion of Louis Hjelmslev's 50-year anniversary on October 3, 1949, we have planned – provided that the necessary financial means can be found – to publish a collection of "Studies in Glossematics" which may give an impression of how much Hjelmslev's ideas have engaged the linguists who have acquainted themselves with them.

The title is not only aimed at studies which in an orthodox way follow the procedure laid out by Hjelmslev, but also papers discussing his Glossematic theories or conducting a specific analysis based on the same fundamental views but using a different method.

If you would like to contribute to such a collection, we kindly ask you to inform the editors by March 20 what you intend to write about and how much space you think your contribution is going to take up. It will probably not be possible to accept contributions exceeding 10-12 pages with 2700 characters per page.

The contributions must be submitted to the editors no later than May 31, 1949. They may be written in English or French. Authors who are not able to deliver their contribution in one of these languages, must inform the editors as soon as possible stating which language they want their contribution to be translated into. The translation issue will then be solved in the most appropriate way.

The address of the editors is dr. phil. P. Diderichsen, Engbakken 28, Holte.

C.A. Bodelsen.¹¹

P. Diderichsen.

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen.

11. Carl Adolf Bodelsen (1894-1978), the then Professor of English language and literature at the University of Copenhagen, and an active member of the Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen. It is remarkable that in spite of Bodelsen's capacities in English, there is only a Danish version of the letter. The translation into English has thus been carried out by the editors of this book.

2.

RJ to EFJ, 14.03.1949

KB Acc 1992/5, Kps. 100; Typed Letter, 215 x 275 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 2 sides.
 [Copy: MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36]

[University Letterhead:]
 Columbia University in the City of New York
 New York, 27 N.Y.
 Department of Slavic Languages

March 14, 1949

Miss Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
 Teglværksgade 4, IV
 Copenhagen, Denmark

Dear Miss Fischer-Jørgensen

It was nice of you to remember me in planning the volume to honor our common friend, Hjeltslev.

I am recovering after a motor accident I had in December. I already resumed my lectures, giving them from the start at home, but my injury robbed me of much time, in spite of my effort not to interrupt my scholarly work. And so I now have a lot of academic debts which are taking up all of my time and threaten to postpone my own literary work. Nevertheless, I will do my utmost to send you a paper fitting your program. Sometime later I will write you the exact topic and title¹².

I fully agree with the invitation of Lotz and Martinet, but I would consider it rather as a faux pas to invite Trager who has completely lost contact with university life here and is in the American

12. The paper would be published with the title "On the Identification of Phonemic Entities" (RJ 1949d).

linguistic world indeed a “raté”, as he really deserves it. If you want to have some people of American background, I would rather suggest you invite Prof. Zellig Harris¹³ at Pennsylvania University, who is in some respects close to Hjelmslev’s ideas.

Your planned sketch about “cenematics” and the other phonemic theories strongly interests me, particularly because I am completing with Lotz a book, “Sound and Meaning”, close to these problems¹⁴. You probably know the extremely high opinion I have of your phonetic and phonemic studies and I would like to be in closer and more regular scholarly contact with you.

As for your mention of the theories of the Prague School and the Americans, I still less believe in the existence of such schools. America presents a great variety of approaches and some Yale linguists are erroneously considered in Europe to represent the American linguistic doctrine. It is rather an interesting but not at all typical minority. And in the linguistic life in such American important centers as Harvard, New York, or San Francisco, you will find almost no traces of the influence of this group. I feel still more that the notion /2/ [of] “Prague School” is an artificial abstraction. I feel almost nothing in common with Mukařovský¹⁵, no common denominator between Vachek¹⁶ and Havránek¹⁷, etc. Trubetzkoy’s “psycholo-

13. Zellig S. Harris (1909-1992) was a Semiticist and a Professor of Linguistics at the University of Pennsylvania. Through his formal and mathematical approach to discourse analysis - and by means of his pupil, Noam Chomsky (b. 1928) - he is the link from Bloomfield-inspired Structuralism to transformational grammar.

14. The book is still referred as “to appear” in Jakobson, Fant & Halle (RJ 1952h: 51, n. 5); in *SW* 8 (1988), the statement is finally corrected (“This work remained unfinished. ed.”, p. 587). MIT Archives hold entire chapters of the book in different stages of completeness, which were re-used by RJ in other publications (MC.0072 Box 33, Folders 9-25).

15. Jan Mukařovský (1891-1975) was a Czech literary critic and aesthetic theorist. One of the authors, with RJ, of the *Thèses* of the Prague Circle (1929), he applied Structuralism to different forms of artistic expression.

16. Josef Vachek (1909-1997) was the most prominent among the second generation members of the Prague Circle. He was active in the areas of English and Czech phonology, syntax and sociolinguistics.

17. Bohuslav Havránek (1893-1978), one of the most important Czech representatives

gism”¹⁸ often considered in internation[al] literature as a mark of the Prague School was emphatically refuted from the beginning, by almost all Prague lingu phonemicists.

Recalling our first meeting and looking forward to seeing you in a not too distant future,

Very sincerely yours,
{ Roman Jakobson }
Roman Jakobson

of the Prague Circle, was a professor of Czech language and General Linguistics at Masaryk University (Brno) and later at Charles University (Prague). He investigated the social dimension of language following a strict structural approach.

18. Prince Nikolaj S. Trubetzkoy (1890-1938), leading figure of the Prague Circle, separated Phonetics and Phonology providing the latter with rigorous operative notions. A close friendship bound him with RJ, who ensured the posthumous edition of Trubetzkoy’s opus magnum *Grundzüge der Phonologie* (1939) and later published their correspondence (RJ 1975h; French translation, from Russian, 2006).

3.
EFJ to RJ, 25.03.1949

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Letter, 225 x 285 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 2 sides.

[From:]
<E. Fischer-Jørgensen
Teglværksgade 4
Copenhagen Ø>
Profe

[To:]
Professor Roman Jakobson
Columbia University
Department of Slavic Languages
New York 27

235/3-49

Dear professor Roman Jakobson,

Thank you very much for your kind letter from the 14th of March. I am sorry to hear that you have had a motor accident, but we are very grateful that in spite of that you will send us a paper.

We have got this idea a bit late, so that there is not much time, and therefore Diderichsen thought that we could not wait for your letter before inviting the other Americans, particularly as I went to Sweden and did not return until a few days ago. – So we have in fact written to Trager. I am sorry that it is a faux pas, but he has not yet answered, and so perhaps it does not matter. We did it because we know that he has been in ~~com~~ personal connection with Hjelmslev, and Hjelmslev has mentioned him as particularly interested in his theories. Harris is certainly more interesting, I have read various ~~articles~~ articles by him; but I do not think that he has any particular contact with Hjelmslev, and outside the Linguistic Circle we have

only asked a few scholars of whom have been in personal contact with him, or are at any rate able to read “Onkring [*sic*] sprogteoriens grundlæggelse”¹⁹. – By the way, a French translation is in preparation, but has not appeared yet²⁰. – –

You are certainly right that here in Europe the Yale²¹ school is generally considered as rather representative of American linguistics. It is difficult to get an objective <{ k }>nowledge of American linguistics. Before the war and during the war there has not been much contact. – Now it is better, and we get several American periodicals now (Language²², IJAL²³, Word²⁴ etc.). – I should be very

19. Hjelmslev, Louis (1943). *Omkring Sprogteoriens Grundlæggelse*. København, Københavns Universitets Festskrift, november 1943.

20. Hjelmslev had since 1946 had the plan of publishing a French translation and had applied for economic support to a linguistic revision of a raw translation. Knud Togeby (see letter 22, note 147) made the revision, but the version remained in proof until 1952. Hjelmslev brings it to USA, to Martinet, but he corrects everything, and the translation does not appear during Hjelmslev’s lifetime, probably because of Hjelmslev’s perfectionism. When it comes out in 1968, it has been translated by too many different people, and the translation is finally substituted by a good translation in 1971, made by Una Canger who takes into consideration the corrections in the second edition of the English translation (Rasmussen 1992: 53).

21. Probably the “Yale School” for EFJ here is to a certain extent equivalent with what she later calls the “Bloomfield School” in EFJ 1975b. Leonard Bloomfield (1887-1949) was an American linguist, whose influence dominated the development of structural linguistics between the 1930s and the 1950s. He is especially known for his book *Language* (1933), which greatly influenced the subsequent course of linguistics in the United States for the first half of the twentieth century. EFJ in her 1949c paper on the one hand tries to generalize on European vs. American traditions, on the other hand, maybe inspired by RJ, sometimes expresses herself cautiously “the Structuralism of many American linguists”, “the different American schools” (our underlinings). She chooses Bloch and Trager as the main representatives of the Bloomfield tradition.

22. *Language*, a journal published by the Linguistic Society of America. Bernard Bloch (1907-1965), an important representative of the “Yale School”, was the editor from 1940 until his death.

23. *International Journal of American Linguistics* (Bloomfield was in the editorial board until his death in 1949).

24. *Word*, journal founded in 1945 by the Linguistic Circle of New York (founded in 1943). The Circle in 1969 changed its name into International Linguistic Association (ILA). RJ was a founding member with regards both to the Circle and to *Word*.

glad to come to America some time, but it is a very expensive journey. Blancquaert²⁵ said this summer in Brussels²⁶, that there is a plan of having the next congress of phonetic sciences in Chicago, <(1951)>²⁷ but I think it is rather uncertain, and at any rate we cannot have a linguistic congress in /2/ Europe²⁸ and a phonetic congress in America in the same year.

- - I was very glad to hear that you have found something of value in my little articles. Of course they are not very original. I have not got many ideas, I am more qualified for criti[ci]zing others. So most of what I have written are reviews. I do not know exactly what I have sent you, but I think that I have sent you the review of Hjelmslev's "Omkring sprogteoriens grundlæggelse" (Tale

25. Edgar Blancquaert (1894-1964), Belgian linguist, phonetician and dialectologist. He was the President of the Third International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, Ghent 1938. He was very active in trying to resume these phonetic congresses after the war and established a section for phonetics at the Antropological congress (see next note). The section was, however, not so well attended, and his endeavour did not succeed (see also INTRODUCTION).

26. At the Congrès International des Sciences Anthropologiques et Ethnologiques, Troisième session, Bruxelles-Tervuren, 15-23 August 1948. See also EFJ's review of the conference, in *Acta Linguistica* 5, p.60 (EFJ 1945-49).

At the congress EFJ presented an important paper on stress in the Germanic languages, in particular focusing on the function of stress in compounds. In a very thorough analysis, she demonstrates that "it is completely arbitrary to maintain that a language has 3 or 4 degrees of reduced stress [] The important thing is always a comparison between two members and two members only, but this may take place on different levels" (EFJ 1961b: 87). Her approach anticipates in several respects the paper by Chomsky, Halle & Lukoff (1956): "On Accent and Juncture in English"; however, these authors did not know EFJ's paper since the proceedings were published only in 1961. In Denmark EFJ's analysis was taken up and further elaborated by Jørgen Rischel (see note 258), e.g. the three texts in Rischel 2009: "Stress, Juncture and Syllabification in Phonemic Description" (1964), "Compound Stress in Danish without a Cycle" (1972) and "On Unit Accentuation in Danish - and the Distinction Between Deep and Surface Phonology" (1983); and by Hans Basbøll (see note 406), e.g. Basbøll (2005) *The Phonology of Danish*, in particular pp. 323-349 and 489-495.

27. This plan did not succeed. The Fourth International Congress of Phonetic Sciences was held in Helsinki only in 1961.

28. Refers to the Seventh International Congress of Linguists, London 1952, see also notes to letter 19 of 24 April 1951.

og Stemme)²⁹. – If not, I shall be glad to do so, I have just got some more copies. – One of these days I am sending you a <very> short article about ~~Ðute~~ the Dutch phonemes (from *Le Maître phonétique*)³⁰ and a mimeographed text book of general phonetics³¹, which I have written in the autumn. It is not for review. It has been written very hastily, because I needed it for my course, but now I am going to try it out for some terms and then make a printed edition³². I have already discovered several points which need revision. – But perhaps it might be of some interest for you.

I shall be very interested in your book on sound and meaning³³. I have always found your works extremely stimulating and full of interesting ideas, – and <of course> on quite another level than my second-hand ~~thoug~~ reflections; ~~so~~ I should <therefore> be very glad indeed to be in closer scholarly contact with you.

We have sent the circular to professor Lotz, but he has not answered, ~~and as he~~ of course it is not long ago, but Diderichsen has not got any answer either to a letter written before Christmas and containing a manuscript, so perhaps the address may be wrong, it was Morningside Drive, 53 Apt. – Would you perhaps be so kind to ask him, if he had got the circular, and if not to send him the enclosed one?

Very sincerely yours

{ Eli Fischer-Jørgensen }

29. EFJ (1943). “Review. Louis Hjelmslev. Omkring Sprogteoriens Grundlæggelse”. 1943. *Nordisk Tidsskrift for Tale og Stemme* 7. 81-96.

30. EFJ (1948). “Dutch” (specimen; with J.G. Talma-Schilhuis). *Le maître phonétique* 89. 5-8

31. EFJ (1948 (60/62)). *Almen fonetik med hæfte med illustrationer*. Mimeographed.

32. EFJ (1948 (1960/62)). *Almen fonetik med hæfte med illustrationer*. Second edition. Printed.

33. See note 14 to letter 2 of 14 March, 1949.

4•

RJ to EFJ, 13.06.1949

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Letter/Note Copy, 140 x 215 mm; non Signed; 1 leaf, 4 sides [2 written]. [the same sheet contains a Letter Copy to Christine Mohrmann, 13.06.1949; bifolio; written on the external pages]

[s.l.] June 13, 1949

Dear Miss Fischer-Jørgensen,

Thanks a lot for your valuable PHONETICS³⁴. I am taking it tomorrow to the country with me for attentive study while working on the completion of SOUND AND MEANING³⁵, which I am doing with Lotz.

I am sorry that a series of obstacles prevented me from finishing on time the paper for the Hjelmslev Symposium³⁶, but if the end of July is all right for you, I will be happy to send the paper, as I have already written to Diderichsen.

With best wishes for the summer vacation,

Yours sincerely,

Roman Jakobson

34. See notes 31 and 32 to the previous letter.

35. See note 14 to letter 2, 14 March 1949 above.

36. RJ (1949d). "On the Identification of Phonemic Entities", in *Travaux du Cercle Linguistique de Copenhague*, vol. V (Recherches Structurales 1949), 205-214.

5.
EFJ to RJ, 10.07.1949

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Letter, 215 x 277 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[Stamp Header:]
Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
Lektor
Te{<g>}lværksgade [*itt.*] {<4, IV>}
København Ø

10/07-49

Dear professor Roman Jakobson,

I wonder if you could help me. I have tried in vain to get hold of the article by Yuen Ren Chao³⁷, The non-uniqueness of phonemic solutions of phonetic systems, *Bulletin of the Institute of History and Philology (Academia Sinica)* 4, 4 p. 363-97, 1933³⁸. It is not available neither here nor in Sweden; and I have seen it quoted several times, and it seems to be relevant for the problems with which I am concerned at the present. Perhaps you have got an off-print which you would borrow me for a short time, so that I could copy it out or take a photo-copy of it. Or would it be possible to get a photo-copy

37. Chao, Yuen Ren (1892-1982) was a Chinese-American linguist, a specialist in Chinese. In Chao's first publication in general linguistics on "The non-uniqueness of phonemic solutions of phonetic systems" (1934) one important conclusion is: "Because phonemic solutions are not unique, it is necessary, before arriving at solutions, to have recourse to considerations of descriptive phonetics and the use of phonetic transcriptions."

38. Chao, Yuen Ren (1934). The non-uniqueness of phonemic solutions of phonetic systems. *Bulletin of the Institute of History and Philology (Academia Sinica)* 4, 4, 363-397. In 1954, Chao gave a review of RJ 1952h (*Preliminaries*). RJ discusses both Chao-articles in RJ 1956a.

from an American Library? I could pay it through a brother-in-law who is in U.S.A. now.

I think it would be relevant for my article for the Hjelmslev-symposium³⁹, (which I have not finished yet!), but probably I cannot have it so soon. Anyhow I should be glad to see it.

We have now got most of the contributions for the volume (from America Martinet⁴⁰ and Lotz⁴¹, - and we are looking forward to having your contribution too). I think it will be a very interesting volume.

By the way, Hjelmslev has just been seriously ill from a fulminating cerebrospinal meningitis; - - it was stopped very quickly through penicillin. <But> At any rate he must have a long period of convalescence, and cannot do much this summer.

Excuse me for troubling you with these bibliographical questions, but I do not know if Chao is in U.S.A.

Your sincerely
{ Eli Fischer-Jørgensen }

39. EFJ (1949c). "Remarques sur les principes de l'analyse phonémique". *Travaux du Cercle Linguistique de Copenhague*, vol. V (Recherches Structurales 1949), 214-34. EFJ refers very much to Chao in her paper. Interestingly, also RJ and Lotz (August 1949) have a reference to Chao, though very general and with an incorrect dating.

40. Martinet (1949). La double articulation linguistique. *Travaux du Cercle Linguistique de Copenhague*, vol. V (Recherches Structurales 1949), 30-37.

41. Lotz (1949). The Semantic Analysis of the Nominal Bases in Hungarian. *Travaux du Cercle Linguistique de Copenhague*, vol. V (Recherches Structurales 1949), 185-197.

6.

EFJ to RJ, 19.07.1949

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Postcard, 140 x 90 mm; Postmark: København OMK 1600 19 Jul 1949 / Cambridge, Mass. Jul. 22 1949, 6_30PM; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 written side/Postmark and addresses on the opposite side.

[From:]

[Stamp Header:]

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen

Lektor

Teglværksgade 4^{IV}

København Ø

{ luftpost / air mail }

[To:]

Professor Roman Jakobson

~~Harvard University~~ <{ c/o Otto Laga, Hunter, N.Y. }>
~~Cambridge, Mass.~~

U.S.A.

[*ill.*]

19/7-49

Dear professor Roman Jakobson,

Thank you very much for sending me Chao's article so promptly. - I have read it with great interest. - And it was really relevant for my subject. -

When I have got a photo-copy I will return it to you.

Hjelmslev is getting on all right. I hope that you have recovered completely from you[r] accident.

Yours sincerely

{ Eli Fischer-Jørgensen }

7.

RJ to EFJ, 21.07.1949

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Letter/Note Copy, 205 x 250 mm;
non Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[s.l.] July 21, 1949.

Miss Eli Fischer-Jørgensen

Lektor

Teglværksgade 4, IV

København Ø

Dear Miss Fischer-Jørgensen,

I immediately mailed you Chao's paper, mail it back to me after having used it. In a few weeks you will have my article which will deal with some problems of phonemic analysis. Chao is at the University of California⁴², but I know he has no reprints of his mentioned paper. I was extremely pained by the news of Hjelmslev's illness, please express to him my heartiest wishes for a quick recovery.

Yours sincerely

Roman Jakobson

42. At Berkeley. In 1947 Chao had decided to go back to China, but because of the political situation he remained in the USA.

8.

EFJ to RJ, 28.07.1949

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Letter, 225 x 285 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[From:]

[Stamp Header:]

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen

Lektor

Teglværksgade 4, IV

København Ø

[To:]

Professor Roman Jakobson

Harvard University

Holyoke 29

Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

July 28 1949

Dear professor Roman Jakobson,

Thank you for your letter from July 21⁴³. I have now got the fotocopy and I am returning the article to you by air-mail to-morrow. Thank you very much for lending it to me.

You wrote that you would send your article in “a few weeks”. But we hope that “a few” means no more than “two”. For the printing office has demanded to get all articles before the 1st of August. And at any rate: if we get it after the 7th, we cannot guarantee that there will be time to send you the proofs, and if we get it after the 14th, it is rather dubious whether we can get it printed. All proofs must be read, the table of contents must be made etc. before the end of August.

43. See letter 7 above.

I am looking forward to seeing your article. I have also written about phonemic analysis⁴⁴. I had intended to discuss your “rapport[”]⁴⁵ from the Congress last summer, but I did not get so far. Now it is perhaps also better to wait for your article about the same subject. ~~I have only~~ In my contribution I have only discussed the principles for establishing the inventory of phonemes: particularly the commutation test and the question of form–substance.

Hjelmslev has recovered very quickly.

Yours sincerely
{ Eli Fischer-Jørgensen }

I suppose you have got my card in the meantime⁴⁶.

44. EFJ 1949c.

45. Refers to what is published as RJ 1949g “The Phonemic and Grammatical Aspects of Language in Their Interrelations”, *Actes du Sixième Congrès International des Linguistes (Paris, Juillet, 1948)*, pp. 5-18 and 601 (corrections). Paris: Klincksieck. (also in SW II (103-114). RJ was prevented from participating in the congress, his report was presented by J. Lotz (*Actes du Sixième Congrès International des Linguistes (Paris, Juillet, 1948)*, p. 451). EFJ participated, but did not give a paper. In *Acta Linguistica* 5 (1945-49), pp.56-60, there is a review of the congress, signed by Hjelmslev. According to Skytte (2016, p. 45, note 1), Hjelmslev wrote the review together with EFJ. Actually, RJ was very eager to get news about the Danish participants at the Paris Congress, see letter to Lotz July 28, 1948 (MIT. MC.0072. Box 43, Folder 38): “How was Hjelmslev and his partisans?” is the first question in the letter.

46. See letter 6 above of July 19, 1949.

9.

RJ to EFJ, 12.08.1949

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Letter Copy, 215 x 280 mm; non Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[*s.l.*] August 12, 1949

Dear Miss Fischer-Jørgensen,

I am at the same time air-mailing you (“Special delivery”) my manuscript and I regret that I do it at the last moment but it was, unfortunately, impossible for me to do it earlier and the terrible heat of the last days was not conducive to speed. However, I very much hope that you will insert my paper into Hjelmslev’s Symposium⁴⁷.

The matter of the paper is so familiar to you that I am certain there will be no difficulties with proof if you would kindly take charge of it. May I ask you only to preserve my distinct use of parentheses, brackets and diagonals according to the American style.

If any questions should arise concerning the text, write to me at Hunter⁴⁸ where I remain until September 4 and then, until September 15, 404 West 116th Street, New York 27, N.Y. Later to the Harvard University address. How many reprints of my article may I receive?

Eagerly looking forward to the appearance of the Symposium,

Most cordially yours,

R. Jakobson

47. RJ 1949d

48. RJ wrote several texts in Hunter, e.g. RJ 1949d and 1949e. See also the letters July 19, 1949 (RJ’s address) and October 17, 1952.

10.

EFJ to RJ, 25.08.1949

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Letter, 225 x 290 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

p.t. Faaborg
25/08-49

Dear professor Roman Jakobson,

Thank you very much for your manuscript, which I have read with great interest. - I got [it] with some day's delay, because express letters are not passing in the ordinary post office and are therefore not forwarded (!!)

But the printing office has been quick. I am sending you the proofs by the same post. - I have put ~~the~~ titles and examples in italics, because it is done in this way in the whole volume, and the printing office has not got <all> the sound symbols in roman types. - - But I should propose some changes in the transcription of the examples on p. 8. - It looks a bit confusing with all the <'>[~~it~~] acutes. - You might ~~put~~ use an apostroph for palatalisation - but this means ejective sounds in the IPA, which we have elsewhere tried to use. - And I do not think that the printing office has got the IPA sign { $\underset{v}{t}$ } etc. - But acute is rather common. - But could not the str[e]ss be indicated in the normal IPA manner through a vertical stroke before the stressed syllable? -⁴⁹

Please return the proofs to my Copenhagen address, I shall be back <on> tuesday.

Yours sincerely

{ Eli Fischer-Jørgensen }

49. EFJ's proposal for the stress symbol was not followed.

II.

EFJ to RJ, 21.09.1949

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Letter, 210 x 135 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 2 sides.

[Stamp Header:]
Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
Lektor
Teglværksgade 4IV
København Ø

21/9-49

Dear professor Roman Jakobson,

If the printer keeps his promise, we shall get the book ready for October 3^d, but only the copy which is to be handed over to Hjelmslev. The others have to be bound first, and we must also wait for an answer from Rask-Ørstedfondet⁵⁰ about a possible subvention which will influence the price. The off-prints will be sent out sometime in October. – Furthermore the authors will receive a copy of the whole book free. – The printing has been very expensive, partly because the translations into English were not particularly good, and professor Bodelsen was absent and could not ~~improve~~ <see> them in manuscript, so he corrected very much in the proofs. – ~~On the whole~~ The publisher (Nordisk sprog- og kulturforlag) <will> have to face a rather great deficit⁵¹, if all the copies (1000) are not sold. So we have promised to do something for the propaganda.

–

Perhaps you would give us a piece of good advice about what to

50. Rask-Ørsted-Fonden was a publicly financed foundation established in 1919 with the purpose of supporting Danish participation in international research collaboration. The foundation was closed in 1972 and substituted by the Research Councils.

51. See note 53 below.

do to get the book sold in America. - The publisher has no connections there. Would it perhaps for instance be possible to send an advertisement in a great many copies to the linguistic periodicals in America and ask the editors to send it out along with the next number of their periodical? - And to whom should we write? - The most important would be ["]Language {"}] and [{"} Word {"}]. - I suppose that you and Martinet are in the committee for "Word"? - - At any rate I could write to Trager for "Studies in Linguistics". - I mentioned that we asked him for a contribution before I got your letter in the spring. He did not send anything, but promised to do something for the sale. -

/2/ Munksgaard⁵² would of course have had better possibilities for <{ of }> selling the book, but his tender was quite unacceptable - he would not risk anything. - Arthur M. Jensen⁵³, on the contrary, from Nordisk Sprog og Kulturforlag, has taken the whole risk, he is the great Maecenas o{ f } Lingvistikredsen, also in other respects.

- - The title has been altered to "Recherches structurales 1949" and it will appear as nr. 5 of "Travaux du Cercle linguistique de Copenhague". The title "Etudes glossématiques" was too narrow.

- - - Hjemslev is now all right. - He has just been in Aarhus

52. Munksgaard is the name of a publisher, Ejnar Munksgaard (1890-1948), but it is also the name of the publisher's house. If EFJ is referring to the person Ejnar Munksgaard himself, the negotiations must have taken rather a long time; he died the 6th of January 1948.

53. Arthur M. Jensen (1891-1968) founded Nordisk Sprog- og Kulturforlag. He became a member of the Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen in 1946. EFJ (1992a: 11) has given a short description of him and his role in the Circle's life. When he was young he wanted to study linguistics, but his family could not afford it, so he became an advertising expert educated in the USA. When he came back to Denmark, he made the course "English by the Nature Method" which sold very well during the war. He published the Circle's *Travaux* on favorable terms, and further supported economically both some of the Circle's activities as the salary of the secretary at the University institute in the institute's first years.

where a pupil⁵⁴ ogf Holt⁵⁵ <{ * }> (who understands Hjelmslev much better than Holt does) defended a thesis “Aspect et temps en slave”, mainly a treatise on linguistic theory, strongly influenced by Hjelmslev but not uncritical, and very interesting<->. He has also written an article for “Recherches...”⁵⁶ where he compares your description of the Russian case system with Hjelmslev’s “étude de cas” and shows how your description might be translated into Hjelmslev’s terminology. – On the whole I think it is a good volume with many interesting contributions.

I hope you have recovered completely now from your accident.

Very sincerely yours,

{ Eli Fischer-Jørgensen }

*) Hans. Chr. Sørensen.

– – p.s. The heading of your article would have been fitting for

54. The pupil of Holt was Hans Christian Sørensen (1911-2000), see EFJ’s own filling in note. He became a Professor of Slavic linguistics at the University of Copenhagen from 1960. The dissertation is Sørensen (1949a). “Aspect et temps en slave”. Aarhus Universitets Slaviske Institut. It was the first glossematic doctoral dissertation in Denmark. RJ seems to have been rather critical towards the dissertation (letter from Stender-Petersen to Hjelmslev, February 17, 1953, KB: Acc: 2008/17, Æske 7). January 5, 1953 RJ wrote a letter to Hjelmslev complaining of not having been asked, in his role of President of the International Council, concerning a paper to *Acta Linguistica*, vol. VII, 1952 (pp. 40-61) by Hans Chr. Sørensen: “Die sogenannte Liquidametathese im slawischen” and threatens to “expose the basic factual and theoretical errors of this paper in reviewing it.” Hjelmslev is very concerned with RJ’s letter, partly because of the consequences for the procedures at *Acta Linguistica*, but in particular because his disciple Hans Chr. Sørensen was in the process of applying for a chair in Slavistics. He asked Ad. Stender-Petersen, a Professor of Slavic Philology at the University of Aarhus and an acquaintance of RJ, to calm down RJ, and the RJ review was never written. Later RJ had to collaborate with Hans Chr. Sørensen who became member of the commission on “Fennes Manual”, see INTRODUCTION above.

55. Jens Holt (1904-1973) was a Lecturer and later Professor in Comparative linguistics at Århus Universitet from 1938 until his death. His principal works are on Ancient Greek and Hittite. He was also a general linguist, adherent of Hjelmslev’s glossematic theory.

56. Sørensen, Hans Christian (1949b). “Contribution à la discussion sur la théorie des cas”. *Travaux du Cercle Linguistique de Copenhague*, vol. V (Recherches Structurales 1949), 123-133.

mine! I have called it “Remarques sur les principes de l’analyse phonémique”, but when I had written one half of it (about the establishment of the inventory) it was already too long.

12.

RJ to EFJ, 13.10.1949

KB Acc 1992/5, Kps. 100; Typed Letter, 216 x 145 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.
[Copy: MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36]

[University Letterhead:]
Harvard University
Slavic Languages and Literatures
Holyoke 29
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

October 13, 1949.

Professor Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
Teglværksgade 4, IV
København Ø
Denmark

Dear Miss Fischer-Jørgensen:

I am eager to see the Hjlemslev volume. Of course it could be advertised with the help of Word⁵⁷. Write to Martinet, and I shall write him in the same sense. May I suggest to you to write also to Bloch who, I am sure, will be happy to put a note announcing your book into the Chronicle of the review Language. I think the best is to write personally to him. As far as I know he is now in Europe teaching in Edinburgh.

Sincerely yours,
{ R. Jakobson }
Roman Jakobson

57. The volume is in the list of "Publications received" (between November 1949 and November 1950), in *Word*, Volume 6, 1950, p. 263.

1950-59

13.

RJ to EFJ, 01.03.1950

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Letter Copy, 216 x 281 mm; non Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[From:]
20A Prescott Street
March 1, 1950

[To:]
Professor Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
Teglvaerksgade 4, IV
København Ø
Denmark

Dear Mrs. Fischer-Jørgensen:

I was happy to learn today from Nordisk Sprog- og Kulturforlag that a copy of the Recherches structurales has been sent to me and I am looking forward to seeing it soon.

May I ask you to be so kind as to inform me when the promised reprints are supposed to be sent to me.

How is Hjelmslev's health? I am somewhat concerned at not having received one word from him⁵⁸ in spite of all my letters, my cable of congratulation and my contribution to his symposium.

I am planning after my May lectures in London⁵⁹ and Oxford⁶⁰ to visit Copenhagen and Oslo, and Hammerich⁶¹ wrote me that a

58. Concerning RJ's stay in Copenhagen.

59. RJ became a Member of the Philological Society (London) in 1949.

60. 10 May. Published in RJ 1952f as "Studies in Comparative Slavic Metrics." Oxford Slavonic Papers 3, 21-66.

61. L(ouis) L(eonor) Hammerich (1892-1975), Danish Germanic philologist and Eskimologist. Hammerich was EFJ's teacher in German philology, and she has acknowledged how important he was for her, especially concerning methodology. RJ knew Hammerich from his sojourn in Scandinavia before the war. After the war they

lecture of mine is planned at Copenhagen University⁶², and that Hjelmlev will contact me on this matter, but nothing whatever has happened.

With best personal regards.

Sincerely,

Roman Jakobson

reconnected for different reasons. Hammerich asked RJ to help Hammerich's student Gunnar Bech (see note 328 to letter 66, December 27, 1965, below) who was going to the USA. RJ asked Hammerich, in a letter of December 10, 1947 (MIT. MC.0072. Box 42, Folder 15), if the Danish Academy would accept the publishing of "Fennes Manual" (see INTRODUCTION).

62. RJ gave two lectures at University of Copenhagen in May 1950: 23 May: "Slavic Mythology", 25 May: "The New Doctrine of Language in Present-Day Russia".

14.

EFJ to RJ, 09.03.1950

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Letter, 225 x 285 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15]

[Stamp Header:]

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen

Lektor

Teglværksgade 4,^{IV}

København Ø

9/3-50

Dear professor Roman Jakobson,

Thank you very much for your letter from March 1st. - I have asked the editors about the reprints. They have been sent some time ago, - shortly after the book. I am sorry that it has taken so long a time with the reprints, but for some reason or other the editor could not send them out before the book. -

Hjlemslev is all right now, but he has been rather tired this winter. At the moment he is giving lectures in Lund⁶³. - I phoned him immediately after having received your letter, and he said that everything was in order for your visit, the money has been granted etc, and he has written to you about it in December. And he had not received any letters from you lately. So I suppose that letters have been lost both ways. - He is going to write to you again in a<[~~few~~]-> few days. - We are all looking forward to your visit. - I ~~do not~~ hope you are { <not> } coming too late in May. At that time the students

63. Hjlemslev wrote to RJ March 23 1950: "Thank you very much for your letter of March 14, which reached me during a month's visit to Lund where I am teaching Albanian (and trying to make some people understand structural linguistics, which is very hard work indeed)." (MIT. MC.0072. Box 42, Folder 23).

are getting very lazy, some have already got a job for the summer etc., – and most classes stop in the second half of May. – But for the linguistic cercle [*sic*] the time does not matter so much. How long are you staying here?

I have sent you an offprint of my article in the Hjelmslev Symposium⁶⁴. I had originally the intention to discuss the relations between your analysis of the phonemes in relevant features and Hjelmslev's glossemes (he has recently given some lectures here, which have made more clear to us what he is making)⁶⁵, but the article was too long also without that discussion, so I think of writing another article on this subject I was very glad to receive your analysis of French some time ago⁶⁶. – But perhaps I should wait until your book on "Sound and phoneme" has appeared⁶⁷? When will that be? – Please give also my compliments to Lotz, with thanks for the offprint⁶⁸. –

With best personal regards

Yours sincerely

{ Eli Fischer-Jørgensen }

P.S. I am enclosing a list of books, which we would ask you to review in the *Acta Linguistica*⁶⁹. – Some of them are rather old. We have not sent out lists long. But Lekov's articles could perhaps be

64. See note 39 to letter 5, July 10, 1949, above.

65. In 1948 and 1949 Hjelmslev had given lectures on both the Danish and the French expression systems, see notes to letter 1, March 3, 1949. In EFJ 1949c (p. 224, note 3), she is in particular referring to the lectures in the Linguistic Circle, i.e. the lectures on the French system.

66. Must be RJ 1949e. Jakobson, Roman & Lotz, John. "Notes on the French Phonemic Pattern", *Word* 5, 151-158.

67. Probably "Sound and Meaning", mentioned in letter March 14, 1949.

68. See note 66 above.

69. See letter 14 (bis).

reviewed together⁷⁰. – Karcevski's⁷¹ and Leopold's⁷² books have been ordered by the editors, so that we have to bring a review in any case.

We hope that you have the books yourself, because we should be glad to keep our copies here in the library of the cercle. But if that is not the case, [*iff*.] please write to us about it, and they will be sent to you.

We are now sending out Acta V,2, V,3, VI,1 and VI, 2 with very brief intervals, and we should be glad to have some reviews from you as soon as it is convenient.

70. Lekov, Ivan Dimitrov (1904-1978), Bulgarian Slavist.

71. Karcevskij, Sergej Iosifovič (Russia 1884-1955 Geneva), one of the founders of structural linguistics, a representative of the Geneva and Prague schools. In 1907, he left for Geneva to study linguistics under C. Bally and A. Sechehaye. He also followed at least one course with Ferdinand de Saussure. In 1917, he returned to Moscow, propagating the ideas of F. de Saussure at the University, only to leave his country definitively in 1920.

72. Leopold, Werner F(riedrich) (London 1896-1984 USA), a specialist in developmental linguistics (child language, especially bilingual); Germanist.

14. (bis)

[List of books to review in *Acta Linguistica*]⁷³

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Document; 225 x 176 mm, 1 leaf, 1 side.

Hr. Professor dr. Roman Jae<{k}>obson.

GALLIS, Arne⁷⁴: Études sur la comparaison slave. Skrifter utgitt av Det Norske Videnskabsakademi i Oslo (Jacob Dybvad) 1946.

KARCEVSKI, Serge: Notes de morphologie russe. 2e éd. rémaniée. Geneve (École d'Interpretes de l'Université de Geneve) 1948.

LEKOV, Iv.: Fonologičnata stojnosti na ydälženitë I udvoeni säglasni zvukove vä slavjanskite ezitsi. Avec un résumé: La valeur phonologique des consonnes prolongées et géminées dans les langues slaves. : Annuaire de l'Université de Sofia, Fac. Hist.-phil. Tome XXXVI. 4.

LEKOV, Iv.: Fonologičnijat karakter na edin zakon za udarenieto v bălgariskija ezik. : Annuaire de l'Université Saint Clément d'Ohrida à Sofia, Fac. Hist.-phil. Tome XXXIX, 1942/43.

LEKOV, Iv.: Izrazitelnost' i upotrëba na fonologič eskite opozitsii. -Spisanie na balgarskata Akademija na naukite i izkustvata, Kniga LXIII. 2. Sofija (Daržavna Pečatnitsa) 1942.

LEKOV, Iv.: Izä istorijata na konsonantizma vä bălgarskija ezikă. :Recueil dédié à la mémoire du Professeur Peter Nikov, Sofia 1939.

LEKOV, Iv.: Opit za fonologična xarakteristika na bălgarskija ezik. Sofija (Universitetska Pečatnitsa) 1941.

LEKOV, Iv.: Onominijata vä maloruski ezik ot fonologično gledišče. Sofija (Universitetska pečatnitsa) 1941.

LEKOV, Iv.: Xarakteristika na obščite čerti vä bălgariskija ezik. Sofija (Dăržavna Pečatnitsa) 1941.

LEOPOLD, Werner F.: Speech Development of a Bilingual Child II, III, IV. Evanston, Ill. (Northwestern Univ. Press) 1949.

73. None of the books listed here were ever reviewed in *Acta Linguistica*.

74. Gallis, Arne (1908-1997), Norwegian slavist.

15.

RJ to EFJ, 30.07.1950

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15; Typed Letter, 202 x 132 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.
 [Copy: MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36]

[University Letterhead:]

Harvard University

Slavic Languages and Literatures

~~Holyoke 29~~ <20 A Prescott Street>⁷⁵

Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

July 30, 1950

Professor Eli Fischer-Jørgensen

Teglvaerksgade 4, IV

Copenhagen, Denmark

Dear Miss Fischer-Jørgensen:

Having returned to the Western Hemisphere may I thank you for your lucid exposition of our view on the ultimate phonemic entities⁷⁶ and to tell you how strongly I have been impressed by the wonderful correspondence between your and my approaches, I would even say feelings, for the most crucial problems of language and its sound form. Should a visit to this country enter into your plans and should the situation not deteriorate I will do my utmost to assist you with the realization of this plan and anyway, let us stay in the closest scholarly cooperation.

With best wishes for rest and work,

Yours sincerely,

{ Roman Jakobson }

ROMAN JAKOBSON

75. Superposed correction is typewritten.

76. Paper given by EFJ in the Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen, the 26th of May, 1950: "Les unités minima de l'analyse phonémique". Partly published in EFJ 1966k. "Form and Substance in Glossematics", *Acta Linguistica Hafniensia* X, 1-33.

16.

EFJ to RJ, 07.12.1950

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Letter, 175 x 265 mm; Signed; 2 leafs, 2 sides.

[Copy: KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15]

[Stamp Header:]

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen

Lektor

Teglværksgade 4^{IV}

København Ø

7/12-50

Dear professor Roman Jakobson,

Thank you very much for your kind letter from July. It is long ago, and I ought to have written earlier, but there has not been any important news.

We were very glad indeed to see you here. Everybody enjoyed your brilliant lectures⁷⁷, and I was very glad too to have opportunity to private talks, and stimulating discussions. – I was not very satisfied with my introduction to the discussion in the Linguistic Circle⁷⁸, but I am glad to hear that you did not find it too bad. I was not well then, and had not been able to work for a long time. So in a sense, it was good, that I did not understand the invitation to take part in the Acoustic Conference⁷⁹ as a real invitation, for I should have been very eager to come, but on the other hand I should not have had so much profit of it as would have been the case when I had been all right. – And then perhaps I should not have had the

77. See note 62 above.

78. See note 76 above.

79. Probably it is the first “Speech Communication Conference”, organized by the MIT’s Electronic Research Laboratory (ERL), May 31–June 3, 1950.

possibility of getting money for another stay. – I shall of course be very glad to come, I think there is very much to learn, and I am very grateful that you will help me. But I think we will have to see how the political situation develops before trying anything. I have also very much to do at the moment.

As Martinet has probably told you, I am writing an article for “Word”⁸⁰, which has been inspired by your classification of vowels and consonants according to saturation and acuteness. – I have asked various groups of students who have not had any phonetics yet to group vowels and consonants according to these qualities, (all vowels and consonants together, and smaller group{ <s>} like i-y-u, p,t,k etc). The result has been rather interesting. As to the vowels they have no difficulty in grouping them in “lyse og mørke”⁸¹ and the result corresponds to what was expected, but if they are asked to group them according to saturation og⁸² “Klangfylde”⁸³, they give almost the same grouping. And when asked <directly> if they find that the vowels i, y, u, æ, ö, å could be divided in<to> two groups (i, y, u -- æ, ö, å) according to klangfylde or mættethed⁸⁴, they do not like it. Half of them do not find that it makes sense, and the others admit that something could be said in favour of it, but they should <not> call it klangfylde, they do not know how to name it, -- For the consonants they do not give quite the same grouping, the answers differ somewhat according to the question, and they tend to group e.g. p, t, k as they should according to your theory. But there are many problems. The whole question is rather complicated (also because the terminology lys-mørk, hell-dunkel, acute-grave is different and gives different associations)⁸⁵. I am now reading books on synaesthesia and acoustics <in order> to explain the

80. In 1950, Martinet was one of the two managing editors, RJ was in the executive committee.

81. Danish for “bright and dark”, in RJ’s terms “acute and grave”.

82. Danish for “and”.

83. A Danish parallel to German “Schallfülle”.

84. Danish for “saturation”.

85. The results have later been presented, together with other similar experiments, in EFJ 1967b. “Perceptual dimensions of vowels”. *Til Honor Roman Jakobson*, 667-671. The Hague. Mouton. Among the conclusions (p. 669): “Roman Jakobson’s theory

deviations and I am going to have spectrograms taken of my sounds /2/

I shall be very interested[~~it~~] in hearing what you think about it when you get the manuscript (Are you on the board of edition, so that you get it automatically?). I had promised Martinet to send it before Christmas, but I cannot get it ready until January.

~~In August there was~~ I was very glad that you recommended me to read Fant's books⁸⁶. I have now borrowed his book on the vowels⁸⁷, and I have written to him in order to get a copy, and to ask when the book on the consonants⁸⁸ will be available. – I hope too that the report from the acoustic conference will come out soon.

I have had a look too at Shannon and Weaver⁸⁹, but there is a bit too much mathematics for my taste. Now Spang-Hanssen⁹⁰ is going

concerning a parallelism between vowels and colours has thus been confirmed for brightness (and for hue), but not for saturation.”

86. C(arl) Gunnar M(ichael) Fant (1919-2009), Swedish engineer and acoustician, worked at MIT, Cambridge 1950-52, was in close contact with RJ, with whom (and Morris Halle), he wrote Jakobson, Roman, Fant, Gunnar & Halle, Morris. 1952h. *Preliminaries to Speech Analysis*. Acoustics Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Technical Report XIII (RJ 1952h). From 1954 he collaborated closely with EFJ too. In 1960, she was the official faculty opponent in Stockholm at Fant's doctoral dissertation defense.

87. Fant, Gunnar. 1948. *Analys av de svenska vokalljuden*. L M Ericsson protokoll H/P 1035.

88. Fant, Gunnar. 1949. *Analys av de svenska konsonantljuden*. L M Ericsson protokoll H/P 1064.

89. Shannon, Claude E. & Weaver, Warren (1949). *The Mathematical Theory of Communication*. Urbana. The University of Illinois Press. Claude Elwood Shannon (1916-2001). American mathematician, electrical engineer and cryptographer, often called “the father of information theory”. Published *A Mathematical Theory of Communication* in 1948. Warren Weaver (1894-1978). American scientist and mathematician. When Shannon's landmark articles from the 1948 book were republished in 1949, the book also republished a much shorter article authored by Weaver, which discusses the implications of Shannon's more technical work for a general audience.

90. Henning Spang-Hanssen (1920-2002), Danish engineer, mathematician and linguist. In 1969, he got a new created chair in Applied and Mathematical Linguistics, in 1970 a department attached to his chair was established. As to his account of

to give an account {<of>} it in the Linguistic Circle, and after that I can perhaps read [*itt.*] parts of it.

In August there was a philological meeting in Helsingfors⁹¹. I did not hear many lectures, because the sections were very small and all interesting lectures were given at the same time. Hjelmslev spoke about the Finnish “stadieväxel”⁹², and I gave a lecture on the problem of grouping phonemes in categories according to their faculties of combination. It will be printed in *Acta Linguistica*⁹³. –

– We have had many meetings during the autumn, particularly a series of meetings where we discussed syntax and tried to find out the difference between the traditional syntactic relations and Hjelmslev’s relations.

I hope to get my phonetics printed next year. That is also a reason why I am reading acoustics. I do not like my book to be hopelessly out of date when it comes out, [*itt.*]. This is the case e.g. with Dieths *Vademecum der Phonetik*⁹⁴. –

I hope that you and your wife are all right and send you my best wishes for the new year.

Yours sincerely

{ Eli Fischer-Jørgensen }

Shannon and Weaver, see Spang-Hanssen, Henning (1952), *Acta Linguistica* 7, Fascicule 1-2. 83-87. “Review. Shannon, Claude E. & Weaver, Warren. The Mathematical Theory of Communication.”

91. Det Nordiske Filologmøde, Helsingfors-Åbo, August 1950.

92. Hjelmslev writes in a letter to RJ (August 24, 1950) on the Congress: “Holt read a good paper to the congress on the analysis of the sentences, and Miss Fischer-Jørgensen another one on the possibility of defining phoneme categories by means of combination criteria; I read a paper myself on the consonant shift in Finnish.” (MIT. MC.0072. Box 42, Folder 23).

93. EFJ 1952d. “On the Definition of Phoneme Categories on a Distributional Basis”, *Acta Linguistica* VII, 8-39.

94. Dieth, Eugen (1950). *Vademecum der Phonetik*. Bern. Francke. EFJ has written a review of the book (EFJ 1950b). “Review. Eugen Dieth. *Vademecum der Phonetik*”. 1950. *English Studies* 33. 81-83. Eugen Dieth (1893-1956), Swiss Anglicist, philologist, dialectologist and phonetician.

17.

EFJ to RJ, 03.03.1951

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15, Typed Letter Copy, 225 x 285 mm; non Signed; 2 leafs, 2 sides.

[Stamp Header:]

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen

Lektor

Teglværksgade 4^{IV}

København Ø

3/3-51

Dear professor Roman Jakobson,

As you will know from my last letter and also from the communications from the Linguistic Cercle, your book on *Kindersprache*⁹⁵ and your later articles⁹⁶ have had a very stimulating effect on my work on phonetics questions. I got the idea of trying how people reacted if they were asked to divide vowels and consonants into acute and grave, saturated and diluted, and I wanted in this way to learn something about the correlations between physical and psychological classifications of sounds and distinctive features on the various levels. I promised Martinet an article about it for “Word”, and I had hoped to be able to send you the manuscript some time ago.

Now I gave a lecture on the subject in the Linguistic Cercle in February⁹⁷, and after that both Hjelmslev and Tranekjær Rasmussen⁹⁸ encouraged me to enlarge the investigation and get a thesis

95. RJ 1941a. *Kindersprache, Aphasie und allgemeine Lautgesetze*. Uppsala, Almqvist & Wiksells. EFJ gave a review in the Linguistic Circle the 26th of February 1942, later published as EFJ 1946d. Review of Jakobson. *Kindersprache, Aphasie und allgemeine Lautgesetze, Bulletin du Cercle Linguistique de Copenhague* 7. 1940-41, 31-38.

96. See letter 16 of December 7, 1950.

97. “Classification phonétique sur une base auditive” (February 20, 1951). Published as EFJ 1952e. “The Phonetic Basis for Identification of Phonemic Elements”, *JASA* 24, 611-617.

98. Edgar Tranekjær Rasmussen (1900-1994), Danish psychologist.

out of it. – I had an old plan of writing a thesis about accent in the germanic languages⁹⁹, and I have much material, but the subject is too vast, I have not looked at it for a very long time, and it was more philological than phonetic. – ~~And now~~ And these last years I have been more or less ill and not capable of scientific work. But now it is much better, I have more ideas and I find this ~~subject~~ investigation of the relations between physical and psychological analysis very interesting. It has really many fruitful perspectives and is intimately connected with very fundamental questions of phonetic theory. So I think that it is a good idea.

And this question of writing a thesis has become actual¹⁰⁰ because “Videnskabskommissionen”¹⁰¹ has suddenly started to work hard, and they are likely to make a proposition about erecting a professorship for phonetics in a year or two.

Now of course I should be very glad to discuss these problems with you, to hear your criticisms and to know about your results in this field. But I do not think that it would be the best thing to come to America just now. At the moment I have too many obligations here, and I must write a Dutch¹⁰² and a German¹⁰³ [*ihl.*] phonetics first (I am working on the phonetics of Dutch at the moment – for

99. This project was inspired by a work of EFJ’s professor in German, L.L. Hammerich (see note 61 above). Already from the beginning, EFJ got help for the transcriptions of the examples from one of her younger students, Niels Ege (see note 112 below), whom she already knew through his brother, Jens Ege, with whom EFJ had collaborated in the Resistance Movement. As a pensioner, EFJ resumed the work, and published it as EFJ 2001a. In the Preface, she thanks Niels Ege for having transformed an almost illegible and chaotic manuscript into a typographically clear and well-arranged type-setting ready for direct photographing (see also Skytte 2016: 185-188).

100. Meaning ‘relevant’.

101. “The Science Commission” was established in 1946 to promote research after the Second World War. There was a long pause in the meetings from February 1948 to March 1951. (Else Hansen 2009: 246). The professorship was established only in 1966 as an “extraordinary professorship”, to EFJ.

102. EFJ 1952b: Indledning og Lydlære til Annie Holck Justesen. *Hollandsk grammatik. 2. udgave* omarbejdet og udvidet af Martha Musses og L.L. Hammerich, 13-50. København: Jespersen og Pio.

103. Probably what becomes: EFJ (1955b): Kortfattet tysk fonetik for seminariet. 16 pp. Mimeographed.

the new edition of Hammeric-<{ h }>'s Dutch grammar)¹⁰⁴. And I should like to combine a visit to America with other studies as well: a stay at Pike's¹⁰⁵ Summer Institute¹⁰⁶, orientation on all fields of phonetics where we have something to learn, contact with American linguists etc., and I am [~~it~~] afraid that this would delay my work too much. - Therefore I think that the best thing to do will be to ~~work on~~ start working on my subject in the summer and the autumn, so that I can have finishe-<{ d }> the experiments more or less at Christmas next 1951. - If then they are going to propose the professorship at once, I must try to write the [~~it~~] thesis immediately, and after that - in the summer of 1952 - I should like to come to America before finishing the printed edition of my phonetics¹⁰⁷. - - If it is not necessary to make so much haste (and I hope that this will not be necessary) I will postpone the final formulation of my thesis, and try to come to America in the spring <1952> to study there and discuss with you before writing it. - - But in any case I should be interested in coming to America in 1952. Do you think you could manage to get some money for that purpose? - But before fixing the date I should also be glad to know when the next congresses of linguistics¹⁰⁸ and of phonetics¹⁰⁹ are taking place. Are there any plans about a phonetic congress in America? In that case it would be practical to combine a visit to America with the participation in the congress.

- - And in any case I should be very glad to discuss the matter with you in letters. - May I send you an account of my results up to

104. See note 102 above.

105. Kenneth Lee Pike (1912-2000), American phonetician and phonologist, structural and anthropological linguist. EFJ had already reviewed several works by Pike (1949a, 1950a, 1950-51b).

106. EFJ has told about this experience (pp. 69-70) in EFJ (1981a). "Fifty years with phonetics and phoneticians: a causerie given at the Institute of Phonetics, February 28th 1981", in *ARIPUC* 15, pp. 61-75. The Summer Institute is organized by a faith-based organization, Pike was president of the Summer Institute of Linguistics 1942-1979.

107. See the notes 31 and 32 to letter 3 of 25 March 1949 above.

108. Refers to the Seventh International Congress of Linguists, London 1-6 September, 1952.

109. See note 27 to letter 3 of 25 March 1949, above.

now? (On some points they are in perfect agreement with your theories, on some points not). And have you time left to read it? – (I have just written to Martinet that I cannot send the article now. It would not be good if I am going to use most of it in a thesis but perhaps I can take out a limited problem for an article, /2/ e.g. colour associations).

Does it matter to you whether I write the account in Danish or in English?

As for the problem of the physical analysis of the sounds used I can do a good deal of preparative work with our tonfrequenzspektrometer¹¹⁰ here. But of course a sound spectrograph¹¹¹ would be better. I wrote some time ago to Niels Ege¹¹² who is studying at Yale and asked him whether he could have some spectrograms taken of his Danish speech sounds in Yale. He answered that they have no s.[ound]sp.[ectrograph <{m}>s] in Yale but that he could easily go to New York, and that he would try to arrange it with Martinet who was coming over to Yale soon. – I then wrote to Martinet. The result was that professor Delattre¹¹³ in Philadelphia would do it. I have now written to him <and asked> how ~~much~~ many words he could

110. This device for measuring frequencies of sounds is mentioned (p. 68) in EFJ 1981a.

111. EFJ's Institute got a sound spectrograph in 1953, funded by the Rockefeller Foundation.

112. Niels Ege (1927-2002). Danish linguist. He studied comparative Indo-European philology with Louis Hjelmslev as his chosen professor. He took his final *magister* exam in 1957. Ege, himself a glossematicist, wrote the required MA thesis on the Bloomfield School. He followed EFJ as the chairman of the Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen in 1972-73. After Hjelmslev's death in 1965, he got a central role in the reorganizing of linguistic studies at University of Copenhagen, see Gregersen (2013).

113. Pierre (Charles) Delattre (1903-1969), French-born phonetician active in the USA. He taught at the University of Oklahoma from 1941 to 1947, followed by appointments at the Universities of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia) from 1947 to 1953, Colorado at Boulder from 1953 to 1964, and California at Santa Barbara from 1964 to 1969. He was both a scholar of French, and an eminent researcher in general and experimental phonetics. He ultimately carried out the greatest part of his own research at the Haskins Laboratories. As soon as they became available, Delattre used the sonograph and the pattern playback. He thus used both analysis and synthesis to determine the acoustic structure of cues, the elements by which distinctive features are encoded in sound, at Haskins Labs, often in collaboration with the psychologist A. Liberman and the engineer F. S. Cooper.

register for me, but I have not yet got the answer. – I also asked him if he could send a tape of my own vowels.

I first thought that ~~there~~ it could be done at Yale where Ege is. – As that was not the case, Cambridge had perhaps been a better solution. (Philadelphia is rather long away from Yale). Is Fant still there? –

At any rate I am now waiting for Delattre's reply. –

And perhaps I can get a good opportunity of taking spectrograms ~~in the~~ next summer. The phonetics department in Edinburgh¹¹⁴ has ordered one and ~~ex~~ they expect it to be there in June.

– Pike wrote to me some time ago that if I would be interested in coming to the course of the Summer Institute in 1952, Kurath¹¹⁵ might perhaps [~~it.~~] help me get some scholarship. I suppose that would not be the same source from which you might get money, so that there [~~it.~~] might be a possibility of combining financial support from various sources. I could perhaps also get some money for the journey from Denmark.

All these plans depend of course on the political development. Let's hope that we all still exist at that time. What about Lotz coming here? ~~Has he given up~~ We would be very glad to see him. Is he waiting for the political situation to become better?

I hope you are all right yourself,

With kind regards, also for your wife,

Yours sincerely

114. EFJ had good contacts to this department. From 1949 the wife of the Danish linguist Hans Jørgen Uldall (see note 138 below), Elizabeth Theodora Uldall (née Anderson), called Betsy (1913-2004), taught phonetics in Edinburgh.

115. Hans Kurath (1891-1992), American linguist of Austrian origin. Professor at Ann Arbor, University of Michigan.

18.

RJ to EFJ, 29.03.1951¹⁶

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15, Typed Letter, 215 x 280 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 2 sides.
[Copy : MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36]

[University Letterhead:]
Harvard University
Slavic Languages and Literatures
20 A Prescott Street
Holyoke 39
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

29 ~~March~~ < { May } >, 1951

Dear Miss Fischer-Jørgensen:

Many thanks for your as ever interesting papers and for your most promising letter of April 3¹⁷. I spoke immediately with those people of MIT who are engaged in acoustic<{ s }> and speech analysis and with whom I am now in still closer co-operation, and a letter by Professor Locke¹⁸ invites you as visiting professor for the summer of 1952. This will essentially facilitate your application to the Rockefeller Foundation for a travelling fellowship. You can likewise mention that I and the whole Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures of Harvard University¹⁹ invite you to co-operate during your

116. In the letter, "March" has been corrected to "May" by hand. However, the content of the next letter (April 24, 1951) seems to prove that "March" is right. On the copy in the MIT archives there is no mention of "May". In letter 20 (13 August 1951) EFJ herself expresses a little confusion concerning these letters and dates. It is thus probable that it is EFJ herself who has corrected the month from "March" to "May".

117. Must be a reference to letter 17 of 3 of March.

118. W.N. Locke (1910-2000), Head of the Department of Modern Languages, MIT. He is mentioned in the preface to RJ 1952h.

119. This Department was established in 1949 as a separate department of the University under the Division of Modern Languages and Literatures. The same year

sojourn in this country in our research on contemporary Russian, primarily on its sound pattern. We discussed the high desirability of your connection with this research of ours with Lotz, who is also with us in this investigation. There are so many fundamental problems of general phonetics and phonemics which we have to solve. We try to analyze the Russian speech sounds on all patterns, physiological, physical, psychological, linguistic and mathematical, and I think that this work of ours will be of interest to you and that your co-operation will be of great help to us¹²⁰. Entre nous, should you not receive a support from the Rockefeller or some other foundation, we could from our research fund raise some money for you and I am sure that we would be able to obtain some sums for you also from the acoustic laboratories of MIT. I am very happy that you will visit us, even if it interferes with the international congress of linguists to be in London in August 1952¹²¹, and which I would like very much to attend. We can find time both for our common work and for a trip to England, if everything in the world does not handicap our travel plans. Please keep me informed of the development of your travel plans and don't hesitate to call on me for any help and advice in these plans.

As you easily realize I am highly interested in your book in progress. I am happy that it will accelerate your nomination and that you will exhaustively discuss a problem of great relevance. I deal very much just now with the psychological side of the speech and < { of } > the speech sounds, and /2/ may relations with the excellent psycho-acoustic laboratories of Harvard University still improve. There is particularly a young Professor Miller who is just publishing a book "Psychology of Communication"¹²² with whom I am dis-

RJ was appointed Samuel Hazzard Cross Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures and of General Linguistics at Harvard. He brought fourteen of his Columbia graduate students with him, together with a core faculty for the new Department.

120. This project led to a number of monographs, the first one of which was Morris Halle. 1959. *The Sound Pattern of Russian*. The Hague/Paris. Mouton.

121. The Seventh International Congress of Linguistics.

122. Miller, George Armitage (1920-2012). RJ talks about a book that Miller is

cussing these problems. New outlooks are opening here and I have several younger psychologists in my current course on general linguistics. It will be a pleasure to correspond with you about the problems connected with your thesis. As far as the Danish spectrograms are concerned we have, to speak frankly, much better and easier possibilities than Philadelphia¹²³ has. It seems to me that the only two really equipped acoustic laboratories in this country are in Cambridge and in New York¹²⁴. If you would send me the list of words to be recorded we could easily do the job here. A distinguished economist living in Cambridge and serving as professor at Brandeis University a few miles away, a native Dane from Copenhagen, Löw<{ au }>rsen¹²⁵, could pronounce all these specimens for the tape recording in the silent room of the psycho-acoustic laboratory where ideal conditions for avoiding any disturbing noise are provided, and we could then spectrograph the records in the MIT acoustic laboratories and send you a copy of the spectrograph<{ m }>s. As to myself, I take a leave for the coming fall semester to complete finally “Sound and Meaning”.

With best greetings to all our friends and with warmest wishes to you from both of us,

sincerely,

{ Roman Jakobson }

Roman Jakobson

publishing and labels it: “Psychology of Communication”. Miller published a volume of essays with that name, but as late as 1967. RJ probably here refers to a book by Miller from 1951: *Language and Communication*. New York, Toronto, London, McGraw Hill Book Company, where he mentions RJ in the preface for having “helped to reduce the number of linguistic blunders”.

123. See letter from March 3, note 113 on Delattre who was at the University at Philadelphia.

124. RJ may think of the Haskins laboratories. In 1952, for some weeks, EFJ “went there a couple of days each week and took part in the work done there at the moment. There was an excellent spirit of cooperation, and a very nice and friendly atmosphere [.]” (EFJ’s Report to the Rockefeller Foundation, KB: Acc: 2009/48, Æske 3).

125. It is Svend Laursen (1912-1960), a Danish economist. He took a doctorate at Harvard and later became a Professor at the Brandeis University.

19.

EFJ to RJ, 24.04.1951

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Letter, 225 x 285 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[Copy: KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15]

[s.l.] 24/4- 51

Dear professor Jakobson,

Thank you very much for your kind letter from March 29. In the meantime I have heard from professor Locke. -

One of these days I will speak with the man in the American legation here who is concerned with scholarships etc. I have waited to be sure when the linguistic congress will take place. Firth¹²⁶ said September to Hjelmslev and Lotz in Nice¹²⁷; Vendryes in Paris¹²⁸ said June; quite sure is it not, but I think Firth knows more of it than Vendryes, In that case I should like to come in the spring, and go back in September for the congress.

I am very glad to hear that there is a Dane in Cambridge whom I might perhaps use as a subject. But I could perhaps better do that when I am there myself; he might speak with a pronounced Copenhagen accent, and that would be good to know. So I still would be glad to have the words pronounced by Ege while he is there. I know his speech and voice, and he knows enough of the purpose to be able to exclude words from the list when it should be too long, or to

126. John Rupert Firth (1890-1960), British phonetician and general linguist. Founder of the "Prosodic school" (also called "Firth school") in phonology. He was a member of the organization committee of the London Congress in 1952.

127. Must have been at a meeting organized by Émile Benveniste, cf. *Actes de la Conférence européenne de sémantique*, (Nice, 26-31 mars 1951). Société de linguistique de Paris.

128. Joseph (Jean Baptiste Marie) Vendryes (1875-1960), French Indo-Europeanist and general linguist. He was president of the Paris Congress 1948.

find other examples etc. And it would also be good for himself to try this.

I have written to him that there might be a possibility at the M.I.T. <and that you have written about it>, but that he must arrange it himself with Martinet with whom he has himself started to speak about it. Otherwise I might complicate matters.

I am writing to you later about my work.

Lotz was here some days ago, but only one evening on his way to Stockholm. I tried to show him "Copenhagen at night", and we spent some nice hours together.

With best greetings

yours sincerely

{ Eli Fischer-Jørgensen }

20.

EFJ to RJ, 13.08.1951

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Letter, 190 x 247 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[Copy: KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15]

p.t. Adelgade 4, Faaborg¹²⁹

13/8- 51

Dear professor Roman Jakobson,

I am afraid that I have not answered your letter from May 29th (dated March 29th)¹³⁰. Thank you very much for it. I am grateful that you would organize the recording for me; but if I am coming myself it will not be necessary. (I have a vague impression of having written about this before¹³¹, but I am not in Copenhagen, and have not got all my papers with me) I have not [~~it~~] heard anything from Ege for a very long time, so I do not know if he succeeded in doing anything. He must be on his way home now.

I have not had any time to work with these particular questions since February, so I have nothing new to tell. First I was ill, then I have made a trip to Germany, because I am going to write a phonetic textbook of German¹³². Menzerath¹³³ is getting a huge Insti-

129. The address of EFJ's parents.

130. See letter 18, March 29, 1951.

131. See letter 19, April 24, 1951.

132. See letter 17, March 3, 1951, note 103.

133. Paul Menzerath (1883-1954), German psychologist and phonetician. When the University of Bonn decided to create an institute of phonetics in 1921, Menzerath was put in charge of setting it up and was appointed as the director. It was to become one of the best equipped phonetics research institutions of its time in Europe but was totally destroyed towards the end of the war in 1944. As it was slowly being rebuilt, Menzerath took into account new developments he had become acquainted with at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Speech Communication Conference in

tute, I hope he will use it for something more sensible than his measurements of the pretended three quantities in German¹³⁴. – Zwirner¹³⁵ is also starting to work again, and I think there may come interesting results. He has a good cooperation with Grützmacher¹³⁶ and other physicists.

– I have also used much time (much more than I had calculated) for writing an article for *Acta Linguistica* about the definition of phoneme categories on distributional (relational) basis¹³⁷.

At the moment I am spending my holidays at home, but the weather is dreadful, so that it is impossible to be out of doors. –

I have received the official appointment as a visiting professor at the M.I.T., and I thank you for having arranged this. I hope that it will help me to get money. – But I would be grateful if you would send me some sort of more formal letter or recommendation or the like corroborating that you want my cooperation in Harvard. [*itt.*]

The cultural officer in the American Embassy, with whom I have

1950, and renamed it the “Institut für Phonetik und Kommunikationsforschung”.

134. Menzerath had observed that in German, longer words tend to contain shorter syllables, measured by their number of phonemes. He hypothesized that analogous regularities would possibly hold in other languages as well as in non-linguistic areas.

135. Eberhard Zwirner (1899-1984), German founder, with the mathematician Kurt Zwirner (not related), of phonometry, a specific kind of quantitative phonetics. He obtained a doctorate in medicine in 1924 and another doctorate in philosophy in 1925. Zwirner went from neurology to phonetics, realizing that the study of aphasia had to build on knowledge of the normal language. Zwirner was not so acquainted with modern linguistics, but in his own way he came very close to the approach of the Prague phonologists and glossematics; he met both parties at the Ghent phonetic conference in 1938. Here he also met EFJ, and they had a lifelong friendship, documented by a large correspondence. EFJ went to Germany in 1939 in order to study with Zwirner, but his phonetic research was stopped; he was dismissed from the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute, accused of educating his children in a pacific spirit. After the war Zwirner was extraordinary Professor of phonetics at the universities of Münster from 1958 to 1963 and Cologne in 1963/64, where he was subsequently Professor ordinarius of phonetics from 1964 until his retirement. See also INTRODUCTION.

136. Martin Georg Grützmacher (1901-1994), German physicist and expert in acoustics.

137. EFJ 1952d. “On the Definition of Phoneme Categories on a Distributional Basis”, *Acta Linguistica* VII, 8-39.

spoken ~~about~~ <of> the money question, said that it would be good to be able to add such letters to my application.

In June I was about to give the whole thing up, because I did not feel well, and that is a condition of getting enough out of such a stay[~~it~~.] I did not get much out of my stay in Germany. – But now it is somewhat better, and I hope it will[~~it~~.] be possible to carry it through.

I hope your leg is better now.

With best regards, also for your wife,

Yours sincerely

{ Eli Fischer-Jørgensen }

p.s. Uldall¹³⁸ has left Edinburgh

He is provisionally coming to Copenhagen for the winter.

138. Hans Jørgen Uldall (1907-1957), Danish linguist, leading exponent of glossematics. Uldall studied under Otto Jespersen in Copenhagen and Daniel Jones (1881-1967) in London from 1924 to 1928. In 1931/32 he undertook fieldwork in California, particularly on Southern Maidu (Nisenan). He received an MA in 1933 from Columbia University. From 1933 to 1939 he worked in Denmark with Hjelmslev on the glossematic theory. From 1939 to 1948 he worked for the British Council in the Near East and Brazil. He was later appointed to the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, where he organized a linguistic survey of West Africa. Uldall was an outstanding fieldworker, but apart from a very brief article he did not publish his important Maidu studies himself. As for the grammar, he felt that Maidu required a completely new approach, and this made his interests shift to linguistic theory. The main ideas in glossematics are Hjelmslev's, but Uldall's contributions were important. In 1951/52 he finished the first part of their planned common work (published 1957), but at this time Uldall's approach differed from Hjelmslev's at various points, mainly due to Uldall's view of the glossematic procedure as a discovery procedure.

21.

EFJ to RJ, 11.12.1951

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Letter, 190 x 246 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[Stamp Header:]
Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
Lektor
Teglværksgade 4,^{IV}
København Ø

11/12- 51

Dear professor Roman Jakobson,

I have just received a letter from the Rockefeller Foundation that they have awarded me a fellowship giving me 225 dollars pro month in 6 months and paying the passage[*itt.*] and <the> travelling costs in the States. – I am very glad that this has been possible, and I have planned to come over in the middle of February. – First they would give me money as a member of a research group they are starting in New York, but after I had told them that I would prefer ~~to~~ not to stay in New York the whole time¹³⁹, but, particularly, spend a certain time in Cambridge to work with you and in the M.I.T. I got a personal fellowship. I think that the best time for serious work will be from the middle of February (I cannot come earlier because I have to finish various things here) until the end of May (or perhaps June). I think of spending this time in New York and in Cambridge, and perhaps to start in New York. In this case I would come to Harvard approximately in the beginning of April. Would that suit you?

139. However, during her sojourn in New York in spring 1952, EFJ went to some meetings in this group and heard talks by Joseph Harold Greenberg (1915-2001), Cooper and Lotz. She herself gave a talk on her own investigations of sound perception.

- I could of course come for a shorter stay earlier, and that would certainly be good. I might also start in Cambridge, in the case you would not be there in April[~~th.~~] and May. But I would prefer to start in New York - <partly> to be in the great city in the winter, and not in the spring [~~th.~~] and also because my appointment in the M.I.T. is for the summer (or spring). -

Later I have planned to travel somewhat about, taking part in the summer meeting of the Linguistic Society in Bloomington¹⁴⁰ and going to Oklahoma to see Pike¹⁴¹, and finally <to> see somewhat of the country.

Hjelmslev is coming over in the summer. He has been invited to the summer course in Bloomington¹⁴². He is going to write to you very soon.

I hope you are all right. - I am looking forward to seeing you and your wife again. With the best wishes for Christmas and for the new year.

Yours sincerely

{ Eli Fischer-Jørgensen }

140. The Linguistic Society of America held its Fourteenth Special Summer Meeting at Bloomington, 1-2 August 1952, in conjunction with the Linguistic Institute on the campus of Indiana University. The Linguistic Institute, an annual summer school of linguistics, organized by the Linguistic Society of America, started in 1928 with the scope of bringing linguists together for intensive discussions, classes, workshops and other activities.

141. Kenneth Lee Pike. See note to letter March 3, 1951.

142. Hjelmslev contributed to the discussion of: Floyd G. Lounsbury: "Morphemic structure and semantic Structure", and Henry R. Kahane: "The verbal categories of Romance"; EFJ to the discussion of Eunice V. Pike: "Phonetic rank as illustrated by clusters of two Mazateco dialects" and both of them to the discussion of Richard S. Pittman: "The priority of valence over phonological attachment and relative order in descriptive statement." (*Language*, Vol. 29, No.2, Part 2: 4-5).

22.

EFJ to RJ, 09.01.1952

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Aerogram, 165 x 250 mm; Postmark cut off; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[To:]

Professor, Roman Jakobson,
20 A Prescott Street,
Cambridge 38,
Massachusetts,
USA.

[From:]

[Stamp Header:]

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
Lektor
Teglværksgade 4, ^{IV}
København Ø

January 9th, 1952

Dear Professor Roman Jakobson,

Thank you very much for your letter from December 20¹⁴³. I am glad that my plans suit you, and I am looking forward to coming to Harvard in April. I shall be very interested in reading your Preliminaries to Speech Analysis¹⁴⁴. My address from February 15 is : International House, 500 Riverside Drive, New York.

143. This letter is missing.

144. RJ 1952h. Jakobson, Roman, Fant, Gunnar & Halle, Morris. 1952h. *Preliminaries to Speech Analysis*. Acoustics Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Technical Report XIII.

Svend Smith's¹⁴⁵ address is: Svejagervej 52, Hellerup, and Uldall's¹⁴⁶ is: Ordrupvej 58, Charlottenlund (c/o Togeby¹⁴⁷).

With my best regards,
{ Eli Fischer-Jørgensen }

145. Svend Smith (1907-1986), Danish phonetician and speech therapist. Smith is quoted for a statement concerning the “Danish stød” in RJ 1952h, which came out in January. Probably RJ wanted to send a copy to Svend Smith. Actually, Smith sent a letter to RJ in which he wanted a little correction concerning the quotation. There is, however, no changes in this paragraph in the second printing from May 1952.

146. Probably RJ wanted to send a copy to Uldall too.

147. Knud Togeby (1918-1974), Danish Romanist and very active member of the Linguistic Circle. He obtained his doctorate in 1951, and in 1955 became a professor of Romance philology at the University of Copenhagen, where he remained until his death. Togeby's first major work, his doctoral dissertation (1951) *Structure immanente de la langue française*, is a large-scale application of glossematic principles and a discussion of contemporary linguistic theories. Like EFJ, Togeby was thanked for “valuable suggestions” concerning the first printing of *Preliminaries* (RJ 1952h, 2nd printing: vii).

23.

EFJ to RJ, 17.02.1952

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Autograph Postal Card, 140 x 85 mm;
 Postmark: New York N.Y. Feb. 17 1952 11 PM; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[To:]

Professor Roman Jakobson
 20 A Prescott Street
 Cambridge 38
 Mass.
 U.S.A

[From:]

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
 International House
 500 Riverside Drive
 New York 27

17/II 1952

Dear professor Roman Jakobson,

I arrived here on friday. I am now examining the possibilities of research here - and before fixing my plans definitely I should like to go to Cambridge to have a short talk with you and professor Locke. As it would be too unpractical to write to you both and perhaps get a different answer, I am only writing to you and I hope you will have time to ring him up. I thought of coming e.g. thursday <or friday> afternoon; - to see you in the evening and then go to the M.I.T the next morning and return by an evening train. What would suit you best. I cannot go before thursday, and I should like to be here on ~~mo~~ Sunday, since Garvin¹⁴⁸ has written to me that he is coming in the week-end and would like to meet me.

148. Paul L(ucian) Garvin (1919, Vienna-1994, USA), Machine translation pioneer,

You I should be grateful for a card or a telephone call[.] I am a late riser, so I will be sleeping in the morning. –

<Hoping to see you soon

yours sincerely

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen>¹⁴⁹

methodologist, Americanist. Garvin began his academic education in 1937 in Prague and, after fleeing Czechoslovakia, continued it briefly at the University of Stockholm. In 1941, he left Europe for New York, where he worked at the US Army Language Section from 1942 to 1945, while continuing his education in Linguistics at the Ecole Libre des Hautes Etudes. He was an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Oklahoma from 1948 to 1951 and an Associate Professor of Linguistics at Georgetown University from 1952 to 1960. Garvin had translated EFJ 1941b from German into an English (mimeographed) version (EFJ 1951), for the Summer Institute of Linguistics, Oklahoma 1951.

149. Text added along the left margin of the page.

24.

EFJ to RJ, 02.03.1952

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Autograph Postcard, 140 x 90 mm; Postmark: New York N.Y. Mar 2 195[2] 6-PM, Picture b/w "International House", "N.Y. (c) Wm. F."; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

2 March 1952

Dear professor Jakobson and Mrs. Jakobson

Thank you very much for your hospitality and kindness during my recent visit to Cambridge. – I promised Sebeok¹⁵⁰ to come to Bloomington April 7th 151 – by air and fetched by car in Indianapolis, and everything paid. – It was perhaps silly, but I found it difficult to refuse. – I shall thus come to Cambridge after that visit. – I have started reading your book¹⁵² and will write about it later.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen

150. Thomas A(lbert) Sebeok (1915, Budapest-2001, USA). Semiotician; anthropologist; general linguist; Finno-Ugricist; folklorist. Sebeok joined his father in New York in 1937, and became a naturalized US citizen in 1944. His lifelong friend and mentor RJ was the supervisor of his doctoral dissertation. Sebeok is well-recognized for his editorship of the 14-volume, 21-tome *Current Trends in Linguistics*, The Hague, 1963-76. In 1952, Sebeok was the director of the Linguistic Institute at Bloomington, see note to letter December 11, 1951.

151. EFJ gave a lecture on the perception of speech sounds.

152. I.e. RJ 1952h: *Preliminaries*. See note 144 to letter 22, January 9, 1952, and letter 25 below.

25.

EFJ to RJ, 31.03.1952

MIT MC.0072 Box 12 Folder 44, Typed Letter, 215 x 280 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 2 sides.

[Copy: KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15]

International House box 856
500 Riverside Drive
New York 27, N.Y.

31- 3- 52

Dear professor Roman Jakobson,

I am sorry that I have waited so long before writing to you about your Preliminaries. The reason is, that I have had very much to do, and I have been almost a week in Washington¹⁵³, and a day in Yale¹⁵⁴, and I am rather tired, so that my working capacity is not too good. - I read your book immediately after returning from Boston, but I wanted to read it once more and make a resumé, but this resumé became almost a copy, because there were so many interesting questions, and the book is rather condensed.

<{ Excuse the misprints. It is a bad typewriter }>¹⁵⁵

I have been very interested in reading it, and I find it very stimulating and suggestive. I wish you would have given some more spectrograms etc. for illustration and documentation¹⁵⁶, but it would perhaps have been too expensive. As it is now there are lots of things one would wish to try out and to investigate further. But this of

153. EFJ (1952c) gave a lecture on Glossematics in Washington Linguistics Club, 25 March.

154. It was an informal gathering where she met a group of linguists. EFJ gave a lecture "on her results up to now", see letter May 6, 1952.

155. Written along the left margin of the page.

156. The first printing, January 1952, contains five pages with 9 figures. The second printing, May 1952, has six pages with 12 figures.

course is just very stimulating. – As you have pointed out yourself, particularly the perceptual stage requires further investigation. It is not quite sure that the patterning will be the same as on the acoustical stage. – I should perhaps prefer myself to keep the articulatory, the acoustical and the perceptual stages more apart, to begin with, basing the features on one of them at a time¹⁵⁷, and then see how they fit together.

I have put question marks here and there, I need no{t} write about all of them since I hope to see you soon in Harvard, but I should like to mention a few ~~mør~~ problems which have a more general consequence. –

p. 5-6 you speak about redundant variations and use the Danish examples t-d-ð¹⁵⁸. I doubt whether the formulation is quite correct. As far as I know the length of the vowel is irrelevant. t-d are found initially in monosyllabics [*sic*], d-ð finally¹⁵⁹ (but d has free variance with t, which is an argument for the given reduction, which might have been mentioned). Medially we have the same situation as finally before { ə } and -ig (ing is so rare that it is difficult to find examples, but { ð } the pair seems to be d- { ð } [.]. Before -isk it is more complicated, because this ending is chiefly foun{ d } in foreign words, and they are pronounced according to the spelling (~~fonetisk~~ *venetisk* -t, *parodisk* -d [ɔ]), but in common words the writte{n} t is ~~spell~~ pronounced d (I would often say *fonetisk* with a d) and d may be pronounced { ð }, (this is rare, but the fricative { ɣ } is normal in *psykologisk*). In other cases we have t-d. But how can the pairs be combined as strong-weak {?}¹⁶⁰ The difference d- { ð }, g-{ ɣ } can

157. This is a point that EFJ repeats several times in her work.

158. The current IPA symbol for the voiced dental fricative is restored here and in what follows, whereas EFJ tried to typewrite it (typing “ ’d”); in most cases, however, the symbol is handwritten.

159. The authors of *Preliminaries* changed the exposition from the first printing (January 1952) to the second printing (May 1952), according to EFJ’s comments in the paragraph “As [...] finally”. See also INTRODUCTION, above, section 6.2.1.

160. “Strong-weak” is not a well defined feature in *Preliminaries* (RJ 1952h). It seems only to be used about consonants, and as a “subgroup” to “tense-lax”: “[...] the tense consonants (called strong or fortes) in comparison with their lax counterparts (called weak or lenes.)” (p.36). “In consonants, tenseness is manifested primarily by the

hardly be distinguished from b-v (here we have p-b-v initially) - v is normally frictionless like the other voiced “fricatives”. - - The same problem would arise for the series i i, e, æ, a (after after r : i, e, a, { a }). It is true that the features variants can be united, but when distinctive features are determined<scribed> phonetically, then it might be possible to say that different features were used in different positions, - or else we might say that the features are the same - but then they cannot be defined phonetically. There is a narrow limit to the reduction of features in different positions when at the same time the phonetic differen{ce}> should be the same. - - d-ð should be stop-constrictive, - and t- { d } is {hard}ly tense-lax (t is very lax), but aspirated - non-aspirated. -¹⁶¹

In the definition of the vocalic feature I should prefer to omit the “~~abru~~ gradual onset”¹⁶². The combination of two quite different things in one feature is not very satisfactory. The consequence would be that the nasals were vocalic, but that would not do much harm. And /z/ <{ it }> would not make any difference for h and ?¹⁶³, since ? has can not be said to have a harmonic source. - Consonantal could still be defined as having zeros. And the normal groups of vowels and consonants might be established quite as easily. - But how do you find out whether there are zeros? In my spectrograms there is no hole anywhere for an s, but there may are holes in an i? And the definition of British r later on seems to presuppose that this sound has no zeros. How is that?

Why are double consonants (gb) considered as groups, and glott[a]lized consonants as one phoneme? Perceptually and acoustically the time-distinction is clearer in the second case¹⁶⁴.

Does a fricative l not fall outside the definition of liquids?

The experiments with s-ts-t-d by cutting of{f} the beginning,

length of their sounding period, and in stops, in addition, by the greater strength of their explosion.” (p. 36). Further the terms strong/weak are both used to identify a position, and a term of a distinctive opposition (p. 5).

161. This paragraph on Danish we have treated in INTRODUCTION, section 6.2.1.

162. This entire paragraph is marked with a purple stroke running vertically along the left margin of the page.

163. In the manuscript, the IPA symbol for the glottal stop is typewritten as “?”.

164. Both examples are from RJ 1952h, p. 23.

seem to show that the duration of the noise after the explosion is more important than its quality.

The terminology compact-diffuse is perhaps better than saturated-non-saturated, but still not quite satisfactory. It might be turned round: in *i* there are two compact, concentrated formants, in *a* there is a big diffuse area. – People whom I have asked about saturation (compared to colours [D]), seem to react to this conception of compact and saturated (*i* more than *æ*). – – Flat-plain is perhaps not too good as terminology either, because it runs counter [to] the perceptual analogies, *i*, *e*, *æ*, *a* are often described as “flat” when you ask people.

More essential is the following: I am very doubtful about the distinction tense-lax in vowels. It is probable that *æ* { *ɔ* } is some-what more lax than *o* in French, because lower vowels generally are somewhat more lax than higher vowels, but I do not think that this can be essential¹⁶⁵. Generally French is considered as having only tense vowels. Why not start with a language which is normally considered as having this distinction, e.g. German and Dutch (I should like to investigate these languages, I have had it in mind on earlier occasions, but now it would be interesting to see if they fit your theory)¹⁶⁶. And in counting the deviations from the neutral vowel (which by the way must be rather difficult to determine) the third formant is counted with the same weight as the others, although it might be less important and in any case the number of cycles will not be of the same importance for the ear. – How is it with *ø* – *œ* in French, *ø*'s second formant might be closer to 1700 than *œ*'s, but the first formant would differ more from 570.

Your reason for using the distinction tense-lax in French is apparently this that four degrees of compactness (opening) are not admitted. Danish would therefore be in the same position. But must the description necessarily be binary¹⁶⁷? I understand very well that

165. Starting with this sentence, the paragraph is marked with a new vertical purple stroke on the right margin of the page.

166. Actually in RJ 1962b (p.553), RJ and Halle include a reference to an investigation of lax and tense vowels in Dutch (RJ & Morris Halle. “Tenseness and Laxness”. *Selected Writings* 1. The Hague, Paris, New York/Mouton Publishers, pp. 550-555).

167. The binary principle, and the example with Danish vowels, is a fundamental

this is the most simple way of description and that it should be preferred when possible, but is it sure that we perceive that way? and could there not be cases where four steps of the same quality would be possible. If not, why not use the sharpening feature just as in the consonants? : “slight rise of the second formant” would be a good description of e versus æ, <{ but not }> o versus å etc. and would not interfere with the normal use of tense-lax. (although the falling downward shift of the first formant seems to be more essential for the perception).

- - - I hope that we can discuss some minor questions later. These critical remarks are only meant as an expression of the great interest with which I have read your book.

I have investigated about the possibilities of leave. It will be very difficult. - Furthermore it might perhaps be wise to continue the work with Danish sounds and Danish subjects for the perceptual questions, which I have started, in order not to delay my thesis too much. And this cannot be done here. - Finally there is a sentimental reason for not staying another year [.] My parents have just moved to Copenhagen, primarily in order to be nearer¹⁶⁸ <to my sister and me; and immediately after that I went to the States. And they are old, and my father has had a small attack of apoplexia. I do not know how long a time they will have in Copenhagen. - - In any case I am coming to Harvard ab.[out] 15 April.

With best regards, Yours sincer[e]ly,
{ Eli Fischer-Jørgensen }>

discussion point between EFJ and RJ in almost all the years of their correspondence. See also the INTRODUCTION, above.

168. The following lines, including the signature, are placed along the left margin of the page.

26.

RJ to EFJ, 07.04.1952

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Letter Copy, 215 x 280 mm; non Signed, Initialed, 1 leaf, 1 side.

Roman Jakobson

[s.l.] April 7, 1952

Miss Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
500 Riverside Drive
New York, New York

Dear Miss Fischer-Jørgensen,

Many thanks for your interesting remarks¹⁶⁹, which I would like to discuss with you when you will be here. I spoke about you with the head of the Psycho-Acoustic Laboratory, Professor Stevens¹⁷⁰. He was very interested in making your acquaintance and I promised to introduce you to him.

Halle¹⁷¹ and I visited the psychologist, Heinz Werner¹⁷², at Clark

169. Must be to the *Preliminaries*. See letter 25 from March 31.

170. Stanley Smith Stevens (1906-1973). American psychologist who founded Harvard's Psycho-Acoustic Laboratory, studying psychoacoustics. *Handbook of Experimental Psychology* 1951 (edited by S.S. Stevens) is a milestone textbook in the field, see also letter 29, December 21, 1952.

171. The linguist Morris Halle (1923 Latvia-2018 USA). In 1940, he immigrated to the United States and studied engineering in New York (1941-1943), then served in the U.S. Army (1943-1946). He sought an M.A. degree in linguistics at the University of Chicago (1946-1948), then went to Columbia University to study with RJ (1948-1949), and subsequently followed RJ to Harvard, from which he received a Ph.D. in linguistics (1955). Together with RJ, Halle published RJ 1952h (also with Fant), 1956a, 1962b and 1968f. During the late 50s and further on, Halle was the initiator of and chief driving force of Generative Phonology. Noam Chomsky & Morris Halle. *The Sound Pattern of English* (Cambridge Mass. MIT Press) was a key work in the development of this theory.

172. Heinz Werner (1890, Vienna-1964, USA), Austrian-American psychologist. In

University, about one hour from Cambridge. He revealed very interesting views on the devices and aims of the inquiry into a perceptual level of speech sounds. I announced to him your arrival and he will be happy to meet you here or at Clark.

I come still more to the conclusion that your work on these problems will be most productive if you stay with us at least until Christmas¹⁷³, and I communicated my view to Hjelmslev¹⁷⁴.

Looking forward to welcoming you here soon,

Sincerely,

Roman Jakobson

tj/fs

1914, he was awarded a Ph.D. and graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Vienna for his dissertation “The Psychology of Esthetic Enjoyment”. Karl Bühler (1879-1963), later a prominent member of the Prague Circle, was an early mentor for Werner in Vienna. Werner got a position of Privatdozent at the University of Hamburg in 1921, but left this due to the Nazis in 1933, eventually moving to the United States. He got a position at Clark University in 1947 and held the chair until 1960. RJ (1955a) continued to correspond with Werner and praised him for his metaphor theory (from 1919) in a presentation in 1953. RJ (1960a) also contributed to the Festschrift to Werner.

173. This proposal seems to be important for the further course of contact between the two correspondents.

174. In a letter to Hjelmslev, March 25, 1952, RJ wrote: “I was delighted to meet Miss Fischer-Jørgensen and I have a great admiration for her plans and great hopes for her work here. Only I am afraid that the spring and summer time are too short for the fascinating tasks she sketched. As far as I see, it will be possible to arrange here a fellowship for her, giving her the possibility to work in the laboratories during the coming academic year. Do you think it would be possible, in this case, to obtain a leave of absence for her from your University? I think, it would be a great help to her plans and to the research problems in speech analysis if you could help her in this regard. I did not tell her that I would write you on this question, so that better do not mention to her my request”. (MIT. MC.0072. Box 42, Folder 23).

27.

EFJ to RJ, 06.05.1952

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Letter, 215 x 280 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[*s.l.*] 6/5- 52

Dear professor Jakobson,

This is a somewhat enlarged version of the lecture I have given in various places¹⁷⁵, containing most of my results up to now¹⁷⁶. – I should be very glad to discuss it with you. – I would also be interested in hearing the opinion of some of the psychologists here. The best way would perhaps be to give a lecture somewhere. Locke¹⁷⁷ proposed me to speak one day at the MIT-lunches. But these meetings are generally rather hurried, and in any case I must restrict the material. In Yale¹⁷⁸ e.g. I condensed the whole thing. But it would also be possible to divide it up in two parts. –

I am coming to-morrow – wednesday.

Yours sincerely

{ Eli Fischer-Jørgensen }

In the lecture I did not give numbers to the answers, but showed a diagram.

175. For example New York, Bloomington/Indiana, Yale.

176. A lecture of the perception of speech sounds.

177. See note 118 to letter 18, March 29, 1951.

178. EFJ gave the “perception” lecture at Yale the 14th of April, on her way from New York to Cambridge. Here she met Bernard Bloch. William Freeman Twaddell (1906-1982), general linguist and Germanicist, structural phonologist had also come to the meeting; EFJ had had a correspondence with him several years before, on German phonemics.

28.

EFJ to RJ, 17.10.1952

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Aerogram, 163 x 228 mm; Postmark: 19.10.52, København OMK; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[Copy: KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15]

[To:]

Professor Roman Jakobson

Prescott Street 20 A

Cambridge 38

Mass.

USA

[From:]

[Stamp Header:]

Professor Eli Fischer-Jørgensen

Teglværksgade 4, IV

København Ø

Denmark

October 17, 1952

Dear Roman¹⁷⁹,

I am now - slowly - coming back to normal life in Copenhagen. Both Hjelmslev and I have been very tired since our return, the shift of climate seems to be bad both ways (Hjelmslev has been in bed with colds most of the time). It was of course also a very exhausting time in the States, but I enjoyed it immensely and learnt a lot, and I have brought a great number of spectrograms home for further study. I am very grateful to you indeed for recommending me to the Rockefeller people and for your hospitality in Cambridge.

I am sorry that I could not stay longer there, but it was not pos-

179. This is the first of three letters from Copenhagen without an answer and the first letter where EFJ uses RJ's first name.

sible¹⁸⁰. < { Although } > I got a wrong start in Cambridge because I felt so ill and consequently depressed in the beginning and did not have energy to get into contact with people, I was very glad to be there. -- I am going to continue the experiments on sound perception here, and wanted to start with some further experiments on the connection between vowels and colors, and according to your new formulation I would give up saturation and try with chromaticity, but what is chromaticity? I have not been able to find anything about it nor to get any answer from psychologists, and I would be very grateful if you would send me a few words about it with reference to the literature.

I was sorry that I did not manage to come to Hunter¹⁸¹. But I got a higher salary than expected for my lectures in Ann Arbor¹⁸², and used the money to get farther west. I went to San Francisco and enjoyed it very much. I shall probably never get another chance to come there. San Francisco is the most beautiful city I have seen in America -- this of course is will not say very much -- but [~~it~~.] I think it is even one of the most beautiful cities I have seen at all.

I hope you have had a good rest in the mountains so that you are less tired now.

Please give my kind regards to your wife.

Cordially yours,

{ Eli }

180. This statement probably is important for the further course.

181. See note 48 to letter 9, August 12, 1949.

182. See note 115 to letter 17, March 3, 1951.

29.

EFJ to RJ, 21.12.1952

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Aerogram, 168 x 252 mm; Postmark: 22 dec 1952, København OMK; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[Copy: KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15]

[To:]

Professor Roman Jakobson

Prescott Street 20 A

Cambridge 38

Mass.

USA

[From:]

[Stamp Header:]

Professor Eli Fischer-Jørgensen

Teglværksgade 4, IV

København Ø

Denmark

21-12-52

Dear Roman,

In are letter from October¹⁸³ I asked you what was meant by chromaticity. Since then I have read a good deal about colors, e.g. Judd's contribution to the Handbook of exp.[erimental] psychology¹⁸⁴ and various articles in the Journal of the opt.[ical] soc.[iety], and it is now quite clear to me that chromasticity (or in the pure psychological sense now chromaticness) is the horizontal dimen-

183. See letter 28, October 17, 1952.

184. Judd, Deane B. 1951: "Basic Correlates of the Visual Stimulus", pp. 811-867. *Handbook of Experimental Psychology* (ed. S.S. Stevens).

sion in the color solid including hue and saturation¹⁸⁵. American psychologists must lack linguistic imagination, since the fact that I left out the s in chromasticity confused them completely. – Nevertheless it is still not quite clear to me how chromasticity should come in. In the new edition of your preliminaries¹⁸⁶ you still talk about saturation alone as correlated with degree of opening – I have made some new experiments with persons wit[h]out previous synesthesia (in order to avoid the mixing up of letter- and sound-synesthesia), showing them color tables (11 hues with 10 shades each in two dimensions (saturation and darkness) [~~etc.~~] while they listened to vowel sounds. The result was the same as in previous experiments – clear correlation between front vowels and light colors, back vowels and dark colors but no correlation with saturation¹⁸⁷. But the new correlation you mentioned in your second edition between light- yellow-green and dark[-]red-blue¹⁸⁸ seem[ed] corroborated at any rate as a tendency.

– I have had classes on phonemic theory with a group of advanced students, which have taken some time, but otherwise I have not done much, but relaxed somewhat after the tiresome summer. I hope to do a good deal of work in January. – I am sending you some off-prints before long.

I hope you are all right.

Best wishes for Christmas and the new year for you and your wife,

Yours sincerely

{ Eli F-J }

185. EFJ is here probably referring to a description in Judd 1951, p. 839.

186. Jakobson, Roman, Fant, Gunnar & Halle, Morris. 1952h. *Preliminaries to Speech Analysis*. Acoustics Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Technical Report XIII. Second printing (May 1952).

187. The results can be found in EFJ 1967b, and more extended in EFJ 2003.

188. RJ 1952h: *Preliminaries*, p.32. In the first printing (from January) it was light, yellow, red, and dark, blue, green.

30.
EFJ to RJ, 11.09.1953

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Aerogram, 165 x 252 mm; Postmark: 13 sep 1953 København OMK; Signed; 1 leaf, 2 sides.
[Copy: KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15]

[To:]
Professor Roman Jakobson
20 A Prescott Street
Cambridge
Mass.
USA

[From:]
[Stamp Header:]
Professor Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
Teglværksgade 4, IV
København Ø
Denmark

Dear Roman,

It is time that I thank you for the offprint you sent me some months ago¹⁸⁹ (Toward the logical description...) ¹⁹⁰. I gave it almost

189. RJ 1953b. RJ, Cherry, E.C. & Halle, Morris. 1953b. "Toward the Logical Description of Languages in their Phonemic Aspect". *Language* 29, 34-46.

190. It can be seen that RJ has sent an offprint, although he does not seem to write letters to EFJ in this period. It is noteworthy that RJ has kept the letters. After this letter 30 from September 1953 there is a break, until 1958, in the direct correspondence between the two linguists. In 1956 EFJ sends an article with a greeting to be published in the Roman Jakobson Festschrift. The two linguists meet each other again in 1957 at the Eighth International Congress of Linguists in Oslo. EFJ writes in a letter to J. Lotz (September 18, 1954): "We had a Dutch linguist, A. Cohen [...] here for a week recently. He is going to America to study acoustic phonetics on a Rockefeller grant, and Rockefeller sent him here first to get some orientation about what is done in

immediately to one of my students who was writing a master's thesis on a phonemics question, and did not get it back until recently.

I found this article very interesting indeed, and I think it means a good step forward in theoretical respect. The elimination of the zeros by a grouping into categories is certainly a good idea. – In the tables on p. 40 there are however still a few zeros left (indicated by an empty space), and these might be eliminated through a subdivision into smaller groups, and it would probably be consistent to do so¹⁹¹. –

A question which has sometimes puzzled me is whether the choice of + and ÷ (or in other words the choice of asking <e.g.> for graveness or for acuteness) is arbitrary or whether there is som[e] phonetic or other reason for it. I also sometimes wonder w<{ h }>ast is really meant by zero. Here you define it as “either”. From a phonemic point of view I think it should be “neither”, from a phonetic point of view it may vary : e.g. vowels may be either voiced or unvoiced but they are neither continuants nor stops, or neither stri-

Copenhagen. [...] I asked him to find out, why Roman Jakobson has not answered any letter from me since 1952. He is probably still angry because I did not stay, and because I seemed to agree more with you.” (KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 19).

191. While EFJ agrees with Cherry, Halle and Jakobson (1953b), when they group the phonemes into categories, Dresher (2009: 82) presents another point of view: “In their article, they explicitly adopt feature ordering: ‘For the purpose of identifying one particular phoneme out of the set employed by the language, the distinctive features may be regarded as questions to be answered yes or no.’ They make it clear that these questions must be asked in an order, and point out that the logic employed is three-valued: yes (+), no (-), and zero, which they take to mean that either answer can be given [...] In their analysis [of Russian, our insert] there are forty-two phonemes which require eleven distinctive features, rather than the six features which make up the logical minimum needed to fully distinguish a set of forty-two members.” (p. 81). They “ask if it is possible to remove all or many of the zero signs in their table by reordering the features [...] They go on to propose that gains can be achieved if one gives up a fixed feature order, and allows the order of the features to vary in different branches of the decision tree. In their focus on the problem of zero specifications, Cherry, Halle and Jakobson (1953) foreshadow what was soon to become a major concern in early generative phonology.” (p. 82). Dresher's purpose with the book is to argue that the contrastive hierarchy is the right approach in phonology (B. Elan Dresher. 2009. *The Contrastive Hierarchy in Phonology*. Cambridge. Cambridge University Press).

dent nor mellow, or , in and in some languages they may perhaps be always oral and never nasal, but these are phonetic descriptions, phonemically the difference is irrelevant, thus neither¹⁹². –

– Would it not be possible to leave out the feature [ill] strident in Russian? Only ts is considered as strident, and the dental stops as mellow, but these there is already one difference between ts and the stops: that only the stops allow of the opposition palatalized (sharp) and non palatalized, so that when all are taken together, ts has a zero here, and when they are divided up, it has one feature less¹⁹³.

I hope that you and your wife are all right, and that your “sound and Meaning”¹⁹⁴ proceeds as expected (or let us say: not too much slower than expected, for things always take much more time than calculated). –

I have not done much this year. I have been very tired. I worked too hard in America [ill] at a time when I was not too well. But now I am working again. I am writing an article about the Danish stops (experimental investigation with a phonemic introduction) where I have tried to formulate the rules you asked me for once)¹⁹⁵. –

/2/

I am also preparing a – rather critical – article on the commutation test¹⁹⁶.

Please, give my kind regards to your wife and to Morris Halle.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely

{ Eli }

192. “either” in the Cherry, Halle, Jakobson text (RJ 1953b), p.37: “Thus one may ask, Is the phoneme vocalic? – yes or no; [...] For the language under consideration here, a total of eleven such questions is necessary to identify any one phoneme uniquely. Table A illustrates these questions answered yes (+) or no (-); a zero (O) means either.”

193. EFJ is referring to Table A. The Phonemes of Russian in RJ 1953b, p. 38.

194. See note 14 to letter 2, March 14, 1949.

195. EFJ 1954. Acoustic Analysis of Stop Consonants. *Miscellanea Phonetica* 2. 42-59. This paper is later quoted with a certain weight by RJ in a couple of his works, first in RJ 1962c: “Retrospect”, SW I, p. 638.

196. Probably: EFJ 1956a. “The commutation test and its application to phonemic analysis”. *For Roman Jakobson*, ed. by Morris Halle et al., 140-151.

31.

RJ to EFJ, 02.08.1958

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15; Autograph Postcard, 146 x 101 mm; Picture b/w
 “1312 29 Norge. Skeikampen Høifjellshotell”; Postmark: 4 aug 1958, Oslo /
 5 aug 1958 7 15, København; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[To:]

Miss Eli Fischer-Jørgensen

~~Teglværksgratan 4~~

Kongestien 45 [Other Hand]

Kjøbenhavn

Danmark

Virum [Other Hand]

2 VIII 58

Dear Eli,

it was wonderful to meet and to talk again with you. Heartiest thanks for hospitality¹⁹⁷. Sommerfelt¹⁹⁸ doubts whether a support for a collective trip to Japan is obtainable. I shall look for further information (Japan? Zwirner?¹⁹⁹ MIT?)²⁰⁰. Alf [Sommerfelt] considers that phonetic congresses ~~shou~~ are important and must be re-

197. RJ and EFJ met each other again at the Eighth International Congress of Linguists (Oslo, 5-9 August, 1957). And further at the Trubetzkoy Symposium, July 1958. RJ was in Copenhagen 28-29 July, 1958.

198. The Norwegian linguist Alf Axelsson Sommerfelt (1892-1965) was a close friend of RJ. Sommerfelt took part in the Phonological Meeting in Prague 1930 (see INTRODUCTION) and RJ was in close contact with him during his stay in Norway (1939-1940). RJ was about to participate in the 9th International Congress of Papyrologists, to be held in Oslo, 18-22 August.

199. See note 135 to letter 20, August 13, 1951 above, and the INTRODUCTION.

200. See following letter. The Third International Congress of Phonetic Sciences took place in Ghent, in 1938. In 1957-58 RJ had been elected Chairman of the Permanent International Council for Phonetic Sciences (see INTRODUCTION).

sumed. I would like to write you a lot of personal emphatica but you would, I'm afraid, associate me with your Baku correspondent.

Yours Roman

<Did my Gilyak²⁰¹ finally reach you?>²⁰²

201. "Notes on Gilyak". *Bulletin of the Institute of History and Philology* 29 (RJ 1957b) ["Studies Presented to Yuen Ren Chao"], pp. 255-281. Gilyak, or Nivkh, is a small language family, often portrayed as a language isolate, of two or three mutually unintelligible languages spoken by the Nivkh people in Outer Manchuria. Gilyak/Nivkh is an agglutinating synthetic language. It has a developed case system, as well as other grammatical markers, but does not have grammatical gender. See photo after Part 6.

202. Written upside-down at the top of the card.

32.

EFJ to RJ, 08.08.1958

MIT MC.0072 Box 5 Folder 35, Typed Letter, 210 x 295 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 2 sides.

[Copy: KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15]

p.t. Kongestien 45, Virum
Danmark

8-8-58

Dear Roman,

Thank you very much for your card! (After having seen the picture I decided not to go to Skeikampen for skiing. There are too many trees, and my swinging technique does not permit me to avoid them). – Thank you also very much for the offprint on Gilyak which I received a few days ago (it had been back in the States for further postage)²⁰³. I suppose your secretary changed the dedication! It was “with heartiest wishes” which was not quite as bad as you said. – I have already read it, and find it very interesting from many points of view, <and> particularly the comparison with Danish consonants. It must have cost you a lot of work. I am glad to see that Chao’s Festschrift has appeared in a series²⁰⁴. Otherwise such articles are almost completely lost, and there is so much of general interest in yours. I read it quickly, but shall <{ I }> have to return to it.

I should think that Japan is the best place for the congress, if we can get money. If not, perhaps we should choose Helsinki. Sovijärvi²⁰⁵ is perhaps no great organizer, but he offered it first, and I am a little afraid that there may still be people who would not go to Ger-

203. RJ 1957b; see note 201 to letter 31 above.

204. See note 201 to letter 31 above.

205. Antti Sovijärvi (1912-1995), Finnish phonetician. Helsinki became in fact host of the 4th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (1961).

many (particularly in Norway and Holland). I know \ddot{t} that Selmer²⁰⁶ would not come), so perhaps it would be better to wait another three years²⁰⁷. – MIT would be fine, but $\langle it \rangle$ presents the same money-problem for Europeans as Japan, and as the next Linguistic Congress is planned for USA, we would not get money twice; ~~and~~ it would be better to have several years in between. – –

I hope Dr. Kaiser²⁰⁸ will continue until February. At any rate I cannot do anything before this time. – Even then it is difficult, because I have promised so many other things, and I would have refused if it had not been you. But since you said that I had “attacked you” so often, I thought I had to show “ma bonne volonté”. – By the way, I have never attacked you, I have discussed your theories, which is something quite different. And I discuss them, because I find them worth discussing, which is the highest praise of my vocabulary. I am a hyper-critical mind, and I am not able to accept or believe in theories. I show my admiration through /2/ discussion (I would never think of writing two lines on “stimmhaftes Kauen”)²⁰⁹. Your ~~books~~ $\langle theories \rangle$ are the most stimulating I know. Several phoneticians could use their whole life trying to verify a minor part of your ideas. – – Thus: discussing and criticizing ~~to~~ books is not the same as attacking them, and $\langle this is \rangle$ again quite different from attacking a person. I have criticized Hjelmslev much more negatively than you, but that does not make any difference in our friendship. I find it much more interesting and stimulating to disagree with my friends than to agree with them in all respects.

206. Ernst W. Selmer (1890-1971), Norwegian phonetician and philologist.

207. The 5th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences would in fact take place in Münster, Germany, in 1964.

208. Louise Kaiser (1891-1973), Dutch phonetician. She had been Secretary for The Permanent International Council, Responsible for the Congresses of Phonetic Sciences, since the very first one in 1932. See also INTRODUCTION.

209. “Voiced chewing“. The notion refers to the “chewing theory” of Emil Froeschels (1884-1972) which was presented in 1939 for the first time and which states a close connection between speech and chewing. It is possible that EFJ is referring to an article by Felix Trojan: “Zeichen, Silbe und Laut in entwicklungsgeschichtlicher Sicht”, *Phonetica* 1, 1957, pp. 63-81, in which Trojan tries to combine the theories of Froeschels and of RJ.

- - - I hope you have some rest in Skeikampen. The Norwegian mountain air is wonderful. I feel much better after two weeks there.

Please give my kind regards to Sommerfelt.

Heartiest wishes

{ Eli }

33.

EFJ to RJ, 27.II.1958

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Aerogram, 150 x 290 mm; Postmark: 30.II.58 o.15 / København OMK; Signed; 1 leaf, 2 sides.

[Copy: KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15]

[To:]

Professor Roman Jakobson

{ Prescott[t] Street 20 A

Cambridge 38

Mass.

USA }

[From:]

{ Eli Fischer-Jørgensen

Teglværksgade 4⁴

København Ø

Denmark }

27-II-58

Dear Roman,

For several months I have had the intention to write to you in order to discuss some points in your very interesting article on Gilyak²¹⁰, which I read again in September.

But now I have to write about a different matter, and I am sorry that this will cause you some trouble. I have had very bad luck. – I think I told you that I was going to have a free term in order to finish my thesis²¹¹. Everything was very well in the beginning, I was in

210. See note 201 to letter 31 from August 2, 1958, above.

211. On Danish stops. The thesis was never finished, but EFJ published several articles on the subject, from 1954-1981, see Skytte (2016: 60-61, note 41).

very good form and worked well²¹². But then I wanted *some* to do some sport in between the mental work, and as, at this time, I lived near Dyrehaven²¹³ the best sport I could find was riding. I liked it very much, but two months ago I was thrown off the horse, and fell on my head. In the beginning it seem<{e}>d quite insignificant. I was dizzy for ten minutes, and no other signs of an “Gehirnershütterung”²¹⁴ (commotion?) appeared. I stayed in bed for two days, and then the doctor allowed me to get up. But after some time a slight head-ache started, and slowly it has become worse and worse, and now I am so tired that I cannot even read an easy article, and it is completely impossible to do any work myself. I have been to a specialist, and he has given me pills which do not help at all. I am now at the point where I can see that the only thing to do is complete rest, and as now after two months, there is no improvement at all, on the contrary, it is evident that it will take me several months to recover.

Under these conditions I cannot be of any use for you in the international council²¹⁵. I am very sorry about it, and I hope very much that you may be able to find somebody else.

212. EFJ writes (EFJ 1981a: pp.70-71): “After my return [from the USA] I had six years with good possibilities for research: still no exams, good health, and support from the Science Foundation. [...] Inspired by Roman Jakobson I had become very much interested in the auditory dimensions of sounds, including their symbolic value and a possible parallelism to colours, and I started a large number of tests on these problems. However, it turned out that the available statistical methods were not yet very satisfactory, so I put it aside and only used some of it in a short paper for a Roman Jakobson Festschrift. - Instead I took up a more traditional subject, viz. an investigation of Danish stop consonants with special reference to the fortis-lenis problem [...] I managed to write 100 pages of the planned book on stops. Then I was thrown from a horse and got concussion, the effects of which lasted for a long time. During the following five years I could only work for short periods [...].” It is a paradox that exactly in the greater part of the six years “with good possibilities of research”, EFJ had very little contact with RJ (see note 190 to letter 30, September 11, 1953, above).

213. A wood near Copenhagen.

214. German for “concussion” (of the brain). EFJ was used to write in German on the issue (with Zwirner who as a neurologist could give her good counsel).

215. See note 200 to letter 31, August 2, 1958, above and the INTRODUCTION.

I am of course also rather depressed on my own behalf, since I have missed this great chance to finish my thesis²¹⁶. What I have done during the last two months, could have been done ~~than~~ <in> less than a week under normal conditions, so that very much remains to be done; it is not very probable that I can get another free term, and even if I do, I do not know whether I shall be able to work. It is particularly bad now where I have all drawers full of material for books and articles, which would be of importance for my career.

I have never seen such a good example of hybris and nemesis. I was feeling so extraordinary<{ ly }> well in all respects in September. And I thought that life would be almost perfect <{ , }> if one day I could ride alo[ne]²¹⁷ on horseback through the woods in the September s[un] - But the gods did not allow this amount of happines[s].

- - I hope you got my letter to Norway²¹⁸. In this letter I tried to explain that when I criticize o[ther] people's theories, it is most often a sign of adm[ira]tion. Perhaps I should have added, what was evident [to] me, but perhaps not to you, that I have not very hi[...] [to] much admiration for the critics. - I feel the scienti /2/ fic distance between us (in scientific respect) very clearly. - I belong to the millers who sit in the valleys grinding their corn. But the mills are driven by the torrents of water, which you, the giants, throw down from your mountain peaks.

Best wishes

Yours

{ Eli }

216. It was never finished, see note 211 above.

217. The Aeroqram being incorrectly unfolded, some misplaced characters from the lower far right margin of the page are marked - here and in the following - as recovered.

218. Must be letter 32 above, August 8, 1958.

34.
RJ to EFJ, 21.12.1958

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15, Autograph Letter, 216 x 279 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 2 sides.

[*s.l.*] 21 XII 58

Dear Eli

Your August letter to me was so charmingly friendly and full of good cheer that it made me really happy and I often recollected it during my autumn trip through the East European countries²¹⁹. You say that at that time you were feeling extraordinarily well and I felt it with you and now I just physically feel with you your unfortunate depression.

You are very strong, indeed just unusually strong, Eli, and I positively know that you will very soon overcome this transient ailment.

But if you think that a longer rest and change of milieu could be favorable for your complete recovery and relaxation, I shall be really delighted to propose to our new Center for Communication Sciences²²⁰ at MIT to invite you as a visiting scholar and I firmly believe that this could be achieved without any difficulties. It would be wonderful to welcome you here!

/2/

I thank you for the gracious personal note in your last letters but I resolutely reject your theme of "distance between us". We are on the contrary wonderfully close to each other by the scope, style and

219. RJ participated, September/October 1958, in conferences in Moscow and Poland and gave lectures in Bucharest,

220. The Center had been established in the spring, RJ was in the Steering Committee. Actually, a part of his journey in Europe was an attempt to collect information, which could be useful for the new center. In his report on his journey, he writes: "I was particularly impressed by the rapid and intensive development of the different communication sciences in the Soviet Union during the last few years" (MIT. MC.0072. Box 3, Folder 99).

leaning of our work, by its emotional underneath and by the sense of humor which prevents us from becoming doctrinaires. May I tell you today what I wanted to say at our recent Copenhagen meetings²²¹: it is to you, as scholar, human being and simply Eli, that I am attracted by a feeling of friendship, love and admiration. Remember, Eli, I shall be happy to do for you whatever ~~you~~ I can and first and foremost to lift you from your depression.

I am absolutely sure of your great scientific future and I hate the idea of any “distance”.

Glædelig jul²²² and happy New Year!

Yours in admiration

Roman

221. 28-29 July 1958.

222. Danish for “Merry Christmas”.

35·

EFJ to RJ, 05.01.1959

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Aerogram, 150 x 290 mm; Postmark: Virum 6.1.1959 13 00; (?) Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side ; violet "C" traced on top-right corner.

[Copy: KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15]

[To:]

Professor Roman Jakobson
 Prescott Street 20 A
 Cambridge
 Mass.
 U.S.A

[From]

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
 p.t. Kongestien 45
 Virum Denmark

Dear Roman,

Thank you very much for your charming letter and for your very kind suggestion that you could propose to the Communication Center at MIT to invite me as a visiting scholar. - I would of course be delighted to come to Cambridge once more, and I am sure I could learn a lot, but last time I was ill for several weeks and not too well after that, therefore next time I come, I want to be healthy and able really to get something out of my stay. So as I am now, it would be a waste of money. Even if there are no strict requirements for the work of a visiting scholar, I think it is too little just to lie on a couch all day, listening now and then for half an hour to the radio at very low level! That is all I can do now. And I think I'd be better do it here. As a matter of fact I am too weak to go anywhere, and moreover I am terribly sensible to noise, so that America is hardly the best place of rest at the moment. -

Since the beginning of December I have stayed at my parent's house. They are living outside Copenhagen in a quiet place, there is hardly one car in an hour passing the road outside the house and the atmosphere <of the house> is quiet and peaceful, and my mother takes great care of me. I think it is an ideal place of rest. Nevertheless the progress is very slow. I am still unable to read anything, and it will at the best take several months before I can really work. When that time comes, the first thing I <shall> have to do is to get my book written²²³, before the results are completely out-of-date. I was e.g. the first to make electrical registrations of air-pressure²²⁴, but now various others have started, and it is the same with some of the other things I have in my cupboards. Moreover I have promised two text-books etc.²²⁵. – My plan is therefore, when I am healthy again (and that may take half a year) to get my things published as soon as possible, which will also be necessary for the planned full professorship. After that I can breathe more freely and think of going abroad more than for a short congress. (It will also take some years before I can get leave again). –

I am therefore afraid that it will take some time before I can come to America again. It is too far to go there just for a couple of weeks. – I hope however, that we will meet in Europe in the meantime, e.g. at the next Phonetic Congress²²⁶. I am awfully sorry that I have to break my promise of helping you with the congress²²⁷, but I cannot see any possibility of keeping it.

I am glad that you have good hopes for my scientific future, but my thesis on the stops will at any rate not be revolutionary.

223. Probably the thesis on Danish stops.

224. See EFJ (1981a: 71), and EFJ & Hansen, A. Tybjerg (1959a). "An electrical manometer and its use in phonetic research". *Phonetica* 4, 43-53.

225. *Almen fonetik* (EFJ 1948/1960/1962), see also note 255 to letter 47, December 29, 1960. The other is probably a textbook on German phonetics which remained unpublished. See also letter 48, November 11, 1961.

226. Helsinki 1961.

227. See the previous three letters (31-33) from 1958, and the INTRODUCTION.

Once again, thank you very much for your letter. In states of depression, it is good to know that there are friends who want to help.

Best wishes for 1959 !

Yours

[signature seems to be cut off]

ps. don't regret the horse-ride. It is at any rate more sporty to get a concussion of the brain that way than by knocking the head against a shelf in the bath-room, as most people do!²²⁸

228. These lines are written along the left margin of the page.

36.

RJ to EFJ, 24.04.1959

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15; Autograph Letter, 139 x 216 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 2 sides.

[University Letterhead:]
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences
202 Junipero Serra Boulevard
Stanford, California

24 IV 59

Dear Eli,

please write me to this address. I stay here until the end of July, working on my book and enjoying the really beautiful California. Write me to tell me how do you feel at present and whether you agree with a plan which I discussed with Alf Sommerfelt who is here with me as a guest of the Center²²⁹. If you agree, Alf and I would propose to the Center to invite you here for a year or half a year. The Center pays the transportation and a very decent grant and

/2/

you would be completely free to do here whatever you want - to relax or to write your book and there are no obligations whatever. The air and the climate is wonderful, and you would, I'm sure, immediately and completely recover.

Write me at once, dear Eli, and say that you agree

Yours Roman

229. Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford, California.

37·

EFJ to RJ, 27.04.1959

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Autograph Picture Postcard, 148 x 100 mm; Postmark: Taormina 28.4.1959 Messina; Picture: "Taormina - Panorama" / "Ediz. Conti - Taormina - Rip. Vietata. *Vera fotografia*. Fotocelere Torino"; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side; violet "F" traced on top right corner.

[To:]

Professor Roman Jakobson
Prescott Street 20 A
Cambridge
Massachusetts
USA

27-4-59

Pensione Villa San Pietro. Taormina

Dear Roman,

Your good wishes for my health have worked, although slowly. - I was in hospital in March, but did not feel better after that - However now I am better; although I cannot yet work much. And as it was anyhow too late to start lecturing and as I got a big travelling scholarship²³⁰, I went to Italy for recreation; - unfortunately it is rather cold, but the climate is good for walks and the landscape is very beautiful. On my way home I shall stay for two weeks in Cagnes[-sur-mer] and hope to be home in June. Sever Pop²³¹ wants

230. Tacea Brandts rejselegat 1959.

231. Sever Pop (1901, Romania - 1961, Belgium). Romance scholar and dialectologist, founder of the Centre international de dialectologie générale. After two short professorships in Romania in 1939 and 1940, Pop became the head of the Romanian Academy in Rome. Having refused to return to his country in the postwar years, he became an exile. In 1947 he was offered a visiting professorship at Louvain University, where he taught from 1948 till his death. He compiled a large survey of phonetic

me to be member of the committee of phonetics in the dialectology Congress, but I have declined. Have you ever seen such a list <of committees? I suppose there will be no ordinary members!

I hope you are all right

Best wishes Eli>²³²

institutes and phonographic archives from all over the world (1956), in which there is a contribution by EFJ (1956b). He organized the first international conference of general dialectology (mentioned in the letter), in Louvain and Brussels in 1960. 232. The text is added along the left margin of the page.

38.

EFJ to RJ, 06.05.1959

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Aerogram ["Biglietto postale aereo"], 170 x 285 mm; Postmark: 7.5.59 Taormina Messina; Signed; 1 leaf, 2 sides; violet "F" traced on top right corner.

[Copy: KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15]

[To:]

Professor Roman Jakobson
Center for Advanced study in the Behavioral Sciences
202 Junipero Serra Boulevard
Stanford
California
USA

[From:]

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
p.t. Excelsior Palace
Taormina, Italy

6-may-1959

Dear Roman,

Thank you very much for your letter from April 24th, which has been sent after me to Italy, and which has crossed the card I sent you from here some days ago²³³.

It is very kind of you to make this proposal, and it sounds very good indeed. The problem is whether I could get leave, and I cannot say anything about this before I have talked with the authorities at home. - The trouble is that out of the 6 last terms [~~7~~] I have only taught three! and normally we can only get a free term once every fifth year. - I had a free term in 1952 and again in 1957 which was all

233. See letters 36, April 24 and 37, April 27, 1959, above.

right, but in 1957 I went to India²³⁴ instead of writing my book. The University granted me a new leave already in the autumn 1958, so that I could finish the book, and you know the result: I fell already in the beginning of October, got nothing out of the leave, and have been ill[*ill.*] the whole spring term too. – Of course if I am still ill in the autumn and cannot work <teach> <[*ill.*]>, I could come, but I hope this will not be the case, and professor Fog²³⁵ has thinks that I should be all right in the autumn <I am not sure he is right>, we have therefore agreed to receive some foreign students who will study phonetics here. This also complicates the matter. And in the spring I know that I cannot go, because Hjelmslev will be abroad the whole spring, and then there will be nobody to look after the Institute. Thus the spring ~~is exclue~~ 1960 is at any rate excluded, and the autumn 1959 will depend somewhat on my health. Another possibility would be the autumn 1960. – This would in a way be better, - in the <coming> summer [*ill.*] I shall have some students making measurements and calculations for me and I know that there will be various points where I will have to recur to my subjects and have som[e] controll [*sic*] curves taken, and e.g. some made in Stockholm²³⁶, and therefore I think that for my work it would be better to stay here (I can also hardly send all that material to America), but I can work at least somewhat, I shall have most of this done next spring so that only the last revision should remain, or if I am lucky, I could have the manuscript ready, and then there are lots of other gthings which I have promised to write, and which would be easier to take along, and probably I shall also need som[e] rest and good climate at that time, for a concussion of the brain, which has been neglected, can take <a> very long time. – But I can hardly say any-

234. In The Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen, September 13, 1957, EFJ presented "Impressions from a Linguistic Summer School in India". Some results of the studies in India are presented in EFJ (1970b). "Phonetic analysis of breathy (murmured) vowels in Gujarati". *Indian Linguistics* 28, pp. 71-139.

235. Mogens (Ludolf) Fog (1904-1990). Professor of medicine (neurology), a leading member of the Resistance Movement during the German occupation of Denmark, and Rector of the University of Copenhagen 1966-1972.

236. The first time that EFJ was in Stockholm to make spectrograms, by Gunnar Fant, was in January 1954.

thing definite before I come home in June, and before I have tried to work for a couple of weeks, and talked with the various persons involved. -

In the meantime, I should be very glad to have some more information concerning a few points: Is there a good phonetics library at Stanford? Is there a sound spectrograph? - Is it a very quiet place? - - I am still terribly sensitive to noise. I stayed for the first week here in a hotel near the road, ~~and~~ but I could not stand the noise of the cars coming up [*ill.*] to Taormina from the coast, and have to move. I could not ~~stand~~ either a sit in the common rooms because several people were talking there at the same time. - Apart from this I feel somewhat better, I can read a little, and take walks in the beautiful surroundings, but I am not normal yet.

My plan is to stay here until ~~the~~ May 16th, and then until ~~th~~ May 30th at Hôtel le Cagnard, haut de Cagnes, Alpes maritimes, France, and then I intend to go home /2/ where I will try to work in June and July. - In August I have promised my parents to go with them to Norway or the Alps. And the term starts in September. - - By the way, one problem that ~~my~~ may arise, would be that my parents could be ill, when I am away. They are very old, and if they get seriously ill, I should have to come home, because nobody else will be able to take care of them. - ~~that would~~ Would that be possible when you have got a grant. Of course, I hope that this will not happen, but I am getting pessimistic. -

Unfortunately the climate here was not good ~~in~~ the first two weeks, it was quite exceptionally bad for Aprilz, and as it was more-over noisy, I was rather depressed. -

Now it is fine weather, and I am feeling somewhat better.

I hope you are all right, and <that> the work on your book ~~progres~~ is progressing well. -

Thank you again, and give my greetings to Sommerfelt.

I ~~shall~~ will write as soon as I can say something more definite about my possibilities. Is there a term for the proposal<?>

Kind regards

Yours

{ Eli }

39.

RJ to EFJ, 10.06.1959

KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15, Autograph Letter, 139 x 216 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

My address:

[University Letterhead:]

Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences

202 Junipero Serra Boulevard

Stanford, California

10 VI 59

Dear Eli,

Whenever you will like to be invited here, Alf and I will do our best to obtain such an invitation and it seems to me perfectly feasible. You would find here a splendid climate, constantly cloudless, fine weather, calm, silence, leisure, but unfortunately no first rate phonetic library or laboratory in Stanford and distances which require having a car and driving. Where will you be in the middle of August. I hope to stop in Copenhagen and to have a good chat with you. Until August I plan to stay in Stanford.

Yours as ever

Roman

40.

EFJ to RJ, 18.06.1959

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15; Typed Letter Carbon Copy, 207 x 324 mm; non Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[*s.l.*] 18-6-59

Dear Roman,

Thank you very much for your letter from June 10th. – In the meantime I have talked with Hjelmslev and with the Rector of the University. Both of them are willing to support an application for leave, but both advised me not to try just now, because it might give difficulties in the Ministry. As I told you in my letter from Taormina²³⁷, I have only taught three out of the last 6 terms, Moreover the Ministry has just refused to give me fixed appointment as <an> “amanuensis” because of the concussion and because of my age (the application has been in the Ministry 6-7 years!), and if I shall have a new chance, when I have recovered, it is better not to ask for leave now. But I am very glad to hear that you and Sommerfelt would be willing to try some time later.

I plan to go to Norway with my parents at the end of July, and be back here approximately the 18th of August. – I hope you will come after that time. It would be nice to see you. – [*itt.*] Before and after the journey I am staying with my parents: Kongestien 45, Virum, telephone 84 63 98. Letters are of course forwarded from my normal address, but if you come without warning, it may be practical to know this address (which by the way is eas[*itt.*]y to find in the telephone directory).

My stay in Taormina was not very successful. I have not realised that I probably got a small new concussion one of the first days, by stepping unexpectedly and hard down from the trottoir. At any rate I was feeling ill all the time after that day. – It was somewhat better

237. See letter 38, May 6, 1959, above.

in Cagnes. And the last days I feel decidedly better, and will now try to work somewhat.

I hope you have a good time at Stanford. -

Thank you also for the offprint²³⁸. I think your examples of zero signans and zero signatum are convincing. On the other hand [iH:] I find that Weisgerber and [iH:] others go too far, when they suppose that it is impossible to have concepts without a signans, i.e. that all concepts are "Wortbegriffe". A good example to the contrary is that many people know a [iH:] good number of flowers and trees, [iH:] (as species not as individuals) without knowing their names, and without even knowing whether these flowers have names in their language or another language, or whether [iH:] they, if they have names, are combined into the same classes in the language and in the <their> private conceptions[iH:]. Here it is difficult to speak of zero-signans²³⁹. -

- Give my best greetings to Sommerfelt. - Hoping to see you in August,

[You] Best wishes and thanks

Yours

238. RJ 1959d. Linguistic Glosses to Goldstein's 'Wortbegriff'. *Journal of Individual Psychology* 15, dedicated to Kurt Goldstein, 62.65. (Also in SW II, 267-271). EFJ wrote a paper on Weisgerber already in 1932.

239. This is in fact an objection against RJ's conclusion in his paper (SWII, p. 270): "[...] that even the most radical emancipation of the *Wortbegriff* from sensory and motor phenomena actually does not abolish the *signans*; both a zero *signans* and the rules of its relation to the verbal environment remain."

PS I have today got an invitation for an “international” congress of phonetics²⁴⁰ in Hamburg in 1960! (from Hans-Heinrich Wängler)²⁴¹. – –

240. This proposal actually was an element in the fight for organizing the “next” congress of the phonetic sciences after the 1938 Congress in Ghent. The Phonetic Institute of Hamburg was established in 1910 and had organized the first international congress of experimental phonetics in 1914. In 1960 they wanted to celebrate the 50th anniversary with the International Congress (which had also been “promised” to Germany before the war). In Germany, the fight was between Hamburg and Zwirner (Münster). RJ, as the Chairman for the Permanent International Council, intervened with an angry letter against the Hamburg proposal, which was withdrawn; Helsinki was chosen for the 1961 Congress, and Münster as the subsequent host (see “Varia”, *Phonetica*, Vol. V, 1960, pp. 127-28, and various letters at MIT.MC 0072). See also INTRODUCTION.

241. Hans-Heinrich Wängler (1921-2001), German phonetician. In 1963 EFJ published two reviews of works of Wängler, in *Phonetica* 9.

41.

RJ to EFJ, 08.07.1959

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15; Autograph Letter, 139 x 216 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[University Letterhead:]
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences
202 Junipero Serra Boulevard
Stanford, California
DAvenport 5-0026

July 8 1959

Dear Eli,

I wish you a pleasant and efficient rest in my beloved Norway and I look forward to seeing you in Copenhagen sometime after the 20th of August²⁴². I hope you realize, Eli, that with nobody of my international colleagues I feel so much in common as with you, Eli, and I wait from you remarkable achievements.

In love, friendship and admiration

Yours as ever

Roman

242. RJ does not seem actually to have passed Copenhagen in 1959.

1960-69

42.

EFJ to RJ, January 1960

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Autograph Pictured Greeting Card, 280 (140x2) x 110 mm; Picture : "Efter originaltegning af Thor Axelsen-Drejer / From an original by the Danish artist, Thor Axelsen-Drejer; Signed; 1 leaf, 4 sides [written on 3].

[s.l.] January 1960

Dear Roman,

Thank you very much for your greetings from Bukarest²⁴³ and some other place in Europe²⁴⁴. - I hope you are by good health.

- I have had bad luck again. - In September I knocked my head against a table and got a new concussion. - I was in bed for 5 weeks and was not much worth when I got up. I started lecturing soon afterwards <though> [...] I talked the lectures /2/ on tape at home in small bits and played the tape for the students - with comments [...] This proved to be a good method. - But I spent a good deal of the time in bed and could not read for months - As I was getting somewhat better, my father got ill and died just before Christmas. For weeks I could do nothing but helping my mother - I was terribly tired. - Now I have started answering letters and I hope that I can start working a little. - The worst problem has been that my sight was affected -

- - I received recently an invitation /3/ for a congress in Stanford in August.

243. Danish spelling is followed.

244. RJ was invited by the Romanian Academy of Sciences and the Romanian Committee of Unesco. The travel program (August-October 1959) included also invitations from the Polish Minister of Higher Education and from the German Academy of Sciences (Berlin), further visits to scholarly institutions in the Netherlands, France, and England (MIT Archive Box 3, Folder 99).

- Under normal conditions I would have accepted with enthusiasm. - Now I am afraid that I have to refuse. I cannot positively know whether I will be able to go in August - ~~and~~ or able to write a paper. -

Hjelmslev is all right, but he has too much to do. -

Best wishes for 1960 !

Yours

Eli

43.

RJ to EFJ, 24.03.1960

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Copy of Typed Letter, 215 x 280 mm; non Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

Boylston 301

24 march, 1960

Miss E. Fischer-Jørgensen
p.t. Kongestien 45
Virum
Denmark

Dear Eli,

I was very happy to receive your letter but sorry to know that you had new medical troubles. I hope very very much that all this is now behind you.

I am supposed to be in Europe during the coming June, and I plan to visit Copenhagen some time at the beginning of the second half of June²⁴⁵. Will you be there at that time? I shall indeed be so glad to see you again and to talk over so many things.

With warmest personal wishes,
Yours as ever,
Roman Jakobson

245. In June RJ is in England (see letter 44 below). RJ did not in fact come to Copenhagen in June, but in August (see letters 46, December 22 and 47, December 29, 1960).

44.

EFJ to RJ, 23.04.1960

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Aerogram, 150 x 290 mm; Postmark: 24 APR 1960 o 15 København OMK; Signed; 1 leaf, 2 sides. Violet "F" on the top right corner.

[To:]

Professor Roman Jakobson
 Dept. of Slavic Languages
 Harvard University
 Boylston 301
 Cambridge 38
 Massachusetts
 USA

[From:]

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
 p.t. Kongestien 45, Virum

Kongestien 45, Virum

23-4-60

Dear Roman,

Thank you very much for your kind letter from 24 March, and excuse me for not answering until now. The reason for my delay is partly that I have had a new relapse and been in bed for 5 weeks (a doctor tried a vibration massage of the head with this bad result!) partly that I did not know whether I would be here in June. There were plans of going to Jutland, but I do not think that I will go. - Therefore I hope to see you here. -

I have started lecturing again now, but I can only work 2-3 hours a day, and <I> speak my lectures on tape at home in small bits, and

if I talk with somebody for more than an hour or two, I am completely worn out. – But I hope to be better in June.

I am afraid I have not thanked you for your latest reprints. – I have not been able to read anything for a very long time, and I have a huge heap of unanswered letters. My secretary has been away for a couple of months which was very unpractical just now.

Hoping to see you soon,

Best wishes

{ Yours

Eli

P.S. Hjelmlev will be here in the beginning of June, but probably in Raageleje²⁴⁶ in the second half of June. }

246. Little town at the seaside north of Copenhagen. The Hjelmlevs had a summer-house there.

45.

EFJ to RJ, 10.07.1960

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Aerogram, 150 x 290 mm; Postmark: København [##:]; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[Copy: KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15]

[To:]

Professor Roman Jakobson
Ha[r]vard University,
Boylston 301,
Cambridge 38,
Massachusetts,
U.S.A.

[From:]

[Stamp Header:]

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
Lektor
Teglværksgade 4,^{IV}
København Ø

Copenhagen, 10th July, 1960

Professor Roman Jakobson,
Ha[r]vard University,
Boylston 301,
Cambridge 38,
Massachusetts,
U.S.A.

Dear Roman,

Thank you very much for your card from London²⁴⁷, and for your good wishes. I am not quite sure, whether I shall be here in

247. The postcard is missing. RJ had gone to Cambridge (UK).

August. I plan to go to Norway Dalseter Fjeldstue, Espedalen i Gudbrandsdalen, Norway, from about July, 26th to some time after the middle of August. It is possible that I am going to stay there somewhat longer. It is also possible that I cannot go at all. That will depend on my health. If I am not in Norway, I shall be here in Virum, Kongestien 45 <{ * }>, where I am staying with my mother. I should be very glad to meet you, and perhaps it will be possible either here or in Norway. I suppose, you are going to Norway, too²⁴⁸.

I do not know, whether this will reach you at all. I suppose you are somewhere in Europe at the moment, but I hope that this letter will be sent after you. I have still great difficulties in reading, but I am going to try some new medicine now.

Hoping to see you,

Yours,

{ Eli }

{ *} telephone 846398 }

248. Since his stay in Norway, RJ had several friends there, in particular Alf Sommerfelt.

46.

RJ to EFJ, 22.12.1960

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15, Typed Letter, 214 x 274 mm; Signed and Initialed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[Copy: MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36].

[University Letterhead:]
Harvard University
Slavis Languages and Literatures
Boylston 301
Cambridge 38
Massachusetts

December 22, 1960

Miss Eli-Fischer-Jørgensen
Lektor
Teglværksgade 4, IV
Copenhagen, Denmark

Dear Eli,

Unfortunately I didn't find you in Copenhagen²⁴⁹ when I stopped there in August on my way to Poland²⁵⁰. My further trip abroad, to the Balkan countries in November, was through Paris²⁵¹. I was happy <{ glad }> to learn yesterday, from Copenhagen friends, that you are again in very good shape and I was most happy about this news. Many, many warmest wishes to you, Eli, for a new, happy, healthy, fruitful and relaxing New Year. I'm to be, in September,

249. EFJ was in Norway. See letter 47, December 29, 1960, below.

250. RJ participated in The International Conference on Poetics, at the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, 18-27 August.

251. In Paris RJ met Claude Lévi-Strauss (*Roman Jakobson. Claude Lévi-Strauss. Correspondance 1942-1982*, eds. Loyer, Emmanuelle & Maniglier, Patrice. 2018. Paris. Éditions du Seuil, p. 210).

first in Oslo²⁵² and then in Helsinki at the Phonetic Congress²⁵³. I hope very much that I shall see you at the Congress and/or at an easy Copenhagen stop on the way to Oslo. We have so many things to talk over together. Under separate cover I'm sending you a few reprints.

Ever yours,

{ Roman }

Roman Jakobson

RJ/kr

252. RJ became Doctor Philosophiae honoris causa in Oslo September, and participated in the Celebration of the 150th anniversary of the University of Oslo (Sept. 1 - Sept. 5).

253. Because of the events in Oslo, RJ participated only 6-9 September, 1961. The Congress, however, started already September 4. This created a problem, since RJ was the Chairman of the Permanent Council, and was supposed to give the opening address. RJ tried to convince the Secretary Louise Kaiser to do it, but she felt too tired to go to the congress. The result was that Zwirner gave the opening address. RJ gave the Concluding remarks. See the INTRODUCTION.

47.

EFJ to RJ, 29.12.1960

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Picture headed Typed Letter, picture signed by Ebbe Fog, 193 x 265 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 2 sides.

[Copy: KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15]

[s.l.] 29-12-60

<{ E. Fisher-Jørgensen }>²⁵⁴

Dear Roman,

Thank you very much for your Christmas letter and <for> all your good wishes. - I did not write a single card this year because my mother got ill before Christmas and I must see to her, buy all her Christmas presents etc. - Now she is all right again, and I must change my Christmas greetings to New Year greetings.

I was sorry that I did not see you this summer. Unfortunately I was just in Norway when you passed by Copenhagen.

In the beginning of the summer I was not well and could only read very little. I managed however to make a revised edition of my textbook of phonetics. I had the whole book spoken on tape by a student and spoke my corrections on another tape, but it was nevertheless very tiring. - It has now been printed. I hope you have got a copy. It was sent in September²⁵⁵.

At the end of June I was in hospital for a time, but they did not find anything serious besides the i<{ n }>stability of the sight.

The holidays in Norway helped a great deal, and in the course of the autumn my health has improved definitely. I have not yet started working scientifically, but I have given lectures and taken care of my administrative work. - In the spring I hope to be able to work somewhat with my own material. -

254. Traced with violet ink, not by EFJ hand.

255. EFJ (1948/60). *Almen fonetik med hæfte med illustrationer*. Second edition. Printed.

I hope to come to Helsinki. I have promised to take active part in the meeting on auditory phonetics (if I do not knock my head against something in the meantime!) -

My mother has moved to a flat, and I have bought her house in Virum. I am moving out there at about the middle of January. (address : Konegstien [*sic*] 45, Virum²⁵⁶).

I hope that you are all right and thank you in beforehand for the offprints you have sent.

{ <Vesle> }²⁵⁷ [???

With all my best wishes for a happy and fruitful New Year

Yours

{ Eli }

/2/

PS. I have a young student Jørgen Rischel²⁵⁸, who is very gifted and

256. Autograph underlined.

257. Traced on the left margin.

258. Jørgen Rischel (1934-2007), a Danish linguist who worked extensively with different subjects in linguistics, especially phonetics, phonology, lexicography and documentation of endangered languages. He studied Nordic philology at the University of Copenhagen, among his teachers was EFJ. He obtained a Government scholarship to study in Reykjavik in 1956-1957, and in Oslo in 1958-1959 and met Einar Haugen whose ideas about linguistics greatly influenced him. Rischel obtained the Danish magisterkonferens in Nordic Philology in 1960. The following academic year he spent in Bergen as a lecturer in Danish language and literature, and in 1961 he left for Wisconsin where he was to be assistant editor on Einar Haugen's Norwegian-English dictionary project. He obtained a research scholarship at the University of Copenhagen. At this point in time, an opportunity arose for a tenured position as assistant professor in phonetics. Rischel consequently gave up the scholarship for the security of the permanent post (advancing to associate professor in 1968). In 1966, a new chair in phonetics was inaugurated for EFJ who then created her own Department of Phonetics. That was probably a good thing in and of itself, but it actually created a schism for Rischel, because since then he always felt divided between linguistics and phonetics. In 1974, Rischel was awarded the doctoral degree for his book *Topics in West Greenlandic Phonology*. In 1978, he became the professor of linguistics and accordingly left the Institute of Phonetics for the neighboring Institute of Linguistics. That was a deeply troubled department at the time, marred by personal conflicts, and Rischel never felt at ease there. He therefore agreed, in

very interested in phonemics. He got the golden medal of The University two years ago for a treatise on morphophonemics. He has now passed his MA in Scandinavian Philology and has got a post for a year in Bergen. Before settling down he would like to come a year to the States particularly in order to study phonetics and phonemics, i.e. from the autumn 1961. – Haugen²⁵⁹ knows him from Iceland, and he had a very good impression of him. Rischel has written to Haugen ~~about~~ and asked him about the possibilities. But perhaps you know of scholarships he might have a chance of getting, if Haugen ~~has~~ cannot find anything? – I can recommend him very much in every respect. He is a very nice person, and one of the most intelligent students I have ever had.

1981, to let himself be called to the chair in phonetics, vacant after EFJ's retirement in February of that year. In 1998, Rischel took early retirement in order to be able to concentrate on his research (Grønnum, Nina et. al. 2007. Jørgen Rischel 1934-2007. In Memoriam. *Phonetica* 64, 194-198).

259. Einar Haugen (1906-1994) was born in Sioux City, Iowa to Norwegian immigrant parents. Some years of his boyhood was spent in Norway. He was bilingual in Norwegian and English. His career focused on developing a general framework and empirical resources for the study of bilingualism and related phenomena, including communication between speakers of distinct but related dialects and languages. He studied English and Scandinavian at the University of Illinois at Urbana, receiving his Ph.D. in 1931. He then served on the faculty of Wisconsin at Madison from 1931 to 1962, when he took a position in Scandinavian and linguistics at Harvard. He was President of the Executive Committee for the Ninth International Congress of Linguists in Cambridge, Massachusetts 1962. RJ was very active in convincing Haugen to take the chair at Harvard.

48.

EFJ to RJ, 11.11.1961

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Aerogram, 158 x 247 mm;
 Postmark: 13.11.61 København Omk.; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.
 [Copy: KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15]

[To:]

Professor Roman Jakobson
 Harvard University
 Slavic Department
 Holyoke 29
 Cambridge 38
 Mass.
 USA

[From:]

[Letter Stamp]

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
 Universitetslektor
 Kongestien 45
 Virum, Danmark
 tlf. 85 35 13

11 November 1961

Dear Roman,

It was very nice meeting you in Helsinki, and I enjoyed particularly the evening at Paavo Ravila's house²⁶⁰, which was so cheerful and nice, particularly thanks to you. - On the whole I enjoyed seeing old friends again after a<{ s }>uch a long time of almost complete seclusion. I was also feeling much better at that time.

260. Paavo Ilmari Ravila (1902-1974), Finnish scholar of Finno-Ugric languages. He was in the Executive Committee of the Congress.

In the beginning of the term I was also able to work quite a lot, and I started writing a textbook of German phonetics²⁶¹ which I have promised for a very long time. But now I am tired, and have some difficulty in reading again, perhaps because someone ran into me and knocked against my head a fortnight ago. The slightest bump gives me a relapse.

I have not been able to find a topic for the International Congress²⁶², and I am not able to write anything now. I am also afraid of long journeys because my head is so frail, and I know that two weeks in the States, will make me very tired, and thus take much time from the work I must do. Therefore after much hesitation I have given up my coming to the congress. - ~~I have~~ A few days ago I received an invitation to teach at the Summer Institute in Seattle in the summer 1962²⁶³. This might have been combined excellently with the congress²⁶⁴, and I know that Seattle has a nice climate and beautiful surroundings, moreover I have a cousin there who could have taken me about, ~~but~~ but I have declined the offer. It will be much too strenuous for me, and I would not have time to prepare the courses, nor to rest afterwards.

It is a pity, and I am sorry that I won't see you next summer. But I know that the best thing I can do, is to stay quietly at home, take a good holiday, and then try to get started with my scientific work. Moreover, if I feel all right in August 1962, I can, without having planned it long time beforehand, take part in Gunnar's symposium on the acoustics of speech²⁶⁵, and finally I would be sorry not to be able to take part in my mother's 80th birthday which is at the end of

261. EFJ 1955b is a short, mimeographed textbook of German phonetics. The project mentioned here remains unpublished.

262. EFJ participated in the congress, but without a paper. She was chairman of the plenary session, September 6.

263. EFJ must mean The Linguistic Institute organized by the Linguistic Society of America, which was held in Seattle in 1962. She is perhaps mixing up the name with the Summer Institute connected to the name of Pike.

264. 9th International Congress of Linguists, Cambridge Massachusetts, August 27-31, 1962.

265. Gunnar Fant organized several symposiums on the acoustics of speech at his place on the island of Gotland, Sweden.

August (At her 70th birthday I was in the States). - There are thus many good reasons for staying at home, but I would have liked coming.

I hope you are all right.

With best wishes

Yours

{ Eli }

49.
RJ to EFJ, 08.01.1962

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15, Typed Letter, 202 x 139 mm; Signed and Initialed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[Copy: MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36]

[University Letterhead:]
Harvard University
Slavic Languages and Literatures
Boylston 301
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

January 8, 1962

Dr. Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
Kongestien 45
Virum, Denmark.

Dear Eli,

Warmest wishes for new health, forces, works, advancement, joy and happiness in 1962. I am awfully sorry that I will not have the opportunity of welcoming you this August in Cambridge²⁶⁶, but perhaps I will succeed, after the Congress, when I go to Western Europe, in stopping in Copenhagen and spending an evening with you, as nice as was our evening in Helsinki.

Always yours,
{ Roman }
Roman Jakobson

RJ/kr

266. Cambridge, Mass. See note 264 to letter 48, November 11, 1961, above.

50.

EFJ to RJ, 20.01.1962

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Autograph Pictured Greeting Card, (140x2) x 110 mm; Picture: "Snaregade in Copenhagen", "Reproduced from an original by Alex Secher"; Signed; 1 leaf, 4 sides [written on 2].

[s.l.] 20-1-62

Dear Roman,

Thank you very much for your New Year wishes. - I need them. I have just been in bed for a month after having knocked my head against various objects (I move too quickly when I feel all right) and with sinus troubles into the bargain. And now I must start slowly again. -

- I am glad I did not promise to come to the States this summer.

-
I was <,> otherwise <,> feeling much better /2/ this autumn. I was able to take part in meetings and social gatherings, going to the theater etc. and was glad to be almost normal. - But this relapse was not as bad as the one in 1960²⁶⁷, so I hope to recover again in the course of the spring.

It would be nice if you could pass Copenhagen in the summer and see my new house. I am sorry I can't come to U.S[.]A.

I hope you are all right.

Best wishes for 1962

Yours

Eli

267. See letter 44, April 23, 1960, above.

51.
EFJ to RJ, 30.04.1964

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Letter, 210 x 295 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 2 sides.

[Copy: KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15]

[s.l.] 30-4-1964

Dear Roman,

I have a very bad conscience. In the autumn you sent me your big volume of selected writings²⁶⁸, a great gift which I appreciated very much. I was so grateful that you really had remembered this, in spite of all the things you had to do and that you would send me this costly book, costly in all the shades of meaning of this ~~wø~~ word – – and I have not thanked you for it yet! – I sent a note to Mouton²⁶⁹ to acknowledge the receipt of it, but I wanted to read most of the articles I did not know beforehand, before writing to you. But I did not manage. At any rate I want to say that I am very glad to possess all these articles that I have read with so much profit in the course of the last more than twenty years, and that I have been very interested in reading your new article on “tense and lax”²⁷⁰ and, particularly, your highly interesting “retrospect”²⁷¹, where you summarize your views so excellently. It was new to me that modern art has been of importance for you in the start, I have always myself found a deep relationship between abstract painting and structural linguistics, but I did not know that there really was a concrete connection²⁷². – Similar, although ~~not~~ perhaps not so obvious, parallelisms

268. RJ (1962). *Selected Writings* I. *Phonological Studies*.

269. The publisher of the *Selected Writings*.

270. RJ & Halle, Morris (1962b). “Tenseness and Laxness”. *Selected Writings* I, 550-555.

271. RJ (1962c). “Retrospect”. *Selected Writings* I, 629-658.

272. In the exposition in *Retrospect* (pp. 631-633) RJ paints a picture of a very close connection between pictorial theory and the practice of cubism, the poetic works of the Russian poet Velimir Xlebnikov (1885-1922) and the development of structural

can be drawn between impressionism in painting and literature and the classical minute dialect descriptions describing every fine shade of sound, and between expressionism and Vossler's "idealistische Sprachwissenschaft"²⁷³. -

I have worked very hard since the autumn - - interrupted by periods of overworking and flu. I am of course very glad that I can work now, but it has been very tiring, and I have not even answered my Christmas cards, I worked all through Christmas. Tranekjær Rasmussen²⁷⁴ once said that it should not be a privilege of businessmen to be adjudged a bankrupt; research workers should also be allowed now and then to burn all their unanswered letters, and cancel all their promises^ø of articles, lectures and responsa, and I think that would be a good idea.

I have used very much time in preparing my lectures on auditory phonetics. For five years I had hardly read anything, and so many interesting things had appeared. I am going to give three guest lectures in London at the end of May²⁷⁵, I have not started writing them, but I hope I will manage anyhow. One will be a general survey of the problems connected with establishing the perceptual pattern of auditory dimensions of sounds, one will deal with vowels and colors, and the last with tense and lax vowels. As you will notice all have been inspired by your writings. In this connection I have

linguistics. According to RJ, one of the common features was the focus on "relativity, relationship".

273. Karl Vossler (1872-1949). German Romance philologist, founder of the "idealistic" school of European linguistics. For Vossler, "language is primarily an activity which is theoretical, intuitive and individual: therefore it is an art. Each individual who expresses his mental concepts, creates intuitions, produces forms of language [...]" (what he calls *Schöpfung*). "On the other hand, language serves the practical need to exchange ideas. In becoming a means of communication, it becomes, because of individual creation, a collective creation [...]" (see Vossler (1905): 18-19). The English translation of the quotations are from Daniel Baggioni's article on Vossler in Stammerjohann et al. 2009. *Lexicon Grammaticorum*, 1595-1596.

274. See note 98 to letter 17, March 3, 1951, above.

275. EFJ knew Daniel Jones and J. R. Firth very well from her stay in London 1946-47. In the present letter, she refers to an invitation from the Philological Society, London. She gave three lectures on "The perceptual aspects of speech sounds (25/5)", "Tense and lax vowels" (28/5), "Vowels and Colours" (26/5).

one question : What do you mean by the brief sentence in Preliminaries p. 32 that “The contrast between acute and grave phonemes is correlated with the white-black, yellow-blue and red-green responses” ? – I would have understood it better, if you had said green-red in stead of red-green²⁷⁶. – My experiments seem to indicate that bright vowels are ~~eon~~ preferably seen as yellow and green, dark as red and blue, and this is in conformity with what you said in “Kindersprache” about bright vowels being connected with specific bright colors.

– – ~~It~~ My acoustic measurements of German tense and lax vowels show very clearly that lax vowels are closer to the mid point of the vowel triangle, particularly I U and Y often lie almost on the line from i u and y to the neutral point, whereas this is somewhat different for { ε ɔ } (they are relatively lower than the line from e and o to the middle.) – – Auditory tests with short stretches of isolated vowels give a rather good consistency with the acoustic /2/ measurements, i.e. i in bitten is heard as an e, and not as an i, when you do not know how it is written. These ~~latter~~ investigations of tense and lax German vowels have been made in cooperation with Hans Peter Jørgensen (Peter Jørgensen’s son) and we hope to publish the results in the autumn²⁷⁷.

– – – Just before Christmas we got 18.000 crowns for instruments, and I am now building up a real<l>y good laboratory. – [~~ill-~~] Besides this I have to take care of the linguistic department²⁷⁸ too. Hjelmslev is ill, and it is rather sad to see how old he has become. He has had leave this term, but he hopes to start again in September. I doubt however that this start will be more than pure form. His memory is bad, he is very slow, and cannot do much. There is hardly any doubt

276. EFJ must have re-read the first printing of the Preliminaries. In the second printing, which she refers to in the letter December 21, 1952, the passage is changed according to her remarks.

277. Hans Peter Jørgensen (1938- 2002), Danish Germanist. He was an amanuensis at the Phonetic Institute from the start in 1966 and six years ahead. He became a “lector” in German at Handelshøjskolen (CBS) from 1975. Peter Jørgensen (1899- 1970), Danish Germanist. The investigations are described in EFJ 1966j.

278. The Institute for Linguistics and Phonetics was at the time divided in a linguistic and a phonetic department.

that it is an early cerebral sclerosis. He has given up a few of his jobs (the economic commission of the academy of science²⁷⁹ and konsistorium²⁸⁰) but he still has not been willing to give up *Acta Linguistica*, and he is negotiating with Hoder²⁸¹ about publishing the manuscripts which has been in print for years. I do not like to insist too much on this point now. He is rather depressed because professor Fog²⁸² has told him that it is a cerebral sclerosis, which I think he should not have done. But I suppose that he will have to give up *Acta* later, and in that case I would try to persuade him to give it over to Egerod²⁸³, who is very energetic and has good international connections. Sørensen²⁸⁴ is too passive. – – I do not think that anybody would dare to send in manuscripts ~~before~~ until, if Hjelm-slev continues as editor.

I hope very much to see you in Münster²⁸⁵ this summer.

Best regards, and, again, many thanks for the book!

Yours

{ Eli }

279. EFJ refers to “Kassekommissionen”, the organ which at that time managed the money of the Royal Danish Academy.

280. The senate of the University of Copenhagen.

281. Erik Hoder (1900?-1975) was the administrator of the Danish publishing house: Nordisk Sprog- og Kulturforlag, connected to Naturmetodens sprog-institut (Nature Method Centre), both founded by Arthur M. Jensen (see note 53 to letter 11, September 21, 1949, above). Arthur M. Jensen was inspired by Otto Jespersen’s “Direct Method” of language learning. RJ met Hoder on his stay in Denmark in the autumn 1964. Hoder got RJ engaged in a project of publishing a textbook to learn Russian with the Nature Method, in an English version.

282. See note 235 to letter 38, May 6, 1959, above.

283. Søren (Christian) Egerod (1923-1995). Danish sinologist, linguist and philologist. In 1958, Søren Egerod became professor of Chinese at the department of East Asian studies at the University of Copenhagen. He was a pioneer in East Asian dialectology and phonology.

284. Hans Chr. Sørensen. See note to 54 to letter 11, September 21, 1949, above.

285. EFJ is referring to the Fifth International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, 1964 (see also letter 32, August 8, 1958). Actually RJ did not participate.

PS I have just talked with Bodelsen²⁸⁶ and with Vibeke²⁸⁷, and both said that Hjeltslev had been much better for the last week. He has stopped taking sleeping pills. They have probably made him more dull, than he would else have been.

286. Carl Adolf Bodelsen, see note 11 to letter 1 bis, March 2, 1949, above.

287. Vibeke Hjeltslev, born Mackeprang (1899-1991), married to Louis Hjeltslev.

52.

EFJ to RJ, 03.II.1964

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Aerogram, 150 x 290 mm; Postmark: Virum 4-II 1964; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[Copy: KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15]

[From:]

[Letter Stamp:]

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen

Universitetslektor

Kongestien 45

Virum, Danmark

tlf. 85 35 13

[To:]

Professor Roman Jakobson

Holyoke 29,

Harvard University

Cambridge 38

Mass.

USA

3-II-64

Dear Roman,

This is to tell you sad news. Paul Diderichsen²⁸⁸ died a few weeks ago from a dissecting aorta.

288. EFJ 1965c is an obituary of Paul Diderichsen. RJ had been in Copenhagen in September, giving a lecture at the University of Copenhagen: „The Linguistic Evidence in Comparative Mythology” (the 10th), and a paper in the Linguistic Circle: “On Visual and Auditory Signs” (the 15th), see letter November 20, 1964. He had also worked on “Fennes Manual” with Hammerich, see letter 53 below and INTRODUCTION.

He <suddenly> felt a strong pain in his back, and the next day he had high fever. The doctor thought it were a discus prolapse followed by a flu, and nothing ~~wa~~ was done. They might have operated him and set in a new plastic aorta. But I do not know if he could have led a normal life in this way, so perhaps it was good they did not find out. After a fortnight, when the fever had already come somewhat down, he died very suddenly. His son had talked with him 10 minutes before. And I had talked with him a few hours before, and then he said that he would probably be allright in a few days. This was the 9th October. I went to Germany that evening to take part in Zwirner's 65th birthday, but next day one of my friends phoned and told that he had died an hour or two after I left. - - I am glad that he did not suffer, and he had often said that ~~he~~ the worst thing he could imagine was to be old and senile, and that he had nothing against dying soon. But it is hard for us, his friends, - and it was sad that he did not finish what might have become his most inspiring book, on the history of Danish prose²⁸⁹. All the notes are there, and his pupils will try to finish it, but I know he would have written and rewritten it many times, he wrote such a beautiful Danish. - - - I talked about him in the Institute, I have some copies of the manuscript, but it was in Danish. Do you read Danish? In that case I will send a copy²⁹⁰. - - He was one of my best friends for many years, and I am very sad.

Hjelmlev gave two lectures, and then gave it up. He has now tried to get leave for another year. And he will probably never come back. - He now realises that he has to give up things, and he has asked Egerod, Hans Chr. Sørensen and me to take care of *Acta Linguistica*²⁹¹. So we will try to ~~send it out~~ start it again. But we shall probably have to send out the old fa[s]cicule, which has been ready for sending out since 1958. The offprints are already out. - We are going to have a meeting soon, and then we will send out a letter to

289. Diderichsen, Paul (1968-69). *Dansk prosahistorie*, 3 volumes. København. Københavns Universitets Fond til Tilvejebringelse af Læremidler. The first volume is published and includes the chapters I-V of Diderichsen's manuscript, the two other volumes are mimeographed and include the chapters VI-XIV.

290. "written Danish is no obstacle", see next letter.

291. See letter March 11, 1966, note.

the members of the council²⁹². But the first problem is to get money. It is so that Rask-Ørsted-fondet²⁹³ does not contribute unless there will be a contribution from a foreign country. Do you think there are any possibilities in the States?

Best wishes

Yours

{ Eli }

It was very nice to have you here, we all enjoyed it very much. - It now seems so long ago.

292. RJ was president for this international council.

293. See note 50 to letter II, September 21, 1949, above.

53·

RJ to EFJ, 20.11.1964

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15, Typed Letter, 214 x 280 mm; Signed and Initialed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[Copy: MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36]

November 20, 1964

Mrs. Eli Fischer-Jørgensen

Kongestien 45

Virum, Copenhagen

Denmark

Dear Eli:

The sorrowful news of your letter deeply distressed me. Paul Diderichsen was such a splendid scholar, such a genuine friend and such a vital human being. I saw in him one of the greatest hopes for the further elan of Danish linguistics. Please send me a mimeographed copy of his manuscript. I would love to read it, and written Danish is no obstacle.

What you say about Louis is also sad, but unfortunately it was predictable. It is good that the new decision about the editorship of Acta Linguistica was made. The reorganization must proceed most cautiously and carefully, without haste, and I think that a little support from here can be found to make easier the support of Danish foundations. It seems to me that it would be best if we discuss these questions all together when I visit Charlottenlund²⁹⁴ again for my work with Hammerich²⁹⁵ on our common volume. It will be either in May-June or in August-September.

294. See letter 58 below. RJ came to Charlottenlund, Denmark, in September 1965.

295. RJ refers to Jakobson, Roman & Hammerich, L.L. (ed. and preface). 1970k. *Tönnies Fenne's Low German Manual of Spoken Russian, Pskov 1607*, vol. II. *Transliteration and Translation*. Copenhagen, Munksgaard. The manuscript of this book "begins with a

I am very hopeful as to the revival of Acta²⁹⁶.

I was again very happy in Denmark, and with real pleasure and nostalgia I recollect our chats with you and our other Danish friends, the most stimulating evening in the Circle²⁹⁷, its joyous epilogue, and the most charming hours in your hyggelig²⁹⁸ house.

Affectionately

{ Roman }

Roman Jakobson

RJ:ai

note of September 1, 1607, The Russian New Year. This inaugural note on page one states that the work was written in Pskov (Pleschow) and belonged to Tönnies Fenne, its apparent author [] A systematic study of Fenne's manuscript and preparatory work for its critical edition were begun in 1939 by Roman Jakobson and Helge Poulsen in Copenhagen and Oslo" (RJ 1961f: 6). In 1957 it was decided to prepare an exhaustively annotated edition of Fenne's manuscript and to submit the edition to the sponsorship of the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters. An editorial committee was established, consisting of three members of the Royal Academy: RJ as chairman, L.L. Hammerich (University of Copenhagen), A. Stender-Petersen (University of Århus), and furthermore some other members. The first volume, a facsimile edition, was published in 1961. In the present letter, RJ is referring to the second volume. See also INTRODUCTION.

296. See note 331 to letter 67, March 11, 1966, below.

297. RJ gave a lecture in the Circle, September 15, 1964: "On Visual and Auditory Signs" (RJ 1964c).

298. Danish for "cosy", often recognized as a word difficult to translate and thus often seen as an expression for a "special Danish thing."

54.

EFJ to RJ, 26.II.1964

MIT MC.0072 Box 39 Folder 37, Typed Aerogram, 150 x 288 mm;
 Postmark: 27 II 64 København Omk.; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.
 [Copy: KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15]

[To:]

Professor Roman Jakobson
 Harvard University
 Boylston 301
 Cambridge 38
 Mass.
 USA

[From:]

[Stamp:]

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
 Universitetslektor
 Kongestien 45
 Virum, Danmark
 tlf. 85 35 13

26-II-64

Dear Roman,

Thank you very much for your letter from November 20. – I am sending you, as printed matter, my memorial speech on Diderichsen²⁹⁹. – We are planning to send out a volume of his scattered articles on general linguistic problems³⁰⁰. Most of them are written in Danish, and we hesitate to have them translated. It is a dubious

299. See letter 52, November 3, 1964, above.

300. EFJ 1966b. (ed. with Anders Bjerrum, Knud Tøgeby & Henning Spang-Hanssen). Paul Diderichsen. *Helhed og Struktur*. København, G.E.C. Gad.

thing, when he cannot control the translation himself (and he always altered his ~~articles when he~~ manuscripts when he saw them again) – and most of them are older and do not interfere in the actual [meaning ‘current’] debate.

We should be very glad if you could find possibility for a support from USA. It need not be very great, its c[h]ief function would be to make it possible to get something from Rask-Ørsted -fondet³⁰¹. But it would be very unpractical to wait till you come here next year. We want to start as soon as possible. And Hjelmslev also wants this. The decisive thing is that he has promised not to interfere any more, so that we can act without asking him about anything. And there is no need “to proceed cautiously and without haste”. I think it has much haste, if we shall succeed in keeping our exchanges, which are necessary for our library. And the first thing to do is to ~~make~~ secure the financial background.

With best wishes for Christmas and the new year,

Yours

{ Eli }

301. Se note 50 to letter 11, September 21, 1949, above, and letter 52, November 3, 1964, above.

55.

EFJ (as a Member of the Editorial Committee of *Acta Linguistica*,
with S. Egerod & H.C. Sørensen) to RJ, 21.12.1964

MIT MC.0072 Box 39 Folder 37, Typed Letter, 210 x 298 mm, Signed and
initialed by S. Egerod; 2 leaves, 2 sides.

[Copy: KB Acc 2008/17, Æske 7]

[University Letterhead:]
Københavns Universitet
Institut for Lingvistik og Fonetik

Store Kannikestræde 13,
København K
Telefon MInerva 5570

[To:]
Professor Roman Jakobson
Department of Slavic Languages and Literature,
Harvard University,
Holyoke 29,
Cambridge 38,
Mass.,
U.S.A.

21 December 1964

Dear Professor Jakobson,

We are writing to you in your capacity as Member of the International Council of ACTA LINGUISTICA. We are able to inform you that from 1965 the ACTA LINGUISTICA will again appear regularly with two issues of about 120 pages a year. Professor Hjelmlev has, due to ill health, retired from the editorship and has handed it over to an editorial committee consisting of the undersigned with Jørgen Rischel as editorial secretary.

The journal will be published by Nordisk Sprog og Kulturforlag³⁰².

The success of the journal will depend, of course, on our ability to publish important contributions from all aspects of structural linguistics, and it is our fervent hope that we may receive papers from your hand to be printed in the ACTA LINGUISTICA. Likewise we shall be indebted to you, if you would suggest to us the names of linguistic writers known to you who may be willing to submit articles to the ACTA LINGUISTICA, preferably in the near future.

We count on economical support from the Danish National Foundation "Rask-Ørsted Fondet," but in order to be able to send out the journal at a reasonable price, it would be very important to get support also from other countries. We need hardly emphasize how grateful we should be if you could think of ways of obtaining such support from your own country. It is our feeling that the ACTA LINGUISTICA has fulfilled a real need in the past, and we hope to be able to benefit from your confidence in our endeavor to renew this venture.

/2/ May we hear from you at your earliest convenience regarding the proposals above? We want to send out a folder very soon announcing the new start of the journal, and this folder should contain an indication of the price, which will depend partially on your reply.

Søren Egerod
Professor of East Asian Languages
University of Copenhagen

302. Nordisk Sprog- og Kulturforlag, founded by Arthur M. Jensen, had published the Circle's *Travaux* on favorable terms. However, until this point the *Acta Linguistica* had been published by Munksgaard. So it was a new thing that Nordisk Sprog- og Kulturforlag should take over this task. Arthur M. Jensen died in 1968 and during the last years of his life, the publishing house was mostly run by Erik Hoder.

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
Lecturer in Phonetics
University of Copenhagen

Hans Chr. Sørensen
Professor of Slavic Philology
University of Copenhagen

On behalf of the editorial committee,

Sincerely yours,
{ Søren Egerod }
Søren Egerod

SE/ijj

56.

RJ to S. Egerod [Editorial Committee of AL], II.01.1965

KB Acc. 2008/17 Æske 7, Typed Letter, 216 x 279 mm; Signed and Initialed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[Copy : MIT MC.0072 Box 39 Folder 37]

[University Letterhead:]
Harvard University
Slavic Languages and Literatures
Boylston 301
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

[To:]
Professor Søren Egerod
Institute of Linguistics and Phonetics
University of Copenhagen
Store Kannikestraede 13
Copenhagen, Denmark

January 11, 1965

Dear Professor Egerod:

On my return to Cambridge I found your letter of December 21. I shall do my best to obtain for you a little encouraging support for Acta Linguistica from one of the American foundations. You will hear from me about the results. I wish full success to the resumed review.

Yours sincerely,
{ Roman Jakobson }
Roman Jakobson

RJ:ai

57.
EFJ to RJ, 02.02.1965

MIT MC.0072 Box 39 Folder 37, Typed Letter, 210 x 298 mm; Signed, 1 leaf,
1 side

[Copy: KB Acc 2008/17, Æske 7]

Acta Linguistica

[University Letterhead:]
Københavns Universitet
Institut for Lingvistik og Fonetik

Store Kannikestræde 13,
København K.
Telefon MInerva 5570

2 February 1965

Professor Roman Jakobson
Harvard University

Dear Roman,

Thank you for your letter from January 11 to Egerod about the Acta Linguistica, and for your intention to find some support for us.

We hope to send out the folder soon, but we should like to be able to mention some articles by eminent linguists to be published in the first or second issue. We should of course be particularly glad to publish an article of yours. As you are normally writing 10 <{ - }> 20 [articles] a year, I hope you could send us something. Please, send a few words about it, [*sic*]

Before starting volume IX we shall have to send out VIII, 1³⁰³ which has been ready for years. We had hoped to be able to avoid

303. It was published in 1965, by Munksgaard.

it, but as offprints have been sent out years ago, there is no other possibility. (It has even been bound for five years!)

I hope you are all right,

Best wishes

{ Eli }

Eli

58.

RJ Assistant to EFJ, 01.06.1965

MIT MC.0072 Box 39 Folder 37, Typed Letter/Note Copy, 215 x 280 mm;
non Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

June 1, 1965

Miss Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
Kongestien 45
Virum, Denmark

Dear Miss Fischer-Jørgensen:

Professor Jakobson, who is out of town for several weeks, asked me to send you the enclosed letter, and requested that you write to Mr. John Thompson³⁰⁴ of the Farfield Foundation to thank and inform him where to send the check.

Professor Jakobson will spend the first week of September in Charlottenlund³⁰⁵, and is looking forward to seeing you and his other friends at that time.

Yours sincerely,

Assistant to Roman Jakobson

Enc. 1

304. John Thompson (1918-2002) was an American professor, literary critic and poet. From 1956 to 1965, he worked as the executive director of the Farfield Foundation, which sponsored plays, magazines and other cultural activities in Africa and Europe.
305. See letter 62, August 1, 1965, below.

59.

EFJ to RJ, 29.06.1965

MIT MC.0072 Box 39 Folder 37, Typed Aerogram, 150 x 288 mm; Postmark: Virum 30-6 1965 9 00; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[Copy: KB Acc 2008/17, Æske 7]

[To:]

Professor Roman Jakobson
Harvard University
Boylston 301
Cambridge 38
Mass.
USA

[From:]

[Letter Stamp]

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
Universitetslektor
Kongestien 45
Virum, Danmark
tlf. 85 35 13

29-6-65

Dear Roman,

Thank you very much for the letter sent by your secretary announcing that the Farfield Foundation has made a grant of 500 dollars to *Acta Linguistica*. I have not answered before because I was abroad until the middle of June, and ill the first 10 days after I came back; and as your secretary wrote that you were out of town, I delayed it somewhat. - We are very glad indeed that you have arranged this (I have also written to Mr. Thompson).

I did not get the news of Hjelmslev's death³⁰⁶ until after the funeral (a telegram sent to my address in France did not reach me). Therefore I did not come home. – It was a tragic end, but it was good that it did not last longer. He was unable to walk, to write, to read, and he was so deeply depressed that it was ~~almost unbearable~~ <terrible> for Vibeke, as well as for himself.

Now we must try to continue his work, but nobody can really continue glossematics, we can only ~~try~~ <to> work on { , } each in our own way { , } and try to keep the standard of Danish linguistics at a not too low level. – –

I am probably going to write an obituary in the Acta³⁰⁷ (we have thought of Holt³⁰⁸, but you never know how he is at the moment), but we think it would be very good if ~~you~~ we could open the number [issue] with some commemorative words <{ or rather pages, }> by you as the president of the Conseil. We are sending the manuscripts to the printer in August. We have now manuscripts for the first issue and promises for the next issue.

I hope to see you here in September.

Best wishes and thanks

from

{ Eli }

306. May 30, 1965.

307. EFJ 1965b.

308. See note 55 to letter II, September 21, 1949, above.

60.

Farfield Foundation to EFJ, 30.06.1965

MIT MC.0072 Box 39 Folder 37, Typed Letter Copy/Note, 215 x 280 mm, Onionskin paper; non Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side. ["Copy for Professor Jakobson"]

{ Copy for Professor Jakobson }

June 30, 1965

Dear Mr. [*sic*] Fischer-Jørgensen

Enclosed is a copy of my letter transmitting the check of the Farfield Foundation to your bank.

The Board of Directors is very pleased to contribute in this way to the work of ACTA LINGUISTICA. You have their best wishes for success with the journal.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. [*sic*] Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
Acta Linguistica Hafniensia
p.t. Kejsersgade 2
Copenhagen K
Denmark

61.

RJ to EFJ, 13.07.1965

KB Acc 2008/17, Æske 7; Typed Letter, 216 x 279 mm; Signed and Initialed;
1 leaf, 1 side.

[Copy: MIT MC.0072 Box 39 Folder 37]

[University Letterhead:]
Harvard University
Slavic Languages and Literatures
Boylston 301
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

July 13, 1965

Miss Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
Kongestein [*sic*] 45
Virum, Denmark

Dear Eli:

I am glad that you are again in good health and am looking forward to our meetings and talks in September. I shall think through and send you in 2-3 weeks the introductory commemorating words you asked me to write for A[cta]L[inguistica]. If you have some suggestions in this connection, please tell me.

Affectionately
{ Roman }
Roman Jakobson

RJ:ai

62.

EFJ to RJ, 01.08.1965

KB Acc 2008/17, Æske 7; Typed Letter Carbon Copy, 210 x 297 mm; non Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[*s.l.*] 1-8-65

Dear Roman

Thank you very much for your letter, and thank you for your promise to write in Acta.

I should suggest that you try somehow to combine the restart of Acta with [~~it~~] Hjelmslev's endeavor for international relations, and then [~~it~~] write particularly about his him from an international point of view. I would then concentrate on an attempt to characterize his theory and his importance for Danish linguistics.

I am looking forward to seeing you in September. I shall probably be in Roumania 20-25 September³⁰⁹, otherwise I shall be at home. - I have worked very hard this summer in order to finish the English version of my textbook of phonetics, but have not succeeded³¹⁰. Now I have many other things that I must do.

Warmest regards
Eli

309. EFJ presented a paper at a conference on "Form and Substance in Phonetics" held in Bucharest in September 1965. See EFJ 1966 k.

310. The translation was never finished, see letter 74, January 1970, below.

63.

EFJ to RJ, 13.II.1965

KB Acc 2008/17, Æske 7, Typed Letter Carbon Copy, 210 x 297 mm; non Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[*s.l.*] 13-II-65

Dear Roman,

I hope you had a good time in Europe³¹¹, and that you could relax for some days in France. The autumn has been very beautiful here this year, but I have not have much time to enjoy it. I have re-written my lecture on Hjelmslev in English for the Acta. It was originally my purpose to shorten it, but the others found that it was not too long. I hope you have got the Danish version, which I sent you some weeks ago. You will see that I have said very little about Acta Linguistica and his international relations. –

We should be very grateful for receiving your introductory words as soon as possible. Everything else is ready, and the articles and reviews [*etc.*] have been seen by the authors. And it would of course be very bad to delay this first issue more than absolutely necessary. The printers have made a very fine job, there are hardly any misprints in the first proofs. Would you have confidence in us for reading the proofs of your article? That would simplify matters.

I heard from Hans Chr. Sørensen that you have proposed four new members for the Council. I have written to them, and have had a positive answer from Allen³¹² and Mikla [Milka] Ivić³¹³. I hope that

311. After the sojourn in Denmark, RJ was in Vienna, in Yugoslavia, in Prague, in Paris.

312. William Sidney Allen (1918-2004). British linguist and philologist, best known for his work on Indo-European phonology.

313. EFJ writes “Mikla”, but it is Milka Ivić (1923, Belgrade-2011), Professor in Slavistics, Serbo-Croatian and general linguistics.

also Ivanov³¹⁴ and Uhlenbeck³¹⁵ will answer in time for the first issue³¹⁶. When we talked in Skovridderkroen³¹⁷(tak for sidst!³¹⁸), I completely forgot to talk about Acta. I was completely absorbed by the problems concerning the linguistic development of Hjelmslev, because I was preparing my memorial lecture, and you did not bring the topic up.

I hope you are all right.

Warmest regards

Yours

Eli

314. Vyacheslav Vsevolodovich Ivanov (1929-2017), Soviet/Russian historical linguist, with Indo-European languages as main topic of study.

315. Eugenius Marius Uhlenbeck (1913-2003). Dutch linguist and Indologist.

316. All four actually became members of the International Council.

317. This reference to a meeting seems to indicate that RJ and EFJ met in September 1965, see letter 61, July 13, 1965, above.

318. An often used Danish idiom: "Thanks for last time" (se also note 360 to letter 71, November 10, 1966, below).

64.

RJ to EFJ, 03.12.1965

KB Acc 2008/17, Æske 7, Telegram, 208 x 160 mm; Stamp: Hovedtelegrafkontoret København K 3.12.65; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[To:]
eli fischer-jorgensen
kongestien 45
virum

doing my utmost to prepare and airmail in few days introduction³¹⁹.
roman

319. See previous letter (63, November 13, 1965, above).

65.

RJ to EFJ, 23.12.1965

KB Acc 2008/17, Æske 7; Telegram; 208 x 149 mm; Stamp: Virum Postkontor Telegrafafdelingen 23 Dec. 1965 16.00; Signed; 1 leaf, 2 sides.

[To:]

eli fischer jørgensen

kongestien 45

virum

despite my strongest desire t[o] preface the new acta still am so overwhelmed with urgent commitments recommend printing without my preface promise to write corresponding note for following issue³²⁰ happy new year
roma[n]

320. This did not happen.

66.

EFJ to RJ, 27.12.1965

[KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15, Typed Letter Carbon Copy, 210 xx 297 mm; Carbon-Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[*s.l.*] 27-12- 65

Dear Roman,

Thank you very much for your two telegrams³²¹.

It was a pity you could not send us your manuscript³²² in time, but I understand very well how it is; it is also quite impos<s>ible for me to keep the deadlines. I managed to write the obituary on Hjeltslev³²³, but I had promised Rosetti³²⁴ the manuscript on form and substance³²⁵ before November 1, and it is still not ready, not to speak of many other things.

If you write something for the second issue, – which we should be glad to get – I think it shou should be more of an article than an introduction.

– – The latest news from here is that the romanist Hans Sørensen³²⁶ has got Rubow's chair³²⁷ for eon comparative literature, and that Gunnar Bech³²⁸ has got the chair for comparative linguistics. –

321. See letters 64, December 3, 1965, and 65, December 23, 1965, above.

322. See the previous 5-6 letters and telegrams.

323. EFJ (1965b). "Obituary. Louis Hjeltslev October 3 1899 – May 30 1965". *Acta Linguistica Hafniensia* 9. III-XXII.

324. Alexandru Rosetti (1895-1990), Romanian linguist, pioneer of experimental phonetics and of structuralism in Romania, was chairman for a conference on "Form and Substance in Phonetics" held in Bucharest in September 1965. See note 309 to letter 62, August 1, 1965, above. The paper was presented in an enlarged form at a meeting of the Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen in December 1965.

325. EFJ 1966k. "Form and Substance in Glossematics", *Acta Linguistica Hafniensia* X, 1-33.

326. Hans Sørensen (1908-2003), Danish Romanist and literary scholar.

327. Paul V(iktor) Rubow (1896-1972), Danish literary historian and philologist.

328. Gunnar Bech (1920-1981), Danish Germanist. Bech had a chair in German

These decisions have caused much surprise, and the latte[r] a good deal of trouble for me. I have had to change all the plans for the Institute, and I shall get less space for phonetics. Now I hope very much that my professorship for phonetics will become a fact in April (there is a good chance³²⁹), so th that we can divide the Institute between us, and be independent of each other. It is planned to divide the chair of linguistics later, when one or more of Hjelmslev's pupils have qualified themselves³³⁰.

Best wishes for 1966,

Yours

Eli

language 1956-1965. In 1966 he succeeded Hjelmslev as professor of General and Comparative Linguistics. From 1968 to 1972 he was again Professor of Germanic Philology.

329. Fischer-Jørgensen in fact became an extraordinary professor in phonetics April 1, 1966.

330. Bech's successor in Comparative Linguistics was not to be a Hjelmslev pupil. The Norwegian scholar in Indo-European languages Fredrik Otto Lindeman got the chair (see also letter 74, January 1970, below). He left, in 1976, for a chair in Norway and was succeeded by Jørgen Rischel, who was more a pupil of EFJ. A new chair in Applied and Mathematical Linguistics was established in 1979 for Henning Spang-Hanssen. See Slottved, Ejvind. 1978. *Lærestole og lærere ved Københavns Universitet 1537-1977*. København, Samfundet for dansk Genealogi og Personalhistorie.

67.

EFJ to RJ, 11.03.1966

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15, Typed Letter Carbon Copy, 210 x 297 mm; non Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[*s.l.*] 11-3-66

Dear Roman,

I hope you have got the first issue of *Acta*³³¹, else you will get it very soon. The manuscripts for the second issue³³² have been sent to the printer.

We were very glad that you could get the subvention from the Farfield Foundation³³³. (We are sending them two copies). But even with this subvention we have a deficit. The printing has been more expensive than calculated because the printer had given the offer on the basis of an older number, but modern linguistic articles are full off odd signs and tables, and this makes it more expensive. The

331. *Acta Linguistica* IX, Number 1, 1965. In the editorial, the new editors Søren Egerod, Hans Chr. Sørensen and EFJ shortly give the story of *Acta Linguistica*:

“The *Acta Linguistica* was edited by Viggo Brøndal and Louis Hjelmslev from 1939 to 1942. After Brøndal’s death in 1942 Hjelmslev was the sole editor, from 1947 to 1956 assisted by Eli Fischer-Jørgensen. The journal ceased to appear regularly in 1953, the last issue being vol. VII, fasc. 1-2. A new number (VIII,1) containing papers and reviews from the years 1951-53 was prepared, but the printing was delayed until 1960. It was sent to the subscribers in 1965. The present volume (IX) marks a new start with a new board of editors. Only very few of the manuscripts sent to the journal in the preceding years have been included in this volume, most of these manuscripts having been published elsewhere.”

332. *Acta Linguistica*, IX, Number 2, 1966.

333. The Farfield Foundation was set up in 1952. Its mission was described in this way: “The Foundation extends financial aid to [...] groups whose enterprises in literary, artistic or scientific fields may serve as worthy contributions to the progress of culture.” It has later come out that it was CIA financed. See e.g. Saunders, Frances Stonor. 2013°. *The Cultural Cold War: The CIA and the World of Arts and Letters*. The New Press, New York/London, pp. 113ff.

deficit for the first volume will be between 4<000> and 5.000 cr. – And this means that we must first get money to cover this deficit and then have a greater subvention for the next volume. Of course we hope that the income from subscriptions will be higher (we have now 360 subscriptions), but nevertheless it will be difficult. We should therefore be extremely grateful, if you would try to get us a subvention also for 1966 (volume X).

This winter has been very tiring. Our institute is still placed provisionally in Kejsergade, and our own house ist not yet ready, and there have been endless negotiations [*sic*] ~~about~~ with the architect, with Bech, who has now taken over Hjelmlev's chair, writing of applications etc. ~~But~~ I am still director of the Institute, but we plan to divide it into two³³⁴. At any rate I have managed to get a good deal of money for books, for binding of books, for registration of unregistered papers, and offprints etc., so that I can leave the Linguistic part to Bech in a much better state than when I took it over.

The result is that I have not finished ~~my~~ the English edition of my textbook³³⁵, nor the book I have promised <to> the Philological Society with my studies on the auditory dimensions of sounds³³⁶. But I hope next year will be better and more quiet.

I hope you are all right and still able to work for three, and I hope to see you in Moscow³³⁷ and Leningrad³³⁸ this summer. I have

334. It was, in fact, divided in 1966.

335. The English version was indeed never published, see letter 74, January 1970, below.

336. EFJ refers to a book project with two of her London-lessons (see note 275 to letter 51, April 30, 1964, above). The project was not finished, probably because of the death of Hjelmlev and the resulting changes at the University of Copenhagen. EFJ explains in a letter to the Society (August 21, 1967) that she has had too much to do, first taking “over the whole Institute of Phonetics and Linguistics”, then building “up a separate Institute of Phonetics and an experimental laboratory”(Copy of the letter at KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 22).

337. August 4-11: XII International Congress of Psychology, Moscow.

338. August 13-16: The International Seminar on Speech Production and Speech Perception, Pavlov Institute, Leningrad (St. Petersburg).

given up going to Los Angeles³³⁹, because they did not get money for the research seminar, and I do not want to teach 8 hours a week in my holidays.

339. RJ, July 6, gave two Forum Lectures at this seminar in Los Angeles at the Linguistic Institute of the Linguistic Society of America. Concerning the Linguistic Institute, see note 140 to letter 21, December 11, 1951, above and INTRODUCTION.

68.

RJ to EFJ, 20.05.1966

KB Acc. 2008/17, Æske 7; Typed Letter, 215 x 280 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.
 [Copy: MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36]

[University Letterhead:]
 Harvard University
 Slavic Languages and Literatures
 Boylston 301
 Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

May 20, 1966

Miss Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
 Kongestien 45
 Virum, Denmark.
 Dear Eli:

Warmest congratulations and wishes on your new chair. Many thanks for your excellent papers on Hjelmslev and Diderichsen. I am glad the Acta finally appeared, and I shall try to do my best, but it will take time, since my friend Thompson³⁴⁰ is no longer with the Farfield Foundation.

I shall spend August and most of September in Eastern Europe³⁴¹ and hope to make a stop in Copenhagen³⁴² on my way back. I am looking forward to seeing you and to discussing with you our current problems.

Affectionately,
 { Roman }
 Roman Jakobson

340. See note 304 to letter 58, June 1, 1965, above.

341. RJ participated in the two conferences in Moscow and Leningrad mentioned by EFJ in the previous letter (67, March 11, 1966, above), and further in conferences in Tartu, Tbilisi and Kazimierz.

342. He succeeded in doing so, in fact, see letter 71, November 10, 1966.

69.

EFJ to RJ, 27.05.1966

MIT MC.0072 Box 39 Folder 37, Typed Aerogram, 150 x 288 mm; Postmark : Virum 28-5 1966 9.00; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[Copy: KB Acc. 2008/17, Æske 7]

[Autograph Writings on the Envelope, an address probably in the Soviet Union]

[From:]

[Stamp:]

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen

Universitetslektor

Kongestien 45

Virum, Danmark

tlf. 85 35 13

[To:]

Professor Roman Jakobson

Harvard University

Boylston 301

Cambridge 38

Mass.

USA

27-5- 66

Dear Roman.

Thank you very much for your letter from May 20. We have just been informed from the Rask-Ørsted foundation that they have only given us 2/3 of what we asked for. That means that we will get into some economic troubles. It is a pity that your friend Thompson is no longer in the Fairfield Foundation, but I hope you will be able to get money for us nevertheless. The start is of course particularly

difficult. Later we hope that an increasing number of subscriptions will help.

I hope to be able to come to Moscow and Leningrad in August³⁴³, so that we shall probably meet there. I am looking forward to seeing you.

Best wishes

{ Eli }

My professorship is not formerly quite in order yet. The papers disappeared in the ministry!³⁴⁴

343. See notes 337 and 338 to letter 67, March 11, 1966, above.

344. Officially, according to the University's yearbook, EFJ got the chair April 1.

70.

EFJ to RJ, 30.II.1966/[03.II.66(?)]³⁴⁵

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Letter, 210 x 295 mm; Signed; 2 leafs, 2 sides.

[University Letterhead :]
Københavns Universitet
Institut for Lingvistik og Fonetik

-

Store Kannikestræde 13,
København K.
Telefon Minerva 5570

30-II- 66 [03.II.1966?]

Dear Roman,

< { ps. I was just informed that you were in Nice } >³⁴⁶

First of all I want to send you my warmest congratulations to your birthday³⁴⁷. – I am sorry I am so late, but I had been told that you were somewhere in Europe, and that it was not possible to reach you. Now Hammerich told me that you were at home.

I have sent a contribution to your *Festschrift*³⁴⁸ – a slightly enlarged version of my talk in Leningrad³⁴⁹. But I have not got any proofs, so it seems to be in one of the later volumes.

I hope to see you here, and we hope that you have accepted the

345. The letter must have a wrong date, since EFJ is referring to RJ's arrival, before the lessons November 8. Therefore we have put this letter before the next one. It could possibly be November 3, 1966.

346. Text added in the left margin of the page.

347. October 10.

348. EFJ 1967b. "Perceptual dimensions of vowels". *To Honor Roman Jakobson*, 667-671. The Hague, Mouton.

349. See note 338 to letter 67, March 11, 1966, above.

invitation to talk in the Linguistic Circle < { Friday } >³⁵⁰. I suppose you have sent a reply to Sørensen³⁵¹ or to the Institute³⁵². In the latter case we will get it on Monday.

This term we have been discussing distinctive feature-analysis in my phonemic class. We have tried to analyse Danish according to your system, and we have found it difficult to reach a satisfactory result. I should like to mention some of the difficulties, in the hope that you may find 5 minutes to think them over, and tell me your result, when you arrive, or, still better, say a few words in my class (Tuesday 12-14)³⁵³. I realise, however, that this latter possibility may be non-existing, since you will be very busy.

The main problem in the vowels is constituted by the fact that we have four degrees of opening i e { ε } a - - y ø { œ } - u o { ɔ } all both short and long.

I do not think that it gives any sense to use the distinction tense-lax; ⚡Duration and intensity is <are> increasing with increasing degree of opening, according to this the open vowels should be called tense, but a and œ are probably closer to the neutral position of the vocal tract than e.g. i and y. - We can of course divide compact-diffuse into two: compact-non-compact, and diffuse-non diffuse. - But there is still the a. If a is considered as grave, it is all right, and the system can be set up in different ways: The best thing will be to start with compact ({ ε } a œ { ɔ }) and non-compact and then diffuse (i, y, u) and non-diffuse (e ø o), then grave-acute { ɔ } a / { ε œ } u/yi o/eø and then flat/plain. - - But the trouble is that the normal Danish a is an { [] æ [] }, whereas before r (and partly velars (the short one)[]) it is { [a] }. It should therefore be neither-nor, or (following the normal variant <{ } > : acute. A way out may be to intro-

350. RJ gave a paper in the Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen, November 8, 1966: "The Perception of Speech Sounds".

351. Hans Chr. Sørensen, see note 54 to letter 11, September 21, 1949, above.

352. Institut for Fonetik.

353. RJ gave a lecture at the Institut for Fonetik, Copenhagen University, November 8, 1966 on "Controversial Questions of Danish Phonology".

duce sharp-plain. In Fant's QPR³⁵⁴ sharp-plain corresponds to high-low F₂ (like formerly acute-grave) and acute-grave corresponds to F₂-F₁ (ie. obliquely [*ith*:] through the vowel diagram []). From this point of view a might be called grave.<.> ~~We would then have~~ and, by the way we need not use sharp-plain, simply redefine grave-acute. Then it works, but I must confess that I like + { ± } - for { ε e i } (compact/diffuse) better than dividing this ~~di~~ *disti* opposition up into two. This, however, is only a matter of taste.

For the consonants the problems are different according to the phonemic analysis from which one starts. One may prefer not to reduce ~~tøø~~ the number too much, so that one gets p t k b d g [*ith*:] m n { ŋ } f s h v { ð } j { ʏ } l r, or one may make the wellknown /2/ reductions of stops and fricatives and get rid of { ð } and { ʏ }. In both cases h is difficult (and not only in Danish). When it is considered as non-vocalic and non-consonantal ~~the vowel~~ it is defined acoustically ~~in~~ according to the first feature, and ~~arti~~ from the articulatory point of view in the second. The acoustical definition of consonantal (low energy) is all right for h. Thus it can also <{ be }> considered to be a consonant, I should prefer to call it an oral { , } continu{ous} and for the rest neutral consonant, but this cannot be fitted into a <binary> branching structure, where it must have some characteristic of its own. - r is difficult in Danish because it has all sorts of variants from unvoiced noisy ones to purely vocalic ones. If vocalic and consonantal may be interpreted ~~tø~~ as sometimes one - ~~an~~ sometimes the other, it is all right. It is also possible to consider the vocalised r-s as parts of diphthongs, but then we get two more vowel phonemes, because there is complete assimilation in ar and [*ith*:] { ɔ } r { [ɑ: o:] } . - When a consonant, r is rather strident. -

There is no doubt as to the application of discontinuous / cont. [inuuous] (ptkbgd/the rest) nasal/oral (mn { ŋ } / the rest) compact/diffuse (kgn { ʏjR } / the rest) and grave/acute ([*ith*:] pbfvm and { ʏ R } / the re[st]) - ~~If [*ith*:] and [*ith*:] are considered as phonemes.~~ The difficulties come in the application of cons.-voc, tense and strident.

354. (Probably) referring to Gunnar Fant (1950): "Transmission properties of the vocal tract", *M.I.T. Acoustics Lab Quarterly Progress Rep.*, July-Sep., 20-23 + Oct.Dec., 14-19.

- if { δ γ } are considered as phonemes we should probably consider l r { δ , j, γ } as vocalic and consonantal (r is, as said above [..] dubious) - they have no noise, low energy but sharply defined formants.
 - r { γ j } would be compact, l { δ } non-compact, { γ } and j may be distinguished as grave-acute, r perhaps di-<s>tinguished from { γ } as strident (or as flat, if flat also means pharyngeal), - it has a very low F2) { δ } and l are rather similar, but l is has more acoustic intensity, so that they might be called non diffuse ({ δ }) - non-diffuse (l).
 - (v might be put into this group, and distinguished from δ as grave - it has hardly any noise in Danish. - <For> The distinction between ptkf and bdg γ we could use tense-lax, if only length and intensity of noise is considered (the sharply defined formant regions are only valid for vowels), but if { δ γ } r are considered as consonants, it would be better to use the pair strident-mellow (p/b, t/d, k/g, f/v, s/ { δ }, r/ { γ }). (h might perhaps be called compact; like k it has most of its intensity at the second formant, but it is weak and short) [.]

If we make the reduction [i~~ll~~] t- -d, k- -g, d- { - δ }, g- { - γ }, it is impossible to use tense/lax, - It is true that the explosion-noise of t is longer and stronger than that of g, but the sounding period of { δ } is longer and has more intensity than the explosion of d, and the formants are more sharp, so that { δ } and { γ } should be tense compared to d and g [.] Physiologically one might look at the intra-oral pressure which is slightly very slightly higher in d and g < { than δ γ } >, but here the difference between t and d (k[i~~ll~~] and g) is slight, and the [i~~ll~~] organic pressure seems to be stronger in d than in t. - - Strident-mellow cannot be used either for d- { δ }, g-{ γ }³⁵⁵ - But it might, as proposed by Rischel, be possible to use the feature mentioned by Liske[r]³⁵⁶ and Denes³⁵⁷, i.e. the time of the onset of glottal

355. These last two groups of consonants are encircled by hand writing.

356. Leigh Lisker (1918-2006). Maybe: Lisker, L. & Abramson, A.S. (1964). A Cross-Language Study of Voicing in Initial Stops: Acoustical Measurements, *Word* 20, 384-422 - or - Lisker, L. & Abramson, A.S. (1965). Voice Onset Time in Stop Consonants: Acoustic Analysis and Synthesis, *SR Haskins* 1, 1-7, both mentioned by EFJ 1972e, pp. 87-88.

357. Peter B. Denes (1920-1976). It is not so obvious to which text EFJ is referring. It might also be a mistake, i.e. that she has written Denes instead of Abramson, see previous note.

vibrations, they begin earlier in { ð } than in d (which is unvoiced) and earlier in d than in t (which is aspirated)³⁵⁸. So instead of voicing, we might speak of onset of voicing³⁵⁹. – This division must then precede discontinuous, cont., since d and g are neither nor.

Best wishes, hoping to see you soon,

Yours

{ Eli }

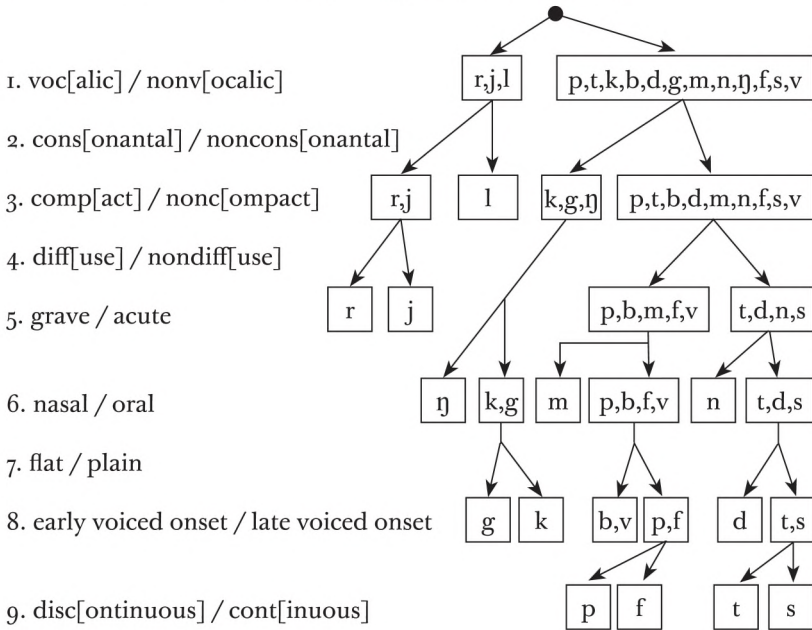
358. This sentence is highlighted by a vertical stroke running through the left margin of the page and traced by hand with a red pencil. The same pencil underlines the following passages: “the onset of glottal vibrations”, “earlier in d” and earlier in d”.

359. “onset of voicing” is underlined by hand, with the same pencil that traced the IPA signs all over the letter.

70a

Danish Consonants with reduction

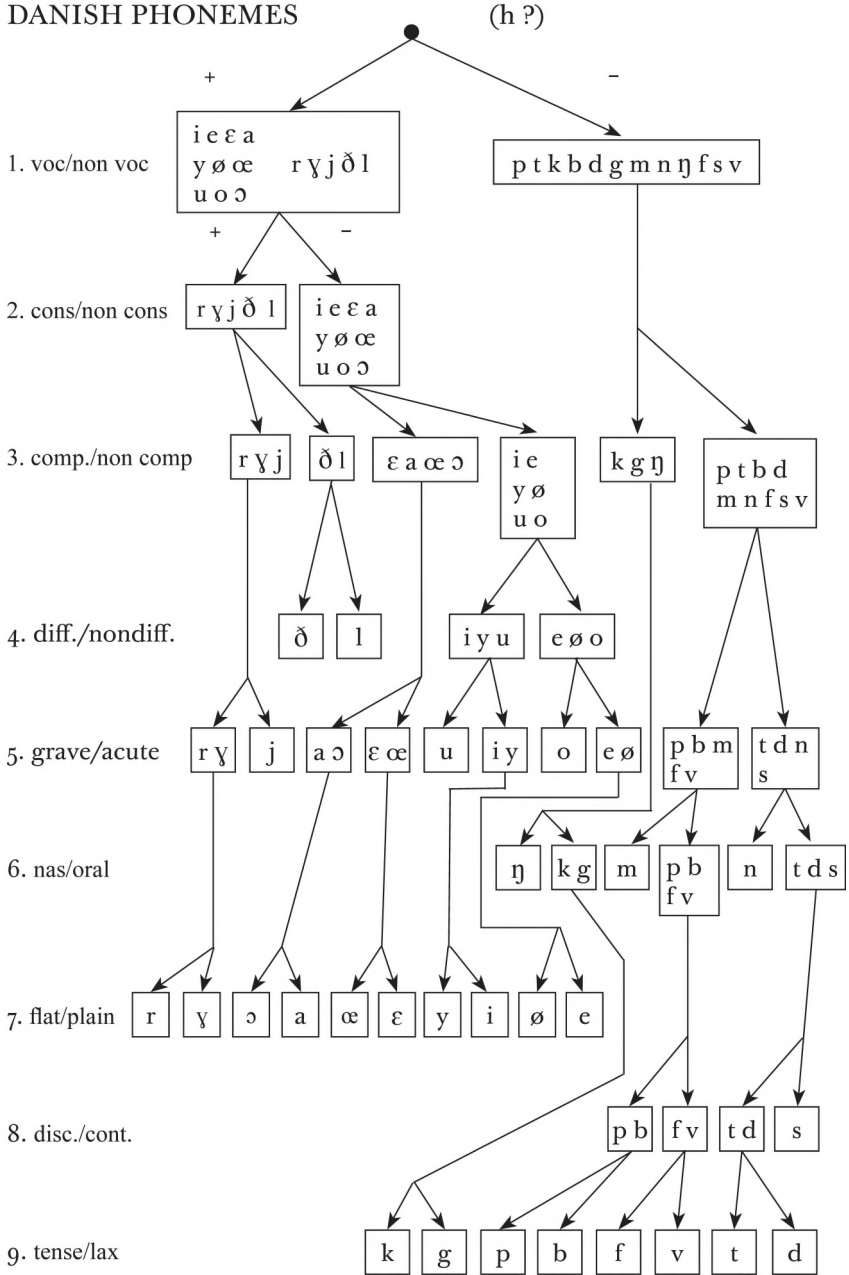
[t-, -d] = /t/, [d-, -ð] = /d/, [k-, -g] = /k/, [g-, -ɣ] = /g/



This is a reconstruction by the editors of the diagram that was enclosed to Letter 70. The idea is to arrive at a complete and unique definition of the consonantal phonemes of Danish by using the distinctive features proposed by Roman Jakobson and his collaborators in *Preliminaries to Speech Analysis* 1951. Please notice that EFJ, in accordance with some of the tables in *Preliminaries* (e.g. page 43) has split up the distinctive features so that Vocalic vs. Consonantal has become two binary features, i.e. Vocalic - Nonvocalic and Consonantal - Nonconsonantal. This happens also with the feature Compact - Diffuse here which is not authorized by *Preliminaries*. In the actual analysis, however, this does not make too much of a difference since the split is not used for differentiation. The initial reduction of t, d, k and g is in accordance with the passage in *Preliminaries*' second edition about Danish strong and weak positions (page 5). As argued in Letter 70, the next to final distinction between the rows of stops, which in Danish are not distinguished by voicing, has been done with the help of Rischel's suggestion of a feature of early voiced onset vs. late voiced onset. Note that b and v (probably by a mistake, cf. next page) are not further distinguished and that the thorny and crucial problems of h and R in Danish are not included here.

70b

DANISH PHONEMES



The above is the editors' reconstruction of the enclosure to Letter 70 showing the entire Danish system according to a version of distinctive feature theory. The idea is, as in 70a to identify uniquely by a set of binary features all the phonemes of Danish. At the top is indicated that neither the phoneme h nor the type of glottal stop called the 'stød' has been classified below.

Any analysis of this table and the previous one will do well to consult Basbøll 2005 for a comparison. For reasons of space, the features have not been spelled out in 70 b. The reader may confer 70a.

71.

RJ to EFJ, 10.II.1966

KB Acc 2009/48, Æske 17, Autograph Postcard, 146 x 105 mm; Color Picture, captioned: "Unesco Paris: Henry Moore: "Reclining figure" / "Silhouette au repos" / Travertine statue, Piazza; Postmark: []s VII [] er (7[€]) [] -II 66; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[To:]

Prof. Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
 Institut for lingvistik og fonetik
 St. Kannikestræde 13, K
 Copenhague
 Danmark

10.XI.66

Dear Eli!

Tak for sist!³⁶⁰

I was happy to see you and to talk with you and your collaborators³⁶¹. The address I forgot to give you: Prof. V. N. Toporov³⁶², Leninskij prospekt, d. 101, korpus 174, kv. 58 Moskva V-421.

Yours as ever

Roman

360. See 318 to letter 63, November 13, 1965, above: "Tak for sidst", Danish for "Thanks for last time". RJ is giving the Danish idiom a "Norwegian touch" writing "sist" in stead of "sidst" (the "Danish d" is not pronounced).

361. RJ refers to his visit at the Institute of Phonetics at the University of Copenhagen, note 353 to letter 70, November 3 ?, 1966, above.

362. Vladimir Nikolaevič Toporov (1928-2005), Russian philologist, mythologist and semiotician.

72.

EFJ to RJ, 28.02.1967

KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15, Typed Letter Carbon Copy, 210 x 296 mm; Carbon-Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[s.l.] 28-2-67

Dear Roman,

Thank you very much for your Christmas card and for Toporov's address³⁶³. – Although I have no lectures this term I have full up to do with administration, MA theses etc. – and I am hopelessly late with my correspondence. – – It was very happy to see you here, and grateful to you for finding time to speak in my class. –

Everything is all right in the Institute. We are getting a new spectrograph and other instruments, and we are soon sending out a report in English.

Acta XI has just appeared. I have written to the Fairfield Foundation³⁶⁴, but not yet got any answer. Now we try to get something more from Rask Ørsted fondet³⁶⁵. I hope they will give more now that three numbers are out, and the fourth in proofs. Do not forget to send us something, when you have a possibility!³⁶⁶

Best wishes

Yours

Eli

363. See note 362 to letter 71, November 10, 1966, above.

364. See note 333 to letter 67, March 11, 1966, above.

365. See note 50 to letter 11, September 21, 1949, above.

366. RJ, in fact, never published a contribution to *Acta Linguistica* in the more than 35 years long period that he was president of the International Council of the journal, i.e. since the end of the War until 1981, when he got a letter, dated June 17 from Torben Thrane, on behalf of the editors, that explains that the strategy is changed and that they among other things do not want “to continue the International Council [...] but rather to seek *ad hoc* editorial advice”. The only contributions by RJ to *Acta Linguistica* are from 1939: RJ 1939b and 1939d. He published a few more contributions in other publications of the Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen. Torben Thrane (b. 1944), Danish Anglicist and linguist, managing editor of the *Acta Linguistica Hafniensia* 1981-1985.

73·
RJ to EFJ, 12.04.1967

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15, Typed Letter, 202 x 139 mm; Signed and Initialed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[Copy : MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36]

[University Letterhead:]
Harvard University
Slavic Languages and Literatures
Boylston 301
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

April 12, 1967

Prof. Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
Kongestien 45
Virum, Denmark

Dear Eli:

Thank you for your interesting paper on SUBSTANCE AND FORM³⁶⁷ which I would like very much to discuss with you when I see you (perhaps in Bucharest³⁶⁸). I was asked to give a summary of my recent paper in *Lingvistikredsen*³⁶⁹. I think, however, that you may simply refer that this paper is being published in the second volume of my Selected Writings (to appear during this summer).

367. EFJ. 1966k. "Form and Substance in Glossematics". *Acta Linguistica Hafniensia* X, 1-33. See also letters 15, July 30, 1950 and 66, December 27, 1965, above.

368. RJ was going to the Xth International Congress of Linguists, August 28-September 5, EFJ, however, did not participate.

369. Probably RJ refers to his paper in the Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen, November 8, 1966: "The Perception of Speech Sounds". However, there is not an article with this title in *Selected Writings II*, which came out only in 1971.

Affectionately,
{ Roman }
Roman Jakobson

RJ:l

1970-82

74.
EFJ to RJ, 01.1970

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Autograph Greeting Card, 140(x2) x 105 mm, Picture: "Reproduceret efter original af Leif Ragn Jensen"; Signed; 1 leaf, 4 sides [written on 2].

[s.l.] January 1970

Dear Roman

Best wishes for 1970! When are you coming to Europe again? We missed you this year.

- I am taking a term off to finish my textbook of phonetics³⁷⁰.

370. EFJ is referring to the English version of EFJ 1948/60/62: *Almen fonetik* (see also letters 62, August 1, 1965 and 67, March 11, 1966, above). EFJ, in fact, never published an English version. In 1964, EFJ had made an agreement about the English version with the British publishing house Faber and Faber. In a letter to them, December 30, 1970 (Copy in KB 2009/48, Æske 2), EFJ writes: "[] If possible, I am suffering still more from bad conscience than usual. I cannot find the copy of the letter I sent you last New Year, but I am afraid I wrote that I was going to have a free term and that only illness could prevent me from finishing the book. I have not been particularly ill, but I have not finished the book, and it will not be ready until the end of 1971. One of the reasons is that I had counted on Rischel's assistance, but he is now writing his thesis, and I will not prevent him from getting this done. But the main reason is quite ridiculous. As I was going to have a free term, Rischel should take over my course on phonological theories. As he had not occupied himself very much with older theories, only with American phonology, I promised him to rewrite my notes so that they could be used as a sort of textbook. I thought I could do this in two months or less, and then go on with the phonetic book. But notes for lectures cannot be used directly as textbooks, I had to read some extra literature and add a lot of notes and references etc. I might have saved a good deal of time if I had asked one of my younger colleagues to write the chapter on generative phonology (Chomsky etc.) on which I had only rather sparse [*sic*] notes and which the young people read with more enthusiasm. But we came to the conclusion that it was better that the book was written by one person. - The result was that I read 3-4000 pages on generative phonology during the summer, and now I have written a "Historical Survey of Phonological Schools" in Danish, (mimeographed), of about 300 pages. It was not

- Jacob Mey³⁷¹ got the chair of linguistics in Odense³⁷², /2/

Bech³⁷³ has gone back to German, and the chair has been announced as a chair of i.[ndo-]e.[uropean] hist.[orical] comp.[arative] ling.[uistics]. Later we will get a second chair of general linguistics. Spang Hanssen has got a chair of mathematical linguistics³⁷⁴. He and Ege³⁷⁵ is [*sic*] building the department up. -

I have now 7 “amanuenser” and 3 engineers, - some really good staff members³⁷⁶. -

Best wishes,

Eli

intended to be of this size, it is now rather a textbook for advanced students of phonetics and linguistics, and if I had foreseen this development I would have written it in English, and could have offered you this book in the meantime [...]. I may think of an English version, and as this is a new book, it will not need all the revision which was necessary in the case of my old phonetics, but I am not going to sign any contracts.”

371. Jacob (Louis) Mey, (1926-). Dutch, Danish linguist. Mey was a student of Louis Hjelmslev, and graduated from the University of Copenhagen in 1960 only to take up a position at the University of Oslo. Professor in Linguistics, Odense University/University of Southern Denmark from 1970. He became an emeritus in 1996. Founding editor of *Journal of Pragmatics* (1977) and *Pragmatics and Society* (2010).

372. Odense Universitet was founded in 1964. Since 1998 it is part of Syddansk Universitet.

373. Gunnar Bech. See note to letter December 27, 1965.

374. Henning Spang-Hanssen (1920-2002), Danish engineer, mathematician and linguist. In 1969, he got a new personal chair in Applied and Mathematical Linguistics, in 1970 a department attached to his chair was established.

375. Niels Ege, see the note 112 to letter 17, March 3, 1951, above.

376. You can follow the development in the staff members of the Institute of Phonetics in the series of ARIPUC, *Annual Report of the Institute of Phonetics, University of Copenhagen*.

75·

RJ to EFJ, 11.02.1971

KB Acc 2009/48, Æske 17, Telegram, 208 x 149 mm; Stamp: Hovedtelegrafkontoret København K 11.2.71; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[To:]

miss eli fisher-jorgensen

kongestien 45

<{ viru }>m {2830}

happy birthday to you and nu[m]erous healthy creative glorious
and enjoyable years

roman jakobson

76.

Stephen Rudy (RJ's Assistant) to EFJ, before 01.02.1973³⁷⁷

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15; Typed Letter; 216 x 280 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

Roman Jakobson
[University Letterhead:]
Harvard University
Slavic Languages and Literatures
Boylston 301
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts 02138

Professor Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
Kongestien 45
Virum, Danmark

Dear Professor Fischer-Jørgensen,

Professor Jakobson is in the process of completely [finalizing] his work on the Index to N. S. Trubetzkoy's Letters and would be very grateful if you could send him the years of birth and death of the linguist J. Forchhammer³⁷⁸.

With many thanks for your kind co-operation,

Yours respectfully

{ Stephen Rudy }

Stephen Rudy³⁷⁹, Assistant to Professor Jakobson

377. For the date, see letter 77, below.

378. Jørgen (Ebbensen) Forchhammer (1873-1963). Danish voice physiologist and phonetician. He was rather skeptical towards, but also interested in, the upcoming phonology. See letter 77 below, Ehlers 2005, 187-189, and EFJ 1975b, 7-8.

379. Stephen Rudy, 1949-2003, Professor of Russian and Slavic languages, was involved in editing several of the volumes of the Jakobson's *Selected Writings*. He compiled and edited *Roman Jakobson 1896-1982. A Complete Bibliography of his writings*. 1990. Mouton de Gruyter, Berlin/New York, and further compiled the most comprehensive chronology of RJ's life.

77.

EFJ to Stephen Rudy (RJ's Assistant), 01.02.1973

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15, Typed Letter Copy, 210 x 297 mm; Carbon-Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[s.l.] 1/2 73

Dear Mr. Rudy,

Excuse me for not an[s]wering your letter until now. (fortunately it was undated, so I can hope that it was not too long ago[]). -

I have now got the information that Jørgen Forchhammer was born in 1873 and died in 1963, but his nephew, with whom I spoke, could not find out the date without writing to his widow who lives in Germany and is 93 years old. I hope the years will do.

By the way, I have a photo-copy of a letter from Trubetzkoy to Jørgen Forchhammer from March 1932. It is handwritten, (12 pages) and quite interesting³⁸⁰. I also have a letter from Trubetzkoy to me (1938), but this was only to say that I was welcome to study with him³⁸¹. Unfortunately nothing came out of it, since he died shortly afterwards.

With best greetings
Eli Fischer-Jørgensen

Ple[a]se, remember me to Roman Jakobson

380. The letter is a very interesting contribution to the discussion of the relationship between phonology and phonetics in the 1930's. Trubetzkoy's letter (March 5, 1932) aims at delimiting from each other the objects for the two sciences, and at defending the widespread use of acoustic terms in phonology. For further details, see Ehlers 2005, 187-189 (and the INTRODUCTION). The letter is published in RJ 1975h. *N.S. Trubetzkoy's Letters and Notes*. Mouton, The Hague/Paris, pp. 457-462.

381. The letter is published in RJ 1975h, p. 466.

78.

EFJ to RJ, 01.03.1973

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15, Typed Letter Carbon Copy; 210 x 297 mm; Carbon-Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[s.l.] 1-3- 73

Dear Roman,

Thank you very much for your kind letter³⁸². – Enclosed I am sending a copy of the two letters from Trubetskoy. The one to Forchhammer is very interesting and certainly deserves to be published. The one to me does not contain anything of interest. – It is only a confirmation that I am welcome to study with him in Vienna. I was sorry that nothing came out of it, because he died sho[rt]ly afterwards.

I hope you are all right, and that you will come to Europe soon again. – I am working on a historical su[r]vey of phonological theory³⁸³, which will probably be published by Faber and Faber³⁸⁴ in London. I hope to finish it in the beginning of April. Much time is, however, wast[ed] on meetings, which according to our new democratic cons[ti]tution³⁸⁵ are numerous, but I have left both the faculty council³⁸⁶ and the senate³⁸⁷ in order to get time for researc[h].

Best wishes and love,
also for Kristina
from
Eli

382. We have not found this letter.

383. EFJ 1975b. *Trends in Phonological Theory. A Historical Introduction*. Copenhagen, Akademisk Forlag.

384. The book was not published by Faber and Faber, but by the Danish publishing house, Akademisk Forlag. See note 370 above.

385. A new law, *Universitetsstyrelsesloven*, which was passed in 1970, instituted a 50% influence for the scientific staff in the decision-making bodies.

386. "Fakultetsrådet".

387. "Konsistorium".

79.

RJ to EFJ, 06.03.1973

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15, Typed Letter, 216 x 279 mm; Signed and Initialed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

Roman Jakobson
 [University Letterhead:]
 Harvard University
 Slavic Languages and Literatures
 Boylston 301
 Cambridge 38, Massachusetts 02138

6 March 1973

Prof. Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
 Kongestien 45
 Virum, Danmark.

Dear Eli,

A thousand thanks for the so rapid dispatch of the two letters of Trubetzkoy, one important for his phonological views, and the other as the last letter of him we know, and valuable data about his unrealized plans of teaching for the following year. Both are being sent to the typesetter, and I will be most grateful to you if you briefly inform me (for a footnote) what was Ba{ <a> }der's³⁸⁸ project to which you must have referred in your letter to Trubetzkoy. Thank you in advance.

Looking forward to your book on the history of phonological theory,

Affectionately,

{ Roman }

Roman Jakobson

RJ:pc

388. Theodor Baader (1888-1959), German phonetician, see Ehlers 2005, 172-174.

80.

EFJ to RJ, 16.04.1973

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Aerogram [cut-off], 150 x 193 mm;
Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side. [‘F’ traced by pencil in the upper-right corner].
[Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15]

[From:]

[Stamp]

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen

Professor

Kongestien 45

[Vi]rum Danmark

16/4-73

Dear Roman,

Thank you for your letter from March and excuse me for answering so late. In my letter to Trubets<z>koy I only mention briefly that Baader planned a phonological description of the German “Hochsprache”³⁸⁹. I am pretty sure that it never appeared. Nothing is mentioned in the very detailed bibliography of German phonetics and phonology recently published in Köln³⁹⁰.

I saw Hammerich recently. He talked about going to Alaska this summer to continue his Esk[imo] studies, so he must feel alright³⁹¹.

I hope you are soon coming to Scandinavia again.

Affectionately

{ Eli }

389. See *Information Bulletin* 2 (1936: 6) of the *Internationale Phonologische Arbeitsgemeinschaft* (RJ 1975h, 466, note 3, and Ehlers 2005, 173).

390. Must be: *Bibliographie zur Phonetik und Phonologie des Deutschen*. 1971. (Schindler, Frank & Thürmann, Eike), Institut für Phonetik der Universität zu Köln.

391. In the field of Eskimology, Hammerich was well-known for his fieldwork and several articles on West Eskimoic.

81.

EFJ to RJ, 22.03.1975

MIT MC.0072 Box 48 Folder 27, Autograph Aerogram, 180 x 270 mm;
 Postmark : København 25.3.75 15.45 K 13; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[To:]

Professor Roman Jakobson
 6 Scott Street
 Cambridge
 Mass
 02138
 USA

[From:]

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
 Kongestien 45
 2830 Virum, Denmark

22/3 75

Dear Roman,

May I reproduce some of your diagrams for my book on “Trends in phonological theories”? viz. the feature matrix from “Preliminaries” (English)³⁹², <and> the feature matrix in Cherry-Jakobson-Halle on Russian (from ‘Word’)³⁹³ ? I should be grateful of a quick reply since my book is already in print.

- How are you? - When will you come to Denmark³⁹⁴ again? -

392. RJ 1952h, *Preliminaries*, p.43 (*Trends*, EFJ 1975b: 167)

393. Cherry, Halle, Jakobson (RJ 1953b), in *Language* 29, pp. 34-46 (*Trends*, EFJ 1975b: 169-70). Edward Colin Cherry (1914-1979), information theorist.

394. RJ does not come to Denmark in 1975, but nearby, to Lund in Sweden. See letter 83, September 7, 1975, below.

I am on holiday in Sweden, skiing in the mountains but shall be
back April 3

Best regards, also to Christina [*sic*]³⁹⁵.

Yours as ever

{ Eli }

<Permission given³⁹⁶

4/3/75>³⁹⁷

<Danish publishers>³⁹⁸

395. Krystyna Pomorska (1928-1986), born in Poland, RJ's wife since 1962.

396. See letter 82 below.

397. Lines written by unknown hand.

398. Note written along the right margin of the sheet, by the same hand as the text mentioned in preceding note.

82.

RJ to EFJ, 04.04.1975

KB Acc 2009/48, Æske 1, Typed and Autograph Postal Card, 140 x 90 mm;
 Postmark: 4 apr 197[5], U.S. Postal Service, MA 021 (Air Mail); Signed; 1
 leaf, 1 side.

[From:]

[Stamp:]

R. JAKOBSON

301 Boylston Hall

Harvard University

Cambridge, Mass. 02138

[To:]

Prof. Eli Fischer-Jørgensen

Kongestien 45

Virum

DENMARK

{ Air Mail }

/2/

Roman Jakobson thanks you for your kindness in sending³⁹⁹
 { your masterful study }
 “Perception of German and Danish Vowels”⁴⁰⁰
 { PS You have my permission to reproduce the passages you
 mention in your letter of Mar. 22⁴⁰¹.
 Yours Roman }

399. Pre-printed line.

400. Machine typed line. EFJ (1975a). “Perception of German and Danish vowels with special reference to the German lax vowels”. *Auditory Analysis and Perception of Speech*, ed. by Gunnar Fant and Marcel Tatham. London. Academic Press, 155-176.

401. See letter 81, above.

83.

EFJ to RJ, 07.09.1975

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15, Typed Letter Carbon Copy, 210 x 297 mm; Carbon-Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[*s.l.*] 7/9-7[5]⁴⁰²

Dear Roman,

I was very glad that I was able to come to Lund⁴⁰³ and hear you, but I felt sorry for Helge and Milena⁴⁰⁴ and all the others who did not get this chance. It was a pity that the invitations from Copenhagen did not reach you in time. I understand ver[y] well that you will be too tired to give lectures on your way [to] Paris, but what about stopping here for one day just to see old friends, and perhaps others? I will not insist, – you sho[uld] not do it if you feel too tired also for that, I just want to suggest that this is a possibility. You could stay in my guest room (if you do not mind that there are books and papers on the shelves and mingograms⁴⁰⁵ under the bed!) or (if you prefer to be more independent) in a hotel. Milena's health does not make it possible for her to have guests, what she regretted very much. We could then have a party at my house in the evening with Hel[ge] and Milena, Hammerich, Vibeke [Hj]elmslev, and perhaps

402. The year can be restored thanks to a letter dated September 7, 1975 (KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 28) addressed by EFJ to the Norwegian linguist Hans Vogt in which she asks him to bring a letter from her to RJ who was on his way to Norway. See also note at the end of the letter.

403. RJ gave two lectures at Lund University, September 4-5: "The Ultimate Constituents of Language", "From Infancy to Language".

404. Helge Poulsen (1911-1989), Danish Slavicist. Worked on the Fenne edition (see note 295 to letter 53, November 20, 1964, above) with RJ during 1939 and had a life-long friendship with RJ. Milena Poulsen (1916-1993), Helge Poulsen's Czech wife.

405. A mingogram is a graphic recording which includes several simultaneous and complementary graphs. The term is a gallicized form of "Mingograf," [the product-name] of a Swedish apparatus for studying heartbeats which has been adapted to the needs of research in phonetics (here from Dupriez 1991: 241).

a few more : [I would] like you to meet Niels Ege (now president of the Linguistic [Circle] and my colleagues Jørgen Rischel and Hans Basbøll⁴⁰⁶, both spec[ialists] in phonology, Rischel also in Scandinavian philology, Greenla[ndish,] general linguistics and electronics (!). I think very highly of both of them. You may also want to meet Henning Andersen⁴⁰⁷ or Stief⁴⁰⁸ (?), but that would be too much. We could also restrict ourselves to Milena, Helge, Hammerich and Vibeke, and arrange a lunch to meet the others, - -

If you feel too tired, just send a telegram. If you feel like stopping, the most practical thing would probably be to give me a phone call, so that I could know your times of ~~depar~~ arrival and departure, where you would like to stay, and whom you would like to meet. My telephone number is 02 85 35 13. I am normally at home before 10 a.m. and after 20 p.m., Thursday probably mo[st] of the day. I should know it Friday at the latest.

As I do not know where you are staying in Oslo, I send this via Hans Vogt⁴⁰⁹.

Best regards and thanks for two most impressive lecture[s].

Yours

Eli

406. Hans Basbøll (1943-), Danish linguist, phonetician and phonologist. Professor of Nordic languages at Odense University/ University of Southern Denmark 1975-2013. Studied with EFJ and collaborated with her over a long period; probably her closest friend among her pupils. Basbøll published the comprehensive *The Phonology of Danish* (2005).

407. Henning Andersen (1934-), Danish, American linguist. PhD from Harvard University 1967 as one of RJ's last pupils. Professor (now emeritus) of Slavic languages, University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) since 1989. Henning Andersen is internationally recognized as a leading theoretician of language change and for his unparalleled in-depth knowledge of the Slavic languages.

408. Carl Stief (1914-1998), Danish philologist, Professor of Slavic philology at the University of Copenhagen. Studied with Roman Jakobson in USA. In 1974, he became member of "Kommissionen for den oldrussisk-nedertyske håndbog", The Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters ("Fenne's Manual"), the group of researchers (incl. RJ) who edited the Low German manuscript by Tönnies Fenne, see note 295 to letter 53, November 20, 1964, above.

409. Hans (Kamstrup) Vogt (1903-1986), Norwegian comparative-historical linguist, pioneer in Caucasian linguistics.

84.

RJ to EFJ, 03.II.1975

KB Acc 2009/48, Æske 15, Typed Letter, 217 x 280 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

Roman Jakobson
 [University Letterhead:]
 Harvard University
 Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138
 Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
 301 Boylston Hall
 Telephone: (617) 495-4065

November 3, 1975

Prof. Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
 Kongestien 45
 Virum
 Denmark

Dear Eli,

Many, many thanks for your beautiful book⁴¹⁰, which impressed me very much both for the richness of its content and by the elegance of the presentation. I was very touched by your attitude to my research work⁴¹¹. If you envisage a second edition in English or in some other language, let me know and I shall bring to your attention a few insignificant historical slips.

Concerning my creed in relation to the other European and American standpoints, I hope to give a careful answer in the book-

410. EFJ 1975b. *Trends in Phonological Theory. A Historical Introduction*. Copenhagen. Akademisk Forlag.

411. EFJ dedicates an entire chapter to "Roman Jakobson's theory of distinctive features".

let on the ultimate constituents of language, which I am preparing with Professor Linda Waugh (Cornell)⁴¹².

I believe that the main merit of the transformationalists lies in a more consistent and more comprehensive application of the paradigmatic axis to syntactic problems. As to their phonology, it seems to me rather a regression to a mecanistic [*sic*] and cumbersome approach and an eradication of the important distinction between morphophonological and intrinsically phonological structuration⁴¹³.

It would be nice to talk over with you these fundamental problems orally.

With warmest wishes for further decisive achievements and with hearty greetings to all our common Danish friends.

Affectionately,

{ Roman }

Roman Jakobson

mlt

412. RJ refers to Jakobson & Waugh 1979d. Linda R(uth) Waugh (1942-), Specialist in French and general linguistics, and semiotician. RJ's close collaborator in his final years.

413. This is a rather noteworthy criticism, which is difficult to find in the same direct form in RJ's published works.

85.

EFJ to RJ, 17.II.1975

KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15, Typed Letter Carbon Copy, 210 x 297 mm; Carbon-Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

Kongestien 45, Virum

17-II-75

Dear Roman,

Thank you very much for your kind letter⁴⁴. I am glad you liked the book. It has only been printed in a restricted number of copies, so I hope there will soon be a new edition. I should therefore be very glad to have your corrections concerning the historical slips. I agree completely with you in your characterization of generative phonology.

I am sorry to have to add some very sad news: Hammerich died on November 1. During the last year he had been getting gradually weaker. He suffered from star and was practically blind on one eye, he walked with difficulty, and during the last months it was getting difficult for him to write, ~~but his mind was~~ and he had decided to move to a nursing home. But his mind was unimpaired, and he worked to the last day. The day before he died he had a meeting in the afternoon and participated in a meeting in the Academy of Science⁴⁵ in the evening. He looked somewhat tired, but stayed to 10 o'clock. The next day he sent a manuscript to the Academy, an article on the Russian scholar who had treated the scriptural passage on which Hammerich has written a paper⁴⁶, and he wrote another let-

44. See letter 84, above.

45. Hammerich was a member since April 3, 1936 and the editor of Academy publications 1941-69.

46. Hammerich, L.L. (1976). *Phil*, 2,6 and P. A. Florenskij. *Historisk-filosofiske meddelelser*. Det Kongelige Danske Videnskabernes Selskab. Munksgaard. 16 pages.

ter. He died the same day, probably from a heart attack or a stroke. It is very sad for his friends, but I think this was a good end for him, to die almost with the pen in hand, after a long very rich, and on the whole, very happy life.

I have promised to talk about him in the Linguistic Circle⁴¹⁷ but I feel completely unable to evaluate his comprehensive scientific production, covering so many different fields.

I hope you will come to Denmark next year even if Louis Hammerich is not here any longer.

Affectionately

Eli

Phil, 2,6 is a reference to Philipians, 2,6 in the Bible. Hammerich is discussing some problems in the translation from Greek.

417. EFJ's obituary of Hammerich has not been published.

85 bis.

RJ to Vibeke Møller (Nyt Nordisk Forlag), 15.12.1975

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15; Typed Letter Photomechanical Copy; 210 x 297 mm; Photomechanical Signature; 1 leaf, 1 side.

Roman Jakobson
[University Letterhead:]
Harvard University
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts 02138
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
301 Boylston Hall
Telephone: (617) 495-4065

December 15, 1975

Miss Vibeke Møller
Nyt Nordisk Forlag
Arnold Busck A/S
49 Købmagergade
1150 Copenhagen K
Denmark

Dear Miss Møller,

In answer to your letter of December 11, I would like to inform you that the idea of a collection of some of my studies appeals to me. You do not have to ask different publishers for copyrights, because the copyrights for the translation of all my studies belongs to me. If you want, we can make a contract immediately. As to the Table of Contents, it would be best if you sent me your own draft and I shall propose some small modifications if necessary. It seems to me that my papers "Verbal Communication"⁴¹⁸, Scientific American, Vol. 227, No. 3, Sept. 1972, and "Les Règles des dégats grammati-

418. RJ 1972b.

caux”⁴¹⁹, Langue, Discours, Société, Paris, Editions du Seuil, 1975, should be included. If you intend to have a preface, may I suggest Professor Eli Fischer-Jørgensen as its competent author.

Sincerely,

{ Roman Jakobson }

Roman Jakobson

mlt

419. RJ 1975e.

86.

RJ to EFJ, 31.03.1976

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15, Typed Letter; 140 x 210 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

Roman Jakobson
 [University Letterhead:]
 Harvard University
 Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138
 Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
 301 Boylston Hall
 Telephone: (617) 495-4065

March 31, 1976

Prof. Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
 Kongestien 45
 Virum, DENMARK

Dear Eli,

I repeat, your book is extremely important. If you tell me what is the right time for sending you a few factual details which could be corrected, I shall do my best.

Now I need your help. Please read the Xerox⁴²⁰ I am enclosing of a letter I sent twice during the recent months to Carl Stief, the last time even registered, with no answer whatever from him. Probably our address for Stief is incorrect. Could you communicate this Xerox to him or advise me what to do, because my contact with Stief after Hammerich's death has become particularly urgent⁴²¹.

420. It is naturally not in the Fischer-Jørgensen Archive. The Xerox must have been passed on to Carl Stief.

421. See note 408 to letter 83, September 7, 1975, above. The Xerox probably concerns the edition of "Fennes Manual", see note 295 to letter 53, November 20, 1964, above.

With many thanks for your help,
Affectionately,
{ Roman }
Roman Jakobson

87.

EFJ to RJ, 10.05.1976

MIT MC.0072 Box 48 Folder 27; Typed Aerogram, 142 x 290 mm; Postmark Virum 11-5 1976 10.30; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15]

[From:]

[Stamp]

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen

Professor

Kongestien 45

Virum, Danmark

[To:]

Professor Roman Jakobson

Harvard University

Dept. of Slavic Languages

301 Boylston Hall

Cambridge

Mass 02138

10-5- 76

Dear Roman,

Your letter concerning Stief arrived just as I was about to start for a couple of weeks' holidays in Spain. I phoned to him, and his wife told me that he was abroad, but would be home in a few days, and she promised to put the letter on his desk. I sent it to him before my departure and I hope you have heard from him by now. The address was correct.

As for my book⁴²² it has only been printed in a restricted number

422. EFJ 1975b.

of copies, so I hope it will be sold out soon. I should therefore be glad to have your corrections this year⁴²³.

Busck's forlag⁴²⁴ has told me about their plans to send out a small volume of your articles in Danish⁴²⁵, and asked me whether I would be willing to write a preface. I shall be glad to do this. As for the choice of articles they should not be too specialized since the book must be destined for the average cultivated non-specialists. Linguists, slavists etc. of course read English and German and do not need translations (except of articles in Russian or Czech). But your production is so vast and so varied that it is extremely difficult for the publishers, - and also for me - to find the right articles for t{ h }is purpose, so I should suggest that you propose a number of papers yourself, and the publishers may then leave out a few if the number exceeds what they plan to send out. The publishers sent me two volumes in the series, one by Luria on an iconic memory⁴²⁶ and one by Popper (selected essays)⁴²⁷. This indicates approximately the level.

I hope you are all right and working hard as usual.

I am coming to t{ h }e S{ t }ates for a short stay at the Linguistic Institute⁴²⁸ around August 1 and again in the early spring to Haskins⁴²⁹.

423. EFJ probably refers to RJ's offer of bringing to her attention "a few insignificant historical slips" for a possible second edition of her book (EFJ 1975b). See letter 84, November 3, 1975, above.

424. Nyt Nordisk Forlag Arnold Busck is a Danish publishing company.

425. RJ (1979f). *Elementer, funktioner og strukturer i sproget*. Nyt Nordisk Forlag Arnold Busck. København, the first extensive translation into Danish of RJ's works. RJ 1960d had previously been translated in an abridged form in 1967, in the journal *Vindrosen* nr.7, 1967, 41-52.

426. Lurija, Alexandr Romanovič (1902-1977), Russian Neurologist and Psychologist. The book is A.R. Luria. 1975. *En ikonisk hukommelse*. Nyt Nordisk Forlag Arnold Busck. København.

427. Popper, Karl R (1902-1994), Austrian born British Philosopher. The book is K.R. Popper. 1973. *Kritisk rationalisme*. Nyt Nordisk Forlag Arnold Busck. København.

428. The Linguistic Institute, organized by The Linguistic Society of America, this year was in Oswego, Ithaca.

429. EFJ had been at Haskins also in 1952, in New York City. Haskins had, however, moved to New Haven in 1969-70.

Yours affectionately
{ Eli }

< { Danish pub. house } >⁴³⁰

430. The line - not in EFJ's handwriting - is added along the left margin of the page.

88.

Martha Taylor (RJ's Assistant) to EFJ, 02.07.1976

KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15, Typed Letter, 139 x 216 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

Roman Jakobson
 [University Letterhead:]
 Harvard University
 Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138
 Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
 301 Boylston Hall
 Telephone: (617) 495-4065

July 2, 1976

Prof. Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
 Kongestien 45
 Virum
 Denmark

Dear Professor Fischer-Jørgensen,

Professor Jakobson, who is out of town, asked me to tell you that he will not be in Cambridge in early August, but on the island of Gotland⁴³¹, where he will be spending the whole month. He hopes that he will be able to have you as a guest next Spring when you will be at Haskins Labs. This coming September he will give three lectures at the University of Bergen⁴³².

431. Gunnar Fant had a summer residence on Gotland, RJ several times visited this Swedish island.

432. RJ gave three guest lectures on the structural analysis of language. During his stay in Bergen, September 6/17, 1976, he was also involved in seminars on linguistic and poetics; linguistics and anthropology, linguistics and philosophy; the comparison of the Old Novgorod birch-bark letters with the new archaeological finds in Bergen.

Sincerely,
{ Martha Taylor }⁴³³
Martha Taylor
Assistant to
Prof. Jakobson

433. Martha Taylor, together with Stephen Rudy, prepared RJ's *Selected Writings V* (1979) for publication.

89.

EFJ to RJ, 12.07.1976

KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15, Typed Letter Carbon Copy, 210 x 296 mm; Carbon-Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[*s.l.*] 12-7-76

Dear Roman,

Mrs. Taylor informed me that you are going to lecture in Bergen in September. Are there any possibility that you could pass by Copenhagen and give a lecture here? I talked with Niels Ege who is chairman of the Linguistic Circle and he is very eager to have you, but as all members of the committee are abroad this summer (scattered from Thailand⁴³⁴ to Mexico⁴³⁵ and Greenland⁴³⁶) he charged me with the arrangement. We generally have our meetings on tuesday nights, but this is, of course, no necessity. In order to get money enough there is also the possibility of arranging a guest lecture.

Is it possible for you to come, and when could you come?

I will be in America from July 24 to August 9⁴³⁷, and in Vienna from August 31 to September 5⁴³⁸. But otherwise I shall be home most of the time (perhaps I am taking a few days' holidays in Jutland when I come home from America, but I will see my mail before leaving D].

Best wishes

Yours affectionately

Eli

434. Niels Ege was in Thailand.

435. Una Canger (1938-), Danish linguist specializing in languages of Mesoamerica. She has published mostly about the Nahuatl language, with particular focus on the dialectology of Modern Nahuatl, and is considered among the world's leading specialists in this area.

436. Jørgen Rischel was in Greenland. His doctoral dissertation from 1974 was on the phonology of the Greenlandic language (Kalaallisut).

437. Fischer-Jørgensen gave lectures in Oswego, Ithaca, at the Linguistic Institute.

438. The Third International Phonology Meeting, Vienna.

90.

Martha Taylor (RJ's Assistant) to EFJ, 30.07.1976

KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15, Typed Letter, 139 x 216 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

Roman Jakobson
 [University Letterhead:]
 Harvard University
 Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138
 Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
 301 Boylston Hall
 Telephone: (617) 495-4065

July 30, 1976

Prof. Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
 Kongestien 45
 Virum, Denmark

Dear Professor Fischer-Jørgensen,

On his way from the countryside to Sweden, Professor Jakobson stopped in Cambridge, found your kind invitation⁴³⁹, and asked me to inform you that he sincerely regrets that despite all his desire he won't be able to change his schedule Gotland-Bergen-Zürich-Paris-Boston. He is sad that he doesn't have the time to see you and your mutual friends, but he looks forward to welcoming you in Cambridge during your spring trip to New Haven⁴⁴⁰. He is just leaving for Gotland, where he will stay until the 28th of August. His address there will be: c/o Mrs. Elsa Petterson, Ljugarns Badpensionat, Ljugarn, Gotland, Sweden. His address in Bergen for the first 2 and ½ weeks of September will be: c/o Prof. Marianne Haslev Skånland, Institute of Phonetics, University of Bergen, 5014 Bergen, Norway.

439. See letter 89, July 12, 1976, above.

440. See letter 87, May 10, 1976, above.

Sincerely,
{ Martha Taylor }
Martha Taylor
Assistant to
Prof. Jakobson

91.

EFJ to RJ, 23.09.1977

MIT MC.0072 Box 5 Folder 34, Typed Letter, 210 x 297 mm; Signed; 1 leaf,
1 side

9th international Congress of Phonetic Sciences

[University Letterhead:]

Institut for Fonetik

Københavns Universitet

Njalsgade 96

2300 København S

Danmark

Telefon (01) 59 71 22

23-9-77

Professor Roman Jakobson

6 Scott Street

Cambridge

Mass USA

Dear Roman,

I was sorry not to see you this summer, but I understand you were too tired to go to Vienna⁴⁴¹.

We are now preparing the next international phonetic congress 1979. We should be very grateful indeed if you would give a brief keynote address on the first day⁴⁴². Of course you cannot give a definite answer so long in advance. You must take your health into consideration. But if you could say that you were willing in prin-

441. XII International Congress of Linguists, August 28-September 2, 1977.

442. For the result, see letter 109, August 13, 1979, below.

inciple, we would mention your name in the first circular which we are going to send out very soon.

I enclose a copy of the program. As you see we have tried to give the congress a somewhat new look: a restricted number of sections, meetings and instead a number of symposia in semiplenary sessions with invited participants.

Has the book by Linda Waugh about you come out?⁴⁴³ I should like to read it before writing the introduction to your volume of essays in Danish⁴⁴⁴. The translator has just finished his work, but there remains some editing of foot notes. We have also thought that it might be useful to add a list of technical terms with explanation.

Please give my kind regards to Kristina [*sic*].

All good wishes,

{ Eli }

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen

443. Linda R. Waugh. 1976. *Roman Jakobson's Science of Language*. Lisse, the Netherlands: Peter de Ridder Press.

444. EFJ 1979g. RJ 1979f. See also the letters 85 bis, December 15, 1975, 87, May 10, 1976, above and letters 92, October 5, 1977, 93, November 4, 1977, 105, June 12, 1979, below.

9a. (Enclosed Document)

EFJ to RJ, 23.09.1977

MIT MC.0072 Box 5 Folder 34, Typed Document Copy, 210 x 297 mm; non Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

9. International Congress of Phonetic Sciences
6-11 August, 1979

September 1977.

Revised plan for the meetingsA. Status reports

1. Speech production.
2. Speech perception.
3. Phonology

B. Special lectures

1. The goal of phonetics, its unification and application.
2. The neural basis for phonetics.
3. Modern methods of investigation in speech production.
4. New methods of acoustic analysis of speech signals.
(2-4 are intended as mainly tutorial)

C. Symposia

1. Phonetic universals and their explanation.
2. Psychological reality of phonological descriptions.
3. Acquisition of the phonological systems of the mother tongue.
4. Social factors in sound change.
5. Temporal relations within speech units.
6. Motor control of speech gestures.
7. The relation between sentence intonation and stress.
8. Perception of speech vs. non-speech.

D. Sections (only a restricted number of papers)

1. Speech production
2. Speech perception
3. The acoustics of speech
4. Phonology
5. Sound typology
6. Child language
7. Aerodynamics of speech
8. Synthesis of speech
9. Prosodic phenomena
10. Applied phonetics
11. Speech pathology
12. History of phonetics.

1-3, 7, and 9 may be arranged partly as poster sessions.

92.

RJ to EFJ, 05.10.1977

MIT MC.0072 Box 5 Folder 34, Typed Letter Copy, 215 x 280 mm; non Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[*s.l.*] October 5, 1977

Prof. Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
 Institut for Fonetik
 Københavns Universitet
 Njalsgade 96
 2300 København S
 Denmark

Dear Eli,

Thank you so much for your so friendly letter of September 23. Of course it is a pity not to have met you in Vienna⁴⁴⁵, but I was afraid of being crushed by the crowd of participants and preferred to continue my most assiduous work on the book on the sound shape of language I am completing with Linda Waugh⁴⁴⁶. She was with us in Vermont for two months and we worked all day every day. Now she is teaching at Cornell as Professor of Linguistics, but comes whenever possible to bring our work to an end. We hope that it will be ready before Christmas. She will teach general linguistics, especially phonology, at Yale during the spring semester. I have asked her to send you her book⁴⁴⁷. Do you have the French or the German or the English version of Elmar Holenstein's book on my linguistic theories?⁴⁴⁸ Many, many thanks for your most interesting

445. See note 441 to letter 91, September 23, 1977, above.

446. RJ (1979d) with Linda R. Waugh.

447. See letter 91, above.

448. Holenstein, Elmar (1937-), Swiss professor of Philosophy. Holenstein, Elmar. 1974. *Jakobson ou le structuralisme phénoménologique*. Paris, Éditions Seghers-Paris. German

paper on North German stops which will be quoted in our book⁴⁴⁹. I am happy to learn that my Danish volume with your introduction is soon to appear. I am eager to read your view of my views. During recent days I have reentered into Danish to read the early Jespersen and I have seen him in a new light⁴⁵⁰.

How are Vibeke and the Poulsens?⁴⁵¹ Please give them my warmest greetings.

As to your invitation to the Ninth Phonetic Congress, I am honored and happy to accept in principle, if any force majeure permits it, but you don't say where and in what month in 1979 the Congress will take place; this is an important item for me.

Affectionately,
Roman Jakobson

mlt

version 1975, English version 1976: *Roman Jakobson's Approach to Language. Phenomenological Structuralism*. Bloomington & London, Indiana University Press.

449. EFJ 1976b, quoted in RJ (1979d, with Linda R. Waugh), p.137.

450. (Jens) Otto (Harry) Jespersen (1860-1943), Danish Anglicist, phonetician and grammarian. Even if "early" has to be understood in a rather relative way, RJ's interest in the "early Jespersen" is probably connected to the writing of RJ 1979d (with Linda R. Waugh). On three pages (182-184), RJ & Waugh write very positively about Jespersen in a paragraph on Sound symbolism; here, among other Jespersen works, you find references to two of his works published in Danish, in 1918 and 1922.

451. Vibeke Hjeltslev, wife of the Danish structural linguist Louis Hjeltslev. Helge and Milena Poulsen, see note 404 to letter 83, September 7, 1975, above.

93.

EFJ to RJ, 04.II.1977

MIT MC.0072 Box 5 Folder 34, Typed Letter, 210 x 297 mm; Signed; 1 leaf,
1 side.

[Congress Letterhead:]

Ninth International Congress of Phonetic Sciences
Copenhagen 6-11 August 1979

[University Letterhead:]

Institute of Phonetics
University of Copenhagen
96, Njalsgade
DK-2300 Copenhagen S
Denmark
Telephone (01) 54 22 11

Professor Roman Jakobson
Harvard University
Boylston Hall 301
Cambridge, Mass 02138

Dear Roman,

Thank you very much for your letter of 5 October and for your accept - in principle, of the invitation to give a key-note address at our congress. Of course, everybody will understand if you feel too tired at that time, but we hope very much that you will come, and we are very grateful and honoured by your accept. We were also grateful for your quick reply, and we just managed to get it into our first circular, which will be sent out very soon. As for the date, it is 6-11 August 1979. I think it was in the preliminary program I sent you, but here it is again. I hope that will, somehow, fit into your travel plans for 1979. We do not know, yet, how much money we

shall get, We should be glad to pay some of your travel expenses, but I will write about this later.

I am ashamed not to have answered your letter immediately, but for the last month I have been working more than 70 hours a week and I had to push my correspondence aside. We have had Jim Hirose from Tokyo here to finish a big EMG project on Danish stops and *stød*⁴⁵² which we started when he was here three years ago. We had intended to finish the computer treatment before his arrival, but the program did not work until shortly before his arrival, so everything got terribly rushed.

I have not yet received the translation of your papers. It has been achieved, but the editor is making some changes; normalization of the notes – and anyhow, I could not do much about it in October⁴⁵³. I will finish it in January when there are no classes. I have bought Hohlensteins [*sic*] book⁴⁵⁴, and I have also read it. Perhaps I may also receive Linda Waugh's book⁴⁵⁵ before I write the introduction. That would certainly be an advantage. I am somewhat afraid that I cannot do it in a satisfactory way. Your scope is so wide that I have only insight in a small part of all that you have done. Also I do not quite know which reader I shall have in mind. I think I will intend it for the reader who does not know much about linguistics or about you. Perhaps it would also be an idea to add some explanations of

452. On *stød*, see note 9 to letter 1, March 3, 1949, above. Electromyography (EMG) is a technique for evaluating and recording the electrical activity produced by skeletal muscles. EMG is performed using an instrument called an electromyograph to produce a record called an electromyogram. In the middle of the seventies EFJ together with a number of Japanese collaborators started experiments with EMG at the Institute of Phonetics. "Then came the experiments with EMG recordings of the respiratory and laryngeal systems in *stød* production, an undertaking which kept just about everyone at the institute busy for a couple of years, under the guidance of Hajime Hirose (1933-) and Seiji Niimi. This was at a time when digital data handling was in its infancy, and the project stumbled a number of times over technical computer programming problems. If Eli had any regrets in later life about her research efforts, it might be that the enormous amount of EMG data collected was never utilized to its full extent" (Grønnum et.al. 2010, p. 253).

453. This paragraph is referring to the Danish edition: RJ 1979f.

454. See letter 92, October 5, 1977, above.

455. See letter 91, September 23, 1977, above.

words at the end. Those who really know the topic will, of course, be able to read your papers in English, French or German.

Vibeke⁴⁵⁶ and the Poulsens⁴⁵⁷ ask me to send their warmest greetings.

Affectionately,

{ Eli }

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen

456. Vibeke Hjelslev, see note 451 to letter 92, October 5, 1977, above.

457. Helge and Milena Poulsen, see note 404 to letter 83, September 7, 1975, above.

94.

EFJ to RJ, 15.II.1977

MIT MC.0072 Box 5 Folder 34, Typed Letter, 210 x 298 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15]

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
[University Letterhead:]
Institut for Fonetik
Københavns Universitet

Njalsgade 96
2300 København S
Danmark
Telefon (01) 59 71 22

15 November 1977

Dear Roman,

When I wrote to you recently I forgot to ask you a question. There is a young linguist in Odense, Svend Erik Larsen, who is writing a book on Brøndal⁴⁵⁸. He asked me if I knew of any scientific correspondence between Brøndal and other scholars. He has not been able to find anything, since Brøndal wrote all his letters by

458. Viggo Brøndal (1887-1942), Danish Structural Linguist (see INTRODUCTION, section 3).

Svend Erik Larsen (1946-), Habilitation ("dr.phil."), Philosophy of Language, Odense University, Denmark (1987). It is not quite obvious which book it is. Svend Erik Larsen defended his doctor's thesis on Viggo Brøndal January 23, 1987 at Odense Universitet, published as: Svend Erik Larsen. 1986. *Sprogets geometri. En analyse af sammenhæng og perspektiv i grundbegreberne Viggo Brøndals sprogfilosofi* (2 volumes). Odense Universitetsforlag, Odense. Svend Erik Larsen published also another work on Brøndal, a special issue of *Langages*, 22^e année, n°86, 1987. A l'occasion d'un centenaire : Actualité de Brøndal, sous la direction de Svend Erik Larsen.

hand, and also I think he preferred oral discussions when possible. But I thought that you might have some correspondence with Brøndal. Would it be possible, in that case, to send him some xerox copies (he would, of course, pay the expenses), so that he could utilize the scientific parts. He is not interested in Brøndal's fights with Hjelmlev and will be very discrete I think. I also thought of the possibility that there might be letters to and from Brøndal in Trubetskoy's letters, which you have edited. (I have not had occasion to see the book).

I have had an extremely busy autumn. I think I have worked almost as hard as you do. One must be glad as long as that is possible -- although I sometimes long to do many other things.

Please give my kind regards to Kristina [*sic*].

Your affectionately

{ Eli }

95•

RJ to EFJ, 13.12.1977

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15; Typed Letter, 216 x 279 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[Copy: MIT MC.0072 Box 5 Folder 34]

Roman Jakobson

[University Letterhead:]

Harvard University

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

301 Boylston Hall

Telephone: (617) 495-4065

December 13, 1977

Prof. Eli Fischer- Jørgensen

Kongestien 45

Virum

Denmark

Dear Eli,

When I worked in Brno⁴⁵⁹ I had an intensive correspondence with Viggo⁴⁶⁰, but when the Nazis entered Czechoslovakia⁴⁶¹, my entire archive was burned and eighteen pails of ashes remained. I saved only a package with Trubetzkoy's letters, which Trnka⁴⁶² buried in his garden. He sent them to me after the War, and as you know, I published them in 1975, jointly with several other letters of

459. RJ lived in Brno between 1931-1939, working at the Masaryk University.

460. Viggo Brøndal, see previous letter.

461. March 15, 1939.

462. Bohumil Trnka (1895-1984). Founding member of the Prague school and one of its most important exponents.

Trubetzkoy⁴⁶³, among them the last one he ever wrote, the one to you. Mouton gave me only some seven copies of the volume and therefore I was unable to send you this book, the more so that you don't read Russian and most of its contents are in Russian. However, in my post-war archives, I found seven hand-written texts of Brøndal and I am sending you xeroxes of them. Three are letters to my brother Sergej⁴⁶⁴, with whom Viggo corresponded on the question of how to save my life. The world newspapers published false information that I was jailed by the Nazis. Actually, they looked for me but didn't find me. One letter was sent to me by Viggo when I was in Oslo shortly before the Nazi occupation of Norway. Finally, three texts are abstracts of Viggo's views on several linguistic problems, sent to me in Oslo from Copenhagen. I give you my permission to publish any of these seven texts. Viggo was also in correspondence with Trubetzkoy, but all of Trubetzkoy's archives were destroyed, some by the Nazis and some by the bombs which demolished his apartment after his death.

Thank you for sending me the first circular of the coming Phonetic Congress⁴⁶⁵. If everything is okay with me, I shall do my best to come and speak.

With warmest Christmas and New Year wishes,
Affectionately,
{ Roman }
Roman Jakobson

mlt

PS: Xeroxes sent under separate cover.

463. RJ 1975h, see note 380 to letter 77, February 1, 1973, above.

464. Sergej Jakobson (1901-1979), librarian and historian.

465. The Ninth International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, Copenhagen, 1979, with EFJ as the main organizer.

96.

EFJ to RJ, 19.08.1978

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Letter Copy, 210 x 280 mm; non Signed; 2 leafs, 2 sides.

[Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15]

19 August 1978⁴⁶⁶

Dear Roman,

I tried to spot you when you were in Europe, but without success. I have a few questions concerning your articles which have been translated into Danish⁴⁶⁷. The publishing house has been very slow. The man there wanted to edit the footnotes so that they appear in the same way in the articles. That has now taken him more than half a year, but I think he is sending the manuscript to the printer very soon now, so I should be very grateful for a quick response to this letter.

The questions are about three different points in your articles[:]
(1) In the paper “Le concept linguistique des traits distinctifs[”] You quote me (Essais II, p. 140⁴⁶⁸ and Selected Writings p. 638) for having made experiments in the Haskins Labs with stops. But this is a misunderstanding which is probably caused by my formulation in the paper on Acoustic analysis of stop consonants 1954⁴⁶⁹, section IIIb – start “The experiments carried out in the Haskins Laboratories ... etc. But there is a footnote referring <back> to footnote <No> 1 where I quote my two articles by the Haskins group. I did not

466. Date is visible only in the KB exemplar.

467. See the letters 85 bis, December 15, 1975, 87, May 10, 1976, 91, September 23, 1977, 92, October 5, 1977, 93, November 4, 1977, above and letters 97, September 5, 1978, 98, December 11, 1978, below.

468. RJ 1973g. “Le concept linguistique des traits distinctifs, reminiscence et meditations”. *Essais de linguistique générale*, Vol. 2., 131-166, and RJ 1962c. “Retrospect”. *Selected Writings I*, 629-658.

469. EFJ 1954. Acoustic Analysis of Stop Consonants. *Miscellanea Phonetica* 2. 42-59.

make any experiments myself⁴⁷⁰. What I have done was measuring acoustic curves of Danish stops and comparing the results with those of the Haskins group. So I should be very grateful to you for changing this (also, if possible, in new editions of *Essais II* and *Selected Writings*). The easiest way is to leave out this sentence. The other possibility is to refer to the paper by Cooper et al. from 1952 (F.S. Cooper, Pierre C. Delattre, Alvin Liberman, John M Borst and Louis Gerstman⁴⁷¹ “Some experiments on the perception of synthetic speech sounds”)⁴⁷² <{ J[ournal of the] A[coustical] S[ociety of] A[merica] 24 1952 p. 597-606 }>⁴⁷³. Thus: “ ” (as shown by Cooper et al. 1954 (reference number) ” and I think this reference is a good support of your view and should be quoted. If you like you may add, “and by the measurements of EFJ of Danish stops by EFJ (ref.)”⁴⁷⁴

(2) In the same article (*Essais* p. 150, *Selected Writings* p. 646) there is a passage which the translator and I do not understand. It looks as if some wrong examples had been put in by mistake. You give some examples with simultaneous change of vowel quality and palatalization [gub_j’i] [gub_x’i]⁴⁷⁵ etc.) and ask the question whether the

470. EFJ, however, took part in some tests at Haskins during her US-stay in 1952, see note 124 to letter 18, March 29, 1951 and the INTRODUCTION.

471. Franklin S(ceaney) Cooper (1908-1999), Pierre C(harles) Delattre (1903-1969), Alvin M(eyer) Liberman (1917-2000), John M. Borst (b.?-d.?) & Louis J. Gerstman (1930-1992). In EFJ’s archives at the Royal Library, Copenhagen, you find correspondences with the first three of them. Cooper, physicist, engineer, phonetician, speech scientist (and Caryl P. Haskins) were co-founders of Haskins Laboratories in 1935. Cooper constructed in the late 1940s a Speech Synthesizer, known as Pattern Playback. It converted hand drawn, schematized, versions of sound spectrograms into intelligible speech. EFJ tried it during her visit to the Haskins Laboratories in 1952.

472. Cooper, Franklin S., Delattre, Pierre C., Liberman, Alvin M., Borst, John M. & Gerstman, Louis J. (1952). “Some experiments on the perception of synthetic speech sounds”, *JASA, The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 24, 597-606.

473. Note written along the left margin of the page.

474. In the printed version, both EFJ’s proposals are followed.

475. The outstriked ‘i’ is probably to be understood as a phonetic sign. In RJ’s *Selected Writings I*, p. 645, at the bottom, you find the example [gub_ji] (imp. “ruin”), and an example with [gub_xu’] (gen. “of the lip”). In the Danish translation (RJ 1979f, p. 178), the latter gets transcribed as [gub_xi], somehow according to EFJ’s way of doing.

vowel difference or the consonant difference is relevant. Then follow some examples of voice assimilation and the remark that palatalization in labials is neutralized in many Russian dialects. And then you conclude that palatalization of consonants **are** is found independently of the vowel and must be relevant. What one had expected would be examples of such oppositions, e.g. of the type genitive of lion and pan [l,va <{ }]], [ɫba] or some oppositions in final clusters. – Could you clear up this problem for us?⁴⁷⁶

(3) The third question is of minor importance. In the paper on Twentieth century European and American Linguistics⁴⁷⁷ a few pages from the start you mention Boas and his belief in the international character of science, and ~~you~~ it is said that in linguistics there is no competition between nations **just as** and no import or export regulations for goods or dogmas (I am pretty sure the word was “goods”, I do not have the English version at hand)[.] Molbæk has translated it by “varer”⁴⁷⁸. <{ B }>ut you would have <{ expected }> /2/ something like “theories” or “information on linguistic facts” or something else which had to do with linguistics or with science in general. –

We want the translation to be as good as possible and to cover your ideas as closely as possible, therefore these questions. By the way I find the translation very good. I have read it through and I only found a few places <{ wh }>ere I proposed changes.

I hope you are by good health, and we all hope that you will be

Five lines below, EFJ writes [ɫba]. The outstriked “f” is most probably also to be understood as a phonetic sign, corresponding to the sign by RJ: l_x.

476. It is easier to find the passage discussed here in Selected Writings I, if you read letter 98, December 11, 1978, below.

477. RJ 1979c. “The Twentieth Century in European and American Linguistics”, in *The European Background of American Linguistics: Papers of the Third Golden Anniversary Symposium of the Linguistic Society of America (1975)*, ed. by H.M. Hoenigswald, 161-173. Dordrecht. Foris.

478. Danish for “goods” in the literal sense. The quotation in the English text: “In the science of language there are no patented discoveries and no problems of intertribal or interpersonal competition, of regulations for imported and exported merchandise or dogma.” In the final version, *merchandise* or *dogma* becomes “varer eller dogmer”. See also the following letter from RJ. The translator was the Danish phonetician Peter Molbæk Hansen (1946-2014).

coming to the Congres[s] of phonetics in Copenhagen in 1979⁴⁷⁹. We are looking forward to your keynote address. – You will receive two more invitations to Copenhagen for 1979. Perhaps you have already received the first of them – – i.e. the invitation to the 500 years’ anniversary of the University where you will be given an honorary doctor’s degree. That will be beginning of June. You will also receive an invitation to take part in a linguistic seminar on genetic and typological relationship in the memory of Rasmus Rask⁴⁸⁰ and Louis Hjelmslev⁴⁸¹. That will probably be very close to the congress in August. It is of course not very practical with that two months’ gap, but we could not change the dates. I hope you can spend the summer in Øland⁴⁸² or in some other nice place. I mention this now so that you can start making plans.

We are working hard on the preparations for the congress. I hope you received the second circular in June. We have had 872 [i.e.] preliminary registrations by now, and of those 600 want to give a section paper! – in spite of the fact that we have announced that we wanted to concentrate the congress on symposia and that the number of section papers would be restricted. The reason is probably that many foundations have the bad habit of only giving travel support for those giving a paper. This habit is disastrous for the congresses which will be crowded by <with> bad papers. We intend to refuse the bad ones, and to accept a much greater number than those to be given, and set them up as reserve papers.

I was given an honorary doctorate in Lund this summer. That was quite fun because of the medieval ceremonial. I will be given

479. The Ninth International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, Copenhagen, 1979, with EFJ as the main organizer, see letter 95, December 13, 1977, above.

480. Rasmus (Kristian) Rask (1787-1832), Danish linguist credited as one of the founders of comparative linguistics.

481. The seminar is documented in: “*Typology and Genetics of Language: Proceedings of the Rask-Hjelmslev Symposium, Held at the University of Copenhagen, 3rd-5th September, 1979*”. *Travaux du Cercle Linguistique de Copenhague*, vol. XX, 1981. RJ did not participate.

482. A Swedish island. Maybe EFJ thinks of the neighboring island of Gotland where Gunnar Fant had his summer residence. See also letter 90, July 30, 1976, above.

another one in September in Århus, where I suppose people <to> turn up in blue jeans. – In Copenhagen the honorary doctor's degree will only be given to a restricted number of very famous people like you.

With best wishes and hoping to see you next year

Yours affectionately

Eli

97.

RJ to EFJ, 05.09.1978

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15, Autograph Letter, 216 x 279 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

Two Enclosed Documents.

[s.l.] Sept. 5 1978

Dear Eli,

Your kind letter reached me in Vermont where Krystyna and I have spent the whole August. In a few days we will return to Cambridge.

Warmest congratulations to your honorary degrees. You know the place Copenhagen occupies in my memory and the news you brought me about the forthcoming invitation to the 500th anniversary of your University made me glad indeed and I'm looking forward. It will be exactly 40 years since my lectures there on distinctive features (published in my Sel.[ected] Wr.[itings] 1)⁴⁸³. Forty years! I hope very much to be able to venture both of the planned trips to Copenhagen, that of June and that of August, one of them with Krystyna. Now fortunately I feel well, Linda's⁴⁸⁴ and my book - The Sound Shape of Language⁴⁸⁵ - is with the printer and has to appear in spring. I'm completing my work on Sel. Wr. V (Verse, Its Masters and Explorers). I'm most grateful to you for your part in my Danish volume and ashamed that it takes so much of your precious time and energy. Many, many thanks for your valuable remarks. I'm enclosing herewith my corrected text of the first two items. As to the third question, the best way to follow Boas, would

483. RJ 1962a. "Zur Struktur des Phonems". *Selected Writings* I. 280-310. Mouton (written May, 1939) was based on two lectures at the University of Copenhagen, May 1939.

484. Linda R(uth) Waugh (1942-), see note to letter 84, November 3, 1975, above.

485. RJ & Linda Waugh 1979d.

perhaps be to say “values or doctrines”⁴⁸⁶. How nice it will be to see you next year and to have good talks with you.

With affectionate wishes

Your Roman

486. See note 478 on “varer”/“goods” to letter 96, August 19, 1978, above.

97. (Enclosed documents)

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15, Two Autograph Documents (RJ's Handwriting), 152 x 101 mm; non Signed; 2 leafs, 2 sides.

[Enclosed Document a]:

To replace the lines 17-12 from the bottom of p. 646 Selected Writ[ings]. I:

meaning “. It is evident, however, that in Russian the differences between more advanced or more retracted and more closed or more open variants of vowels depend solely on the diversity of the surrounding consonants, whereas the opposition of palatalized and non-palatalized consonants remains intact and valid also without any contact with vowels: cf. Rus. [vójt,] “leader” – [kojt_x] “maintenance costs”;

[Enclosed Document b]:

To replace the lines 14-16, p. 638 Selected Writings I:

resonances (as shown by Cooper et al. 1954 [reference number] and by Eli Fischer-Jørgensen <1954> in her measurements of Danish stops [reference number]. While

Boas: values or doctrines⁴⁸⁷

487. This line is traced by pencil at the bottom of the sheet.

98.

EFJ to RJ, II.12.1978

MIT MC.0072 Box 48 Folder 27, Typed Letter, 210 x 297 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 2 sides.

[Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15]

[s.l.] II-12-78

{Danish Publishers}⁴⁸⁸

Dear Roman,

Thank you very much for your letter of September 5 with your corrections for your book. At the time when I received your letter I was working 80 hours a week because I had to deliver a paper for Gunnar Fant's Festsc<{h}>rift⁴⁸⁹, prepare a lecture in comvination with my honorary degree in Aarhus⁴⁹⁰ and take care of the congress preparations at the same time. So I just read your letter and the corrections, found the formulation OK, and handed it over to the translator without looking it up in the book again.

But now we have received the proofs, and when proofreading the passage Molbæk⁴⁹¹ discovered that the passage you had corrected was not the one that was really disturbing. You changed p. 646, l. 17-12 from below in Selected Writings I. The change was an improvement, but it was pretty clear as it was. The really critical passage was p. 646, l. 3-10 from above, where in the middle of the argument about palatalization, you suddenly talk of the neutralization

488. Handwriting is not EFJ's / Archivist annotation.

489. EFJ 1979d. "Temporal relations in consonant-vowel syllables with stop consonants, based on Danish material". *Frontiers of Speech Communication Research. Festschrift for Gunnar Fant*, ed. by Björn Lindblom and Svend Öhman, 51-68. London, Academic Press.

490. See letter 96, August 19, 1978, above.

491. The translator, Peter Molbæk Hansen, see note 478 to letter 96, August 19, 1978, above. The following paragraph is a specification of the second translation problem mentioned in the letter 96.

of voicing, t <{ h }> en about the lack of palatalized final labials in many Russian dialects, and then continue “We infer from these facts”... that it is the consonantal difference that <{ i }>s relevant not the vocalic difference. – This argumentation sounds very strange. After having read it several times I have come to the conclusion that perhaps you wanted to say that it is true that you have a difference between palatalized and unpalatalized h f<{ i }>nally before, e.g., { ʒ }, but as th<{ e }>re is neutralization of voicing in this position it is not really <{ a }> h <{ , }> and moreover many dialects have no final palatalized labials. But how you can infer from these facts that the relevance is in the consonants is difficult to understand, and in the given example before { ʒ } there was also indicated a difference of <{ preceding }> vowel quality. I have shown the passage to various people and nobody can understand it.

Now the publisher wanted the proofs back very quickly, because the book has been further delayed by a printer who did not do anything, so that the publisher sent it to a new printer, and <{ he }> would not like to wait for a correspondence across the Atlantic and back at Christmas time. So Molbæk and I ventured to alter the formulation. What we have done is the following:

Instead of the passage p. 646 l.3 ~~to~~ (“It is true..) to l.16... and retracted vowel” we have written the following (of course in Danish) (the passage about the voicing neutralization is left out and we start) : “The difficulty is due to the fact that in many Russian dialects all final labials have lost their palatalization, so that the distinction of palatalized vs. non -palatalized labials is confined to the prevocalic position, However, a distinctive feature analysis shows that t<{ h }> e phonemic value is to be assigned in Russian to the palatalized and non-palatalized labials and not to the following advanced and retracted vowels, because in this language there exists an autonomous discrimination between the presence and absence of consonantal palatalization, appearing in other consonants than the labials, cp. [l_xg_xóta] “advantage” - [l_xgat] “lie”, while there is no autonomous distinction between advanced and retracted vowels”. – The underlined words are ours⁴⁹², the others belong to your own text.

492. And noted by hand in the letter.

We realize that we have gone rather far, but we were eager to have your text really understood. If you do not approve of our change, please write very quickly, and we can change it in /2/ the last proofs. The publisher hopes to be able to publish the book at the end of January.

In September and October I worked on a chapter on the history of Danish phonetics for <a> publication on occasion of the anniversary of the University⁴⁹³. It was quite fun. Among other things I found that the professor of medicine C.G. Kratzenstein (1723-95) who in 1781 published a book on the synthesis of vowels⁴⁹⁴, seems to be one of the first (the first??) in Western phonetics to be aware of the fact that the back og [*sic*] the tongue is raised for u and o. Generally these vowels are described as “labial” vowels, and it is generally assumed that the tongue is flat. Even Rask⁴⁹⁵ does not know better. Not until the middle of the 19th century is it said clearly in German and Danish phonetics. Kratzenstein is mentioned by Wheatstone⁴⁹⁶, but only for his synthesizer, and he is mentioned by Ungeheuer⁴⁹⁷, but Jespersen⁴⁹⁸ did not know him. The book was written in Latin

493. EFJ 1979b. “Fonetik”. *Københavns Universitet 1479-1979*. Bind IX. Det filosofiske fakultet. 2.del, ed. By P.J. Jensen, 401-420. København, Bianco Lunos Bogtrykkeri.

494. Kratzenstein, Chr. Theoph. 1781. *Tentamen resolvendi problema ab Academia scientiarum imperiali Petropolitana ad Annum 1780 publice propositum, 1. Qualis sit natura et character sonorum litterarum vocalium a, e, i, o, u tam insigniter inter se diversorum, 2. Annon construi queant instrumenta ordini tuborum organicorum, sub termino vocis humanæ noto, similia, quæ litterarum vocalium a, e, i, o, u sonos exprimant. Præmio coronatum*. Petropoli.

495. Rasmus (Kristian) Rask (1787-1832, see note 480 to letter 96, August 19, 1978, above) was also a competent phonetician.

496. Sir Charles Wheatstone (1802-1875), English scientist. In 1838 (*The London and Westminster Review*, 1838, 27ff) he reviewed the Kratzenstein work together with some other works.

497. Gerold Ungeheuer (1930-1982) mentions Kratzenstein’s work and Wheatstone’s review, in Ungeheuer (1962). *Elemente einer akustischen Theorie der Vokalartikulation*, Springer-Verlag, Berlin/Göttingen/Heidelberg.

498. EFJ is referring to Otto Jespersen’s comprehensive work from 1897-99: Otto Jespersen. *Fonetik, en systematisk fremstilling af sproget*. Schubotheske Forlag, København. Jespersen does not mention Kratzenstein, but some of his contemporaries.

and published in St. Petersburg⁴⁹⁹ (it was a prize essay for the Academy there), and very few seem to have read it. He is even so modern that he has measured the distance in inches between the lips horizontally and vertically, and the distance between the teeth and between tongue and palate for *a*ff various vowels. He has also observed that the larynx is raised for *i*, and finds that the teeth are closer together for *e* and *i* than for *u* and *o*, and I think this is correct at least for some persons. He was rector of the University when Høysgaard⁵⁰⁰ was a porter. Høysgaard was the first to describe the Danish *stød* as “a very little hiccup”⁵⁰¹, they knew each other, but they hardly knew anything about each others’ phonetic interests.

Since then I have only worked on the congress, judging all the section papers, correcting the abstracts and having them retyped, sending the papers on to others for judgment etc. – We have had to retype almost all the abstracts. Many were full of typing errors or of grammatical errors. Sometimes I had to invent a new abstract, send it to the author and ask whether that was what he meant. But it is quite fun. – We very much hope that you will come for the congress. We were sorry that you declined to take part in the symposium on general linguistics⁵⁰², but we understand that you must take care of your health.

Best wishes for Christmas and New Year for you and Krystyna.

Affectionately Yours,

{ Eli }

PS I am not sure of your private address any more, because I know the number was changed, and I do not have the zip code either.

499. Danish for Saint Petersburg in Russia.

500. Jens Pedersen Høysgaard (1698-1773). Danish philologist, grammarian and phonetician.

501. On *stød*. See note 9 to letter 1, March 3, 1949, above.

502. The Rask-Hjelmslev Symposium, see letter 96, August 19, 1978, above.

99.

RJ to EFJ, 09.02.1979

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15; Typed Letter; 216 x 279 mm; Signed; 2 leaves, 2 sides.

[Copy: MIT MC.0072 Box 4 Folder 27]

Roman Jakobson

[University Letterhead:]

Harvard University

Cambridge 38, Massachusetts 02138

Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

301 Boylston Hall

Telephone: (617) 495-4065

February 9, 1979

Prof. Eli Fischer- Jørgensen

Kongestien 45

2830 Virum

Denmark

Dear Eli,

As I just wrote to the Poulsens⁵⁰³, I am happily anticipating my trip to Denmark. The University ceremonies are, according to Dean Pedersen's letter⁵⁰⁴, planned for May 31 and June 1, but I am particularly looking forward to my private meetings with Copenhagen and Copenhagen friends. Moreover, Krystyna and I are gratefully accepting an invitation to spend some two days in the Poulsens' summer house and we plan for a few days an excursion to Bornholm.

503. Helge and Milena Poulsen, see note 404 to letter 83, September 7, 1975, above.

504. Ole Karup Pedersen (1929-1997), had a chair in International Politics at University of Copenhagen from 1970. He was the dean for the Faculty of Humanities in 1979.

What days would you envisage for our Copenhagen vacation: just before the University arrangements, just after, or after our “excursions”? I shall be most grateful, if you give us your suggestions after a talk with the Poulsens.

The information I received from the University is very brief. Are we, Krystyna and I, supposed to arrange ourselves our sojourn in Copenhagen or does the University participate in some arrangements and expenses connected with our visit? Should I bring my gown or is the ceremony without gown or does the University procure the gown? Is some official dress required for the gala performance, etc.? The honorary degree recipients are required in some universities to offer a talk, others not; how is it with Copenhagen?

Excuse me, dear Eli, that I worry you with these questions when you are so busy with the Congress⁵⁰⁵, but it is important to be informed on time.

Now comes the saddest passage of my letter, saddest at least for me. I doubt very much that I will be able to undertake during the coming summer a second trip to Europe and thus, to take part in the Phonetic Congress. It makes me very sorry, and I would have some new things to say, especially on the new findings concerning speech sounds and brain. But, unfortunately, I have to envisage my health questions, financial questions, and a heavy research program I have taken on myself for the coming summer. I hope very much that I shall not make you angry if I send you a written message to the Congress⁵⁰⁶.

../.. [sic]

/2/ But, returning to our June meeting, I have so many things to discuss just with you, Eli. I hope to bring to you in June Linda's and my book, The Sound Shape of Language⁵⁰⁷, announced for June,

505. The Ninth International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, Copenhagen, 1979.

506. Which happened to be the final result, see RJ. 1979h. “A resumé of the written message to the Phonetic Congress 1979”, in *Proceedings of the Ninth International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*, held in Copenhagen 6-11 August 1979, vol.3, IX. Copenhagen.

507. RJ & Linda Waugh 1979d.

and you will see how great is your⁵⁰⁸ place in our book and in the world science of today and tomorrow.

Affectionately,

{ Roman }

Roman Jakobson

mm

508. Underlined with pen (seems to be RJ's). EFJ is mentioned in ten places, according to the index (p. 319) of the third edition of the book: RJ & Linda Waugh (2002³). *The Sound Shape of Language*. Mouton De Gruyter, Berlin/New York.

100.

EFJ to RJ, 28.02.1979

MIT MC.0072 Box 4 Folder 27, Typed Letter, 210 x 280 mm; Signed; 2 leaves, 2 sides.

[Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15]

[University Letterhead:]

Institut for Fonetik
Københavns Universitet
Njalsgade 96
2300 København S
Danmark

28 February, 1979

Professor Roman Jakobson,
Harvard University
301 Boylston Hall,
Cambridge, Ma. 02138
USA.

Dear Roman,

Thank you very much for your letter of February 9. I have waited some days before answering it, because I had to get some more information before I could answer your questions.

We are looking forward very much to seeing you here. As for the Poulsens⁵⁰⁹ (with whom I have talked about it) and for me, it does not matter which days exactly you want to place your stay in Copenhagen and Bornholm. But as the week-end after the ceremonies is Whitsunday, there will be lots of people on Bornholm, so it would be advisable to go up to Poulsen's summerhouse for Whitsunday and then not go to Bornholm until Tuesday (Monday is also a holi-

509. Helge and Milena Poulsen, see note 404 to letter 83, September 7, 1975, above.

day). Poulsen would drive you up to their summerhouse perhaps Saturday, and I suggest that you have lunch with me first -- hopefully in the garden.

Which people would you like to meet in Copenhagen apart from the Poulsens and me? We could arrange your meeting them somehow. I know Jørgen Rischel⁵¹⁰ would be glad just to say hello. He has now got Hjelmlev's chair.

Poulsen has some good friends in Bornholm who have advised them to reserve rooms in a very good hotel in Svaneke. They will also take you for a drive. I have also friends who have a summer house near Svaneke, and if they are there, they will certainly also take you for a drive (it is Baumann-Larsen⁵¹¹, who works in sociolinguistics and is now dean in Aalborg).

Beginning of June is just the time when we do not expect too much congress work, so if you would like it I could take a week off and go with you to Bornholm. I had in fact thought /2/ of going to Bornholm about that time anyhow, I know the island very well and could give you advice about where to go, and help you in different ways. But of course, I would let you be alone as much as you wanted. I would go out sketching then.

You will receive a letter from the University one of these days with some more information about the ceremonies. You are expected to bring your gown, and you will need your official dress for a formal dinner -- I think they will ask you to give a talk. It is not finally decided but very probable.

The University will take care of your hotel reservation in Copenhagen for about four days, and also pay it. There is a good chance they will also cover your travel expenses, or at least cover them in part. They have just started looking for money for that purpose.

510. Jørgen Rischel (1934-2007) got Hjelmlev's chair in 1978. He was called for the newly established ordinary professorship in phonetics in 1981, when EFJ retired and left her extraordinary professorship. See also note 258 to letter 47, December 29, 1960, above.

511. Mogens Baumann Larsen (1934-2001). American-style sociolinguistics was introduced in Denmark in 1967, when Baumann Larsen returned from his visit to the Center for Applied Linguistics in Washington, DC, and held a lecture entitled "Renewal in American dialectology".

We will of course be very sad if you do not come to the congress. It would have been very interesting to hear about the new findings about sounds and the brain. We have just decided to enlarge the number of special lectures by one: Niels A. Lassen⁵¹² will talk about language functions and the measurement of blood flow through the brain (he has published an article about it in the *Scientific American* for October last year⁵¹³). And we intend to arrange a discussion with invited speakers in that connection. It would of course be a great plus to this meeting if you could participate.

We may also be able to get some support from the Research Council for your journey, and you only need to be present at the opening session and this meeting. At the moment we have placed it on Friday, but it can still be moved.

Please give my love to Krystyna,

Affectionately

{ Eli }

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen

P.S. We have been working extremely hard. For months I have not come home from the Institute until after midnight, but in the weekends I have been skiing, and sometimes also for a short trip in the morning. Now, I have, however, had to stop it, since I broke my leg a couple of days ago!

512. Niels A. Lassen (1926-1997), Danish neurologist. In the Proceedings you find: Lassen, Niels A. (1979). "The physiology and pathophysiology of language functions as illustrated by measurements of the regional blood flow in the cortex of the brain". *Proceedings of the Ninth International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*, held in Copenhagen 6-11 August 1979, vol.1, 167-169. Copenhagen. And: Lassen, Niels A. & Larsen, Bo. (1979). "Cortical activity in left and right hemisphere during language related brain functions". *Proceedings of the Ninth International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*, held in Copenhagen 6-11 August 1979, vol.3, 137-151. Copenhagen.

513. Ingvar, David H., Lassen, Niels A. & Skinhøj, Erik: "Brain Function and Blood Flow: Changes in the amount of blood flowing in areas of the human cerebral cortex, reflecting changes in the activity of those areas, are graphically revealed with the aid of a radioactive isotope", *Scientific American*, 239 (4), October 1, 1978, pp. 62-71.

101.

EFJ to RJ, 29.03.1979

MIT MC.0072 Box 4 Folder 27; Typed Letter, 210 x 297 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[Copy: KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15]

[Congress Letterhead (Stamp):]

Ninth International Congress of Phonetic Sciences

Institute of Phonetics

96, Njalsgade

DK-2300 Copenhagen S

Denmark, Tlf. (01) 54 22 11

March 29, 1979

Professor Roman Jakobson

301 Boylston Hall,

Harvard University

Cambridge, Mass. 02138,

USA

Dear Roman,

I am afraid it took a long time before you received my answer to your letter sent in February. It had been rather long on its way here, and I used a couple of days to get the information, and, then, the day I sent my letter (February 26) a postal strike started, which lasted 10 days and delayed everything. Now I hope this letter will reach you more quickly.

Let me first say that we have obtained support from the Research Council for your journey if you can come to the Congress of phonetics. I have not received the official message yet, but as far as I understand, you could get a support of about 7.000 Dan. Cr. Would that help?

The second problem is support for the journey in June. I have

talked with the Dean⁵¹⁴ to-day, and he said they had not succeeded yet, but he would know before Easter, and he was rather optimistic. The problem is that only about a week ago did the Ministry of finance inform the University that they would grant an amount for the anniversary arrangements at all. Otherwise it would have been very difficult. Now they have to distribute the money, which is, of course, not sufficient for the purpose. I keep contact with the dean, and will write as soon as it is decided.

Finally, about a possible guest lecture: I had expected the faculty to take the initiative. Now it turns out that they expected the institutes which had proposed the candidates for the degree to take the initiative. As soon as I heard that, I talked with the linguists and the slavists, and we are all very eager to hear you, and our young teachers and students who have heard so much about you but never seen you <{ , }> will of course be very eager too. But we will not ask you to give more than one lecture, and you should not give a lecture which will cost much preparation. You are quite free to choose the subject, but we might suggest that you talk about the start of structuralism, particularly your own work, e.g. about some of the things you mention in your Retrospect in Selected writings⁵¹⁵. Even if some have read it, it is quite different to hear it from you. You can choose day and time.

You will get a formal invitation from the Dean of the Faculty very soon.

As for people you want to see, I thought of Mrs. Hjelmslev? – – By the way, Merete Bodelsen⁵¹⁶ is getting the honorary degree together with you. She lost her husband a few months ago, and she is rather frail and weak herself, but I think she will come to the ceremony.

We are looking forward very much to seeing you.

Yours affectionately

{ Eli }

514. Ole Karup Pedersen, see note 504 to letter 99, February 9, 1979, and the letters 102 and 102 bis, April 27, 1979, below.

515. See also the letters 51, April 30, 1964 and 96, August 19, 1978, above.

516. Bodelsen, Merete (1907-1986), Danish art historian, married to Carl Adolf Bodelsen (see note 11 to letter 1 bis, March 2, 1949, above).

102.

RJ to EFJ, 27.04.1979

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15, Typed Letter Photocopy, 210 x 297 mm; Photocopied Signature; 1 leaf, 1 side.

Roman Jakobson
 [University Letterhead:]
 Harvard University
 Cambridge 38, Massachusetts 02138
 Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
 301 Boylston Hall
 Telephone: (617) 495-4065

April 27, 1979

Professor Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
 Kongestien 45
 2830 Virum,
 Denmark

Dear Eli,

Many thanks for your two friendly letters. Concerning my schedule I'm sending you a copy of my letter to be sent simultaneously to Dean Pedersen. I think that the 30th of May is the only day open for my lecture and that the topic will agree with you.

Of course I will be happy to see you, the Poulsens⁵¹⁷, Vibeke Hjelmslev, Merete Bodelsen, and my friends of the Slavic and Linguistics Departments, and also Erik Dal⁵¹⁸, with whom I have to discuss the Academy publication on *Fenne-ordbogen*⁵¹⁹. Perhaps the

517. Helge and Milena Poulsen, see note 404 to letter 83, September 7, 1975, above.

518. Erik Dal (1922-2006). Danish literary historian. He was elected member of »Kommissionen for udgivelsen af den gammelrussisk-nedertyske håndbog« in 1979.

519. It was published only after Jakobson's death: *Tönnies Fenne's Low German Manual of*

best day for at least a part of these meetings would be Saturday the 2nd. On the 30th or the 31st I will probably have to see my Hague publisher, Arie Bornkamp⁵²⁰.

If you have any corrections to my preliminary program, please write me. I shall be happy to spend the Pentecost weekend in the country with the Poulsens and then a few days on Bornholm in Svaneke, and it would be wonderful if you share our vacation.

The question which remains incompletely settled is whether our vacation will be shared by Krystyna or whether she will use these days to visit Warsaw and return the 11th through Copenhagen to America, or perhaps stay with us in Denmark and leave the 11th for a few Polish days, but this doesn't change plans much.

Affectionately,

{ Roman }

Roman Jakobson

Spoken Russian, Pskov 1607, vol III. Russian - Low German Glossary. 1985. Ed. A.H. van den Baar, Copenhagen, Munksgaard. In the preface the editor A. H. van den Baar describes the "fairly long story" of the "preparation of Volume III of Tönnies Fenne's manuscript".

520. Arie Bornkamp (1917-1997), Director of Mouton Publishers.

102 bis.

RJ to Ole Karup Pedersen, 27.04.1979

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15; Typed Letter Photocopy; 210 x 297 mm; Photocopied Signature; 1 leaf, 1 side.

Roman Jakobson
 [University Letterhead:]
 Harvard University
 Cambridge 38, Massachusetts 02138
 Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
 301 Boylston Hall
 Telephone: (617) 495-4065

April 27, 1979

Dean Ole Karup Pedersen
 Det humanistiske fakultets kontor
 Københavns Universitet
 Pilestræde 58
 1112 København K
 Denmark

{ Copy for Prof. Fischer-Jørgensen }⁵²¹

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of April 3 and for your gracious proposals. If I have to give a guest lecture, it seems to me the most convenient day would be the 30th of May, and an appropriate title could be “Forty years of distinctive features”, because exactly forty years ago I spoke at the end of May and early June at your University about probably my main find, “distinctive features”, immedi-

521. Added in the top right corner of the page.

ately after my escape from occupied Prague to Copenhagen. I hope also to have quite⁵²² new things to report on this topic.

If my lecture is the 30th, I will have to leave Boston by direct flight #34 of Northwest Orient Airlines (arriving in Copenhagen at 9:45 am on the 29th) on the 28th in order to have some rest between the flight and lecture, in view of the change in time. Thus I should arrive in Copenhagen on the 29th. I will attend at least the Gala Performance of May 31 and the official events of June 1. I am planning to leave for rest with old Danish friends during the Pentecost weekend and to return June 11 to Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Therefore I would be grateful for a room reservation from the 29th of May until the 2nd of June for me and my wife, even in the case that my wife's expenses are covered by me.

Thank you for your offer to cover my flight expenses. I ordered the ticket from Northwest Orient Airlines at the lowest price available for my trip May 28-29 Boston/Copenhagen and June 11 Copenhagen/Boston.

Yours sincerely
Roman Jakobson

522. Handwritten underline.

103.

EFJ to RJ, 08.05.1979

MIT MC.0072 Box 4 Folder 27, Typed Letter, 210 x 297 mm; Signed; 2 leaves, 2 sides.

[Congress Letterhead (Stamp):]
 Ninth International Congress of Phonetic Sciences
 Institute of Phonetics
 96, Njalsgade
 DK-2300 Copenhagen S
 Denmark, Tlf. (01) 54 22 11

May 8, 1979

Dear Roman,

Thank you very much for your letter of April 27, which arrived to-day, just at the last minute to have your lecture announced in the News-letter of the University. Mail from USA and to USA is getting worse and worse.

We are very glad that you will give a lecture. We have fixed the time to May 30, 1600 <{ 4 p.m. }> room 8.1.13 in the Amager Buildings of the University, Njalsgade 80. I put it late in the afternoon, partly because more people will come, partly because you may be tired in the morning since it corresponds to midnight in USA.

We have ordered hotel rooms on Bornholm. It can easily be changed from double to single room if Krystyna prefers to go to Poland.

Perhaps you could come to the Amager Buildings somewhat earlier, around 14.30, have a glance at our institute and meet some colleagues for a cup of coffee [*sic*] before lecture. That would be an easy way to see some of the people who would like to meet you.

I have talked with Erik Dal. He cannot come on Saturday, but proposed Thursday 31 at 10 o'clock. At that time both he and Stief

can come. As for your Hague publisher I suppose you will ask him to come to Copenhagen. Otherwise it will be too tiring for you.

You thanked me for two letters. But I sent you three. I am not quite sure which of them you have not received. But you did not answer my questions concerning the congress. I wrote that we have received 7000 Dan. crowns, which can be used for your expenses if you come to the congress. Moreover there will be an extra special lecture by Dr. Niels A. Lassen on the measurement of blood flow through the brain during speech and listening. (he has written a paper about it in the *Scientific American* for October 1978.<{ }>⁵²³) It would, of course be very interesting if you could contribute to the discussion after this lecture. So I would ask you to reconsider the possibility of taking part in the congress.

At the moment we have placed Lassen's lecture on Friday, but if you come, we might move it to Monday or Tuesday, because you would give the key-note address on Monday, and you might /2/ not want to stay for the whole congress. We are making the program now. It should go to the printer ~~June~~ around June 1, so we should be very grateful if you would send us an express letter saying whether there is a chance that you come or not.

We hope that the weather will be fine when you come, but you never know. It is just like in Boston. At the moment it is as cold as January, and the beech trees have not a single green leaf. Bring a warm sweater for all possibilities.

We will see that somebody is at the airport.

Give my love to Krystyna

Yours affectionately

{ Eli }

523. Ingvar, David H., Lassen, Niels A. & Skinhøj, Erik. "Brain Function and Blood flow". 1978. *Scientific American*, October 1978, Volume 239, Issue 4, pp. 62-71.

104.

EFJ to RJ, 26.05.1979

KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15; Typed Letter Carbon Copy; 210 x 297 mm; Carbon-Signed 1 leaf, 1 side.

[*s.l.*] 26-5- 79

Dear Roman,

Welcome to Copenhagen. I hope you have had a good journey and that Stief has brought you safe to the hotel.

I suppose you will use Tuesday for having a long rest. Your talk on Wednesday is at 16.15 at the University Amager Buildings, Njalsgade 80⁵²⁴. Before the lecture we have arranged a small reception at the Institute of Phonetics (15-16), where we have invited a number of Danish linguists. I will come and get you at the hotel. It would be nice if you have time for a 10 minutes look at our institute before the reception. (By the way, thanks for your telegram)⁵²⁵. You may wish to have a 10 minutes rest in an easy chair between the reception and the lecture.

For the lunch Saturday at my place 1 o'clock I have invited Vibeke, Merete Bodelsen, Rischel and his wife and Stief and his wife, and, of course Helge (Milena prefers to stay in Asserbo⁵²⁶ and prepare your visit). I also thought of inviting Henning Andersen⁵²⁷ and his wife. He very often talks about you as his big <great> teacher. Is that OK? Please phone me Tuesday to confirm these arrangements. I shall be at the Institute, [*itt.*] 54 22 11, local number 2441 the whole tuesday from about 11 o'clock. After 5 p.m. the telephone number is 54 16 6[]

524. Lecture at University of Copenhagen, May 30, 1979: "Forty Years of Distinctive Features". RJ became a honorary doctor the 1st of June.

525. Not found in the archives.

526. Milena is Milena Poulsen who will prepare the visit to the Poulsens' summer place, 60 kilometers from Copenhagen.

527. See note 407 to letter 83, September 7, 1975, above.

We are all looking forward to seeing you.
Best regards to you and Krystyna
Yours
Eli

105.

RJ to EFJ, 12.06.1979

KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15, Typed Letter, 216 x 278 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

Roman Jakobson
 [University Letterhead:]
 Harvard University
 Cambridge 38, Massachusetts 02138
 Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
 301 Boylston Hall
 Telephone: (617) 495-4065

June 12, 1979

Professor Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
 Kongestien 45
 2830 Virum
 Denmark

Dear Eli,

At our return to Cambridge we rush to express to you our warmest thanks for having done indeed everything to realize our wonderful trip to Copenhagen, to Virum, to Bornholm, and last but not least to Christiansö. We were particularly happy to have had this time to walk, to talk, and to relax with you, and we hope very much that you will be our dear guest in the nearest future.

At my return I found the impressive two volumes of the Phonetic Congress⁵²⁸. Linda's and my book had arrived⁵²⁹. I'm eager to have your critical remarks.

With heartiest wishes from both of us,

528. *Proceedings of the Ninth International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*, held in Copenhagen 6-11 August 1979. 1979, Copenhagen (3 volumes). See also note 531, below.

529. RJ & Linda Waugh 1979d.

Affectionately,
{ Roman }
Roman Jakobson

{ PS. Many many thanks for your magnificent introduction to the
Elementer og Strukturer⁵³⁰. 4 copies arrived! R. }

530. RJ 1979f. *Elementer, funktioner og strukturer i sproget*. Nyt Nordisk Forlag Arnold Busck. København (Introduction by EFJ 1979g, pp. 7-18).

106.

RJ to EFJ, 15.06.1979

MIT MC.0072 Box 5 Folder 34, Typed Letter Copy, 195 x 280 mm; non Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

Roman Jakobson
 [University Letterhead:]
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 Research Laboratory of Electronics
 Cambridge, Mass. 02139

June 15, 1979

Prof. Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
 Institut for Fonetik
 Københavns Universitet
 St. Kannikestraede 13
 Københavns K
 Denmark

Dear President,

I regret terribly the impossibility of attending, as I had hoped, the Ninth International Congress of Phonetic Sciences. It is the more sad for me that I cannot come because, together with Linda Waugh, who also unfortunately cannot come, we have just completed and published our book, The Sound Shape of Language, which touches upon the complex of problems that are today the burning items for a Congress of Phonetic Sciences. Permit me, dear Eli, in the name of both of us, to express our wish for a most fruitful Congress and our hope that the idea of genuinely interdisciplinary research will be evermore realized in the field of speech sounds as it was anticipated by the late van Ginneken, the originator of these Congresses, who astutely assigned a plural to the idea of phonetic sciences. It becomes still clearer that any constituent of the speech

sound requires a joint analysis both of its linguistic functions and of its physical means, and hence a consistent cooperation of linguists with physicists, physiologists, and of course psychologists, since in speech sounds everything fulfills a linguistic task and nothing can be conceived of as a raw, gross sound matter. At present, new, dazzling vistas open for a wider interdisciplinary cooperation. The current international neurological discoveries reveal an ever-widening pattern of relations between language, particularly speech, and the brain, which enables us to enter step by step into the deepest structural puzzles both of the brain and of language.

Sincerely,
Roman Jakobson

107.

Krystyna Pomorska to EFJ, 22.06.1979

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15, Autograph Letter, 140 x 216 mm; Signed; 2 leaves, 2 sides.

[University Letterhead:]
 Foreign Languages and Literatures
 Department of Humanities
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

June 22, 1979

Dear Eli,

The two weeks passed since we came back but I still have Bornholm and Copenhagen in front of my "mind's eyes". Your picture helps to hold this image in memory. It arrived safely in Roman's famous briefcase which he never lets off his hands...

Our trip back was very nice and easy: the plane was almost empty so we had it practically for ourselves. We found everything all-right. In two days after our arrival Gunnar [Fant] moved in, and he left last saturday. /2/ He said he will be on Gotland in a due time.

Eli, once more I wish to tell you that we both admired your company, your energy and charm which against the Danish background was even stronger than ever.

Our boat trip gave us almost permanent sun tan! Roman had a great leisure time that he never has - and he enjoyed <it> also as he never does!

Have a wonderful summer and let us see each other very soon.

Love - Krystyna

(Krystyna) Roman Jakobsons kone [Other hand]

108.

EFJ to RJ, 29.06.1979

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15, Typed Letter Carbon Copy; 210 x 297 mm; Carbon-Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[*s.l.*] June 29 { 1979 }

Dear Roman,

Thank you very much for your letter of June 12. I am very glad that you enjoyed your trip to Denmark. We were also very happy to have you here. Everybody found that your lecture was a great success. And I was particularly happy to be able to spend some days with you and Krystyna on Bornholm, and to have some time to talk and enjoy your company. I stayed two days longer and had some time to make sketches.

I would have answered immediately. But I have been extremely busy with the congress, with some problems between the Chinese and Taiwan participants, and finally with some extra complications in the University administration. Moreover I have had fever again for a week, so that I did not work as fast as normally. So I will write again in July and send some pictures (I have not even had time to bring the film to the shop) and some sketches for Krystyna.

But I hasten to write now because you may perhaps help me getting the address of Linda Waugh in Europe⁵³¹. She sent me a letter telling that she had not money enough for staying at the congress, and she gave an address in Paris. I wrote to that address offering her to find lodging free of charge during the congress. That crossed a new letter from her in which she wrote that it was a problem of spending the three weeks in between two congresses. There is a

531. According to the Congress Proceedings, Linda Waugh presented a written report in the phonology section on "The Sound Shape of Language in all its Facets", page 324 in vol. I (printed before the congress). She is not in the list of participants in vol. III (printed after the congress). See also letter 106, June 15, 1979, above.

chance, but it is not yet clea[r], that we could find a house for her free of charge in North Zeland, but now the letter with her Paris address has disappeared, and moreover it is probably too late. And she did not tell exactly what congress she was going to and where. Do you know that? If you know, please send an express letter with the address.

- - I started reading your book⁵³² on Bornholm, but did not get much further since. I will write again about it.

We received the two copies for the exhibition, thank you!

Hearties wishes, also for Krystyna,

Affectionately

Eli

532. RJ 1979d (with Linda Waugh).

109.

EFJ to RJ, 13.08.1979

MIT MC.0072 Box 5 Folder 34, Typed Letter, 210 x 297 mm; Signed; 1 leaf,
1 side.

[Congress Letterhead:]
Ninth International Congress of Phonetic Sciences
Copenhagen 6-11 August 1979

Institute of Phonetics
University of Copenhagen
96, Njalsgade
DK-2300 Copenhagen S
Denmark
Telephone (01) 54 22 11

13 August 1979

Professor Roman Jakobson,
301 Boylston Hall,
Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138
U.S.A.

Dear Roman,

On behalf of the congress I send you many thanks for your letter and all best wishes.

The letter was read by Jørgen Rischel at the opening session⁵³³.

We all missed you very much. Apart from this, everything went very well. Your book was at the exhibition, and one copy was stolen, which I hope you will consider a compliment!

533. RJ's letter to the congress is quoted in the *Proceedings*, vol. III, p.IX.

Tomorrow I am leaving for Gotland.

Best wishes,

Yours affectionately

{ Eli }

Eli Fischer-Jørgensen

IIO.

EFJ to RJ, 28.09.1979

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36; Typed Letter, 210 x 297 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15]

Kongestien 45, V
Virum, Denmark

28- 9 1979

Dear Roman and Krystyna,

Finally I have got the pictures from Bornholm, which I am sending enclosed in this letter. In a separate letter I am sending a sepia wash and a watercolor from Bornholm.

I worked very hard this summer because of the congress and did not have one minute free. But as the reward was a very successful congress, I do not regret it. The last weeks before the congress everybody in the institute took part in the preparations, and during the congress we also had more than 20 students on full time work and more than that. We had an evening party with dance in the middle of the congress and the night after that party nobody got more than 3 hours' sleep, because it was held in the university where everything should be ready for the morning sessions, - so, the practical organization functioned well, and the scientific level was high.

After the congress I had three weeks' holidays. I spent two weeks in Gotland. The first 4 days there was a phonetic conference arranged by Gunnar [Fant], but the rest of the time I spent sketching and painting from morning till night. It was in Katthammarsvik about 5 km north of Gunnar's summerhouse. - Then I went four days to Samsø⁵³⁴.

The time since then has been almost as hectic as the time before

534. A Danish island.

the congress, and that is why it has taken such a long time to send the pictures. We first had the symposium in memory of Rask and Hjelmselv⁵³⁵. It was very good, but we missed you. – Then some of the Japanese participants from the congress⁵³⁶ wanted to stay after the congress and work in the institute, and we have been working with EMG and fiberoptics, which takes a lot of time. As there are only a few (Japanese) doctors who have specialised in EMG of the larynx we had to utilize this opportunity to have do some supplementary research on Danish consonants and stød. We have a lot of material which we have not had time to publish, but I hope we can do it in the course of the coming year⁵³⁷. Now I have to prepare my classes which I have not had time to start yet. The Japanese guests left yesterday.

I hope you ar[e] both by good health and that you have had a good summer. Thanks for your cards.

Yours affectionately
{ Eli }

535. The proceedings are found in: *Typology and Genetics of Language: Proceedings of the Rask-Hjelmslev Symposium, Held at the University of Copenhagen, 3rd-5th September, 1979. Travaux du Cercle Linguistique de Copenhague*, vol. XX, 1981.

536. EFJ had made a long journey in Japan in 1976 (October 16 - December 22) and knew many Japanese researchers in phonetics and phonology (Skytte 2016: 138-140, *ARIPUC* 1976 VI-VII).

537. See also note 452 to letter 93, November 4, 1977, above.

III.

RJ to EFJ, 18.10.1979

KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15, Typed Letter, 216 x 278 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side
 [Copy: MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36]

Roman Jakobson
 [University Letterhead:]
 Harvard University
 Cambridge 38, Massachusetts 02138
 Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
 301 Boylston Hall
 Telephone: (617) 495-4065

Oct. 18, 1979

Prof. Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
 Kongestien 45
 2830 Virum
 Denmark

Dear Eli,

From both of us many, many thanks for your two marvelous paintings and for the series of magnificent photographs, which strongly brought to mind our joint beautiful and relaxing journey. Of course I'm sad to have not attended the Phonetic Congress, but I had before me the trip to the Tbilisi Symposium, and it was reasonable to economize my forces. Both of us just returned from Moscow⁵³⁸ and Tbilisi⁵³⁹. The trip was most fascinating but of course,

538. September 29, 1979, RJ gave a lecture at the Moscow State University on "Some Urgent Linguistic Tasks".

539. RJ attended The International Symposium on the Problem of Unconscious Mental Activity under the auspices of the Georgian Academy of Sciences, Tbilisi, and gave three lectures.

exhausting, and now I'm returning to manuscripts, proofreading etc. More and more I admire your indefatigable energy and look forward to your further important publications. With warmest wishes from both of us,

Yours affectionately,
{ Roman }
Roman Jakobson

112.

EFJ to RJ, 23.12.1979

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Autograph Picture Card, 160 x 85mm;
Picture: Copenhagen skyline, drawing by EFJ; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

file⁵⁴⁰

[s.l.] 23/12 79

Dear Roman and Krystyna,

I hope you are having a nice and peaceful Christmas time, and I send all best wishes for the year to come.

I have had a very busy term, and I am looking forward to my retirement, in a year.

- I have been asked to review your book with Linda Waugh for Peng's new journal⁵⁴¹. That is better than *Acta Linguistica*, which never appears⁵⁴².

This is a drawing which I made as a sort of house mark for the congress. It was used on publications and bags.

Love from Eli

540. Archivist's note.

541. *Language Sciences*; see note 543 to letter 113, December 20, 1980, below. Fred C.C. Peng (1934-), anthropologist, linguist and neuroscientist. The first number of *Language Sciences* was published in 1978-79.

542. See note 544 to letter 113, December 20, 1980, below.

113.

EFJ to RJ, 20.12.1980

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Letter, 210 x 298 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 2 sides.

[Copy: KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15]

[s.l.] December 20 1980

Dear Roman,

I heard from Gunnar Fant that you have been ill, but that you were now better. I hope very much that you are getting quite OK again.

I am sending you enclosed a review I have written for *Language Science* (Peng's new periodical, published in Tokyo)⁵⁴³. It is a somewhat remote place, but they asked me for it, and I am sending out quite a number of reprints. I hope you are not too dissatisfied with it. If you think I have misunderstood you in some place<{ s }>, there may still be time to make smaller corrections in the proofs. I would have preferred to publish it in *Acta <{ Ling[uistica] }> Hafniensia*, but I do not think it will continue. They have had manuscripts for four years that are not published⁵⁴⁴ (including my obituaries on Hammerich and Togeby). Niels Ege, the secretary, is becoming like Hjelmslev a hopeless perfectionist, who does not finish anything.

I have critici[z]ed some of your new acoustic definitions. I showed this, for safety, to Gunnar, who agreed with me. I do not think the inferior and superior formants work very well.⁵⁴⁵ - But

543. EFJ 1981c. Review. Roman Jakobson and Linda Waugh. The Sound Shape of Language. 1979. *Language Sciences* 3, 201-213.

544. *Acta Linguistica Hafniensia* was rebooted in 1982, starting from number 17, changing publishing company from Munksgaard to C.A. Reitzel and with Torben Thrane as the new managing editor.

545. This distinction between inferior and superior formants is introduced in RJ 1979d, 92ff. to make possible a common treatment of vowels and consonants, eradicating, as RJ and Waugh write "such supposed dissimilarities as the one pointed

apart from that I have enjoyed your book very much. I have read it twice with great pleasure.

I am quite ashamed that you have quoted me so much, much more than I deserve. In one place (concerning tense-lax) I wondered that you quoted me for consonants⁵⁴⁶, where I am reluctant to follow you in the inclusion of aspiration in the tense-feature, but not for [*iʰ*] vowels, where I follow your phonetic definition wholeheartedly.

In ARIPUC 7, in my paper on the perception of German and Danish vowels⁵⁴⁷ I argue against “the advanced tongue root” feature and implicitly against the English school which does not recognize the tense-lax feature in vowels. In German, for instance, I think it is quite obvious that I U Y show general articulatory laxness: lower and flattened tongue (and consequently less constriction in the pharynx) less rounded lips in Y U } and less opening of the jaw than in tense vowels. They obviously cannot be put into one series with the tense ones, e.g. i I e { ε }, because <{ [] }> I <{ }> has a much lower tongue, but only slightly lowered jaw, compared to i, whereas <{ s }> /2/ in normal tense vowels jaw and tongue lowering go hand in hand. Sidney Wood⁵⁴⁸ and I have come independently to this view.

I had wanted to write this review much earlier, but this last year has been very hard, as far as work is concerned. There has been a good deal of administration, and as I had neglected the students somewhat during the preparations of the congress, I wanted to do

out by Pavel Ivić: “compact vowels are marked by a convergence of F₁ and F₂, whereas in the transitions of the compact consonants the converging formants are F₂ and F₃” (1965:59). RJ and Waugh thus define the determinant formants: for vowels: F₁ inferior, F₂ (F²) superior; for consonants F₂ inferior, F₃ superior. EFJ’s very detailed criticism is found on the pages 206-207 in EFJ 1981c.

546. RJ 1979d, 136-137.

547. EFJ 1973b.

548. Sidney Wood (1934-), Speech scientist. Retired senior lecturer and research fellow, formerly at the Department of Linguistics and Phonetics, Lund University, Sweden. The relevant reference (graciously furnished by the author) is: Sidney Wood. Tense and lax vowels - degree of constriction or pharyngeal volume? *Working Papers* 11, 109-134, Department of Linguistics, Lund. 1975.

more for them now. So I have given a <thorough> course on historical phonetics and phonology and one on typology, which have cost me a lot of work. I wanted to do this because my younger colleagues <{ , }> who now take over, do not know enough linguistics. I ofte[n] used 30 hours for preparing one double lecture. Thus I have hardly had a week-end free, and only two weeks' holidays which I spent on the small Danish island Anholt. – I am retiring at the end of February, and we still do not know whether the chair will be upheld⁵⁴⁹. I am looking forward to having more time for research and also some time for many other things: reading, sketching, travelling.

After having read your chapter on the spell of language, I thought you might enjoy one of my non-scientific works, which I am therefore including⁵⁵⁰: a song I wrote on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Linguistic Circle. I think it is one of my better products in this genre. Perhaps it was not quite nice to glossematics, particularly since I end up with “keni” which H Hjelmslev described as “empty” units.

Best wishes for you and Kristina for 1981! All the best for your health and continued working capacity!

Yours affectionately

{ Eli }

PS Some time ago I have sent you a bunch of offprints including a collection of my phonological papers. But they may not have reached you yet.

549. Jørgen Rischel got the chair; for Rischel, see note 258 to letter 47, December 29, 1960, above.

550. See the document enclosed to the present letter.

113a. Enclosed document

EFJ to RJ, 20.12.1980.

ODE TIL MIT GLOSSEMATISKE GLOSSARIUM

Af Louis Hjelmslev

(egen Melodi)

O glossi! O glossem! O glossarium!
O, mit dejlige vokabularium
Jeg vil synge din pris i en arium
Lirumli, lirumlu, lirumlarium.

O taksi! O taksem! O taksarium
I er blomsterne i mit herbarium
Rosmarin, viol og fragarium
Lirumli, lirumlu, lirumlarium.

Aa, leksi og leksem og leksarium!
I er fiskene i mit akvarium;
I et myldrende rigt inventarium,
Blirumbli, blirumbly, blirumblarium.

O pleri! O plerem! O plerarium!
I er fuglene i mit volarium;
i ugribelig flygtighed far' I om,
tirili, tirily, tirilarium.

Uh substans! Subsistensløst substrarium!
Usle slangekryb i mit terrarium!
Kommutabile est du og varium,
Lurumlu, lurumlo, lurumlarium.

Men keni! og kenem! og kanarium!
I er sole i mit planetarium.
Jeres stråleglans lyser invarium.
Oh mit dejlige vokabularium!

(1956, 25th anniversary <{ y }> of the Linguistic Circle)
[□ Eli Fischer-Jørgensen)

114.

RJ to EFJ, 31.12.1980

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15, Typed Letter, 216 x 279 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[Copy: MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36]

Roman Jakobson

[University Letterhead:]

Harvard University

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

301 Boylston Hall

Telephone: (617) 495-4065

December 31, 1980

Professor Eli Fischer-Jørgensen

Kongestien 45

2830 Virum

Denmark

Dear Eli,

Happy New Year, and permit me to predict that as “emeritus” you will work even more intensively than when in active “service”.

First and foremost, all my thanks for your beautiful and substantial review of our book. Nobody could write it more substantially and wisely than you. I am sad that we have not read it <{ “ }> before the appearance of the book. <{ ” }>. A few of our mistakes would disappear and many seemingly controversial solutions would appear in a less cursory and fragmentary form and would become more convincing or at least attractive. Anyway, I am happy, and I’m sure Linda too, that your masterpiece of criticism is to appear. As to our use of acoustics, it seems to me that we dealt primarily just with

perceptual psycho-acoustic and not with the naked physico-acoustic aspect.

These months and weeks I'm again, as years before, in the very distant field of medieval Slavic poetry⁵⁵¹.

It would be so nice to see you soon again and to resume our pleasant debates. At present we are going to Rome where I have to receive the International Prize "for philology and linguistics."⁵⁵² I know, and I will underline there that I receive it not personally, but for our whole team of international pioneers in the field.

With my heartiest wish to you for the year's and years <{ ' }> and decades<{ ' }> of health and happiness,

{ Oh glossi! O glossem! O glossarium!!! }⁵⁵³

Affectionately,

{ Roman }

Roman Jakobson

551. RJ is probably referring to articles published in *Selected Writings VI* (1985), edited by Stephen Rudy. See also letter 118, February 26, 1982, below.

552. The International Feltrinelli Prize for Philology and Linguistics, Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome (January 16, 1981).

553. See enclosed document to letter 113, December 20, 1980, above.

115.

Lorraine Wynne (RJ's Assistant) to EFJ, 23.01.1981

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Typed Letter/Note Copy, 145 x 215 mm; non Signed; *verso* printed: "Interdepartmental. Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Cambridge 39, Mass. *From the office of?*"; 1 leaf, 1 side.

Roman Jakobson

January 23, 1981

Professor Eli Fischer-Jørgensen
Københavns Universitet
Njalsgade 96
2300 København Ø
Denmark

Dear Professor Fischer-Jørgensen:

Your series of books and reprints⁵⁵⁴ arrived during the absence of Professor Jakobson who was receiving his international prize in the Accademia and goes from there for a rest in Arizona. I shall bring your valuable gift to his attention at his return to Cambridge at the beginning of February.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Wynne
Assistant to Roman Jakobson

554. See the PS in letter 113, December 20, 1980, above. Lorraine Wynne assisted with the edition of some articles in the above mentioned *Selected Writings* VI.

116.

EFJ to RJ, 29.07.1981

KB Acc. 2005/99, Ks. 15; Typed Letter Carbon Copy, 210 x 148 mm; Carbon-Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[s.l.] 29 July 1981

Dear Roman,

I hope you have recovered completely from your illness - I am including a copy of the review of the book by you and Linda⁵⁵⁵. They printed it without sending me proofs, with the result that there are more than 20 misprints, and half of them disturbing the meaning completely. - I have asked them to send a list of errata to the subscribers, but they have not answered. You will receive another copy later by seemail together with some other papers of mine. I have sent out 200 corrected copies of the review.

I have been to Crete this spring, and to the Faroese Islands now in July. And in September I am going to England. I am going to spend October and November in Oxford.

Please give my love to Krystyna

Love from

Eli

555. EFJ 1981c.

117.
EFJ to RJ, 12.1981

MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36, Autograph Greeting Card, 210 (105x2) x 150 mm, Picture b/w watercolor ("St. Mary the Virgin, Oxford / EFJ 1981"); Signed; 1 leaf, 4 sides [bifolio, written on page 3 and 4]

Dec. 1981

Dear Roman

I heard from Gunnar that you have not been quite well lately. I hope your health will be improving.

I was sorry that there were so many misprints in my review of your book. The editors did not send me any proofs. I have asked them to send out a /4/ list of errors. But I do not think they have done it.

As it appears from this card I have spent the autumn in Oxford giving lectures⁵⁵⁶ there and in various other places and doing some sketching in between. I enjoyed that stay very much.

Best wishes for 1982 for you and Krystyna. Let us hope the development in Poland⁵⁵⁷ will be better than it looks just now.

Yours affectionately

Eli⁵⁵⁸

556. One of the lectures was on "Sound symbolism", October 27.

557. The communist government in Poland introduced martial law in the fight with the political opposition, on December 13, 1981 (until July 22, 1983).

558. The two last lines are traced along the left margin of the page.

118.

RJ to EFJ, 26.02.1982

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15, Typed Letter, 139 x 216 mm; Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.
 [Copy: MIT MC.0072 Box 41 Folder 36]

Roman Jakobson
 [University Letterhead:]
 Harvard University
 Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138
 Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
 301 Boylston Hall
 Telephone: (617) 495-4065

26 February 1982

Prof. Elli [*sic*] Fischer-Jørgensen
 Kongestien 45
 2830 Virum, Denmark

Dear Elli:

I was touched by your genuinely friendly letter, but I am healthy again, working daily for hours and hours on new papers and on the preparation of my books. The third volume of my Selected Writings, with the subtitle “Grammar of Poetry and Poetry of Grammar,” has just appeared, and the sixth volume⁵⁵⁹, dealing with Slavic cultural problems of the Middle Ages, is in proofs and its appearance is promised for the coming summer or fall. As soon as the English version of Krystyna’s and my Dialogues⁵⁶⁰ is out, you will have

559. RJ (1985). *Selected Writings* VI, Mouton, The Hague, Paris, New York, 2 volumes, edited by Stephen Rudy.

560. RJ & Krystyna Pomorska. 1980g. *Dialogues*. Paris: Flammarion. English version. 1983. *Dialogues*, Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press. Russian version. 1982. *Besedy*. Jerusalem: Magnes Press.

a copy. I hope that this version will be more precise than the French one, which was published by Flammarion. The Russian version is slated to appear in May or June at Jerusalem. I am happy to hear from various sides excellent news about your health, linguistic works, and paintings. Krystyna and I hope to visit Europe in the near future, and it will be nice indeed to see you again.

Yours as ever,

{ Roman }

119.

EFJ to RJ, 25.03.1982

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15; Typed Letter Carbon Copy; 210 x 148 mm; Carbon-Signed; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[*s.l.*] 25-3- 82

Dear Roman,

Thank you very much for your letter. I was very glad to hear that your health is much better and that you can work, and even intend to come to Europe. I immediately told Poulsens⁵⁶¹ the good news, and they were also very glad to hear it. -- If you come to Denmark, we should of course be very happy to see you. Can you say anything more definite about your journey than "the near future"?

In the last week of May I shall be on Anholt⁵⁶² with an old friend whom I cannot leave alone, otherwise I shall probably be <at> home in the spring. I had planned to go to France in April, but I won't have time. I have to finish two papers.

With best wishes and love, also for Krystyna.

Yours

Eli

561. Helge and Milena Poulsen, see note 404 to letter 83, September 7, 1975, above.

562. Danish island. See also letter December 20, 1980.

120.

Krystyna Pomorska to EFJ, 20.07.1982

KB Acc 2005/99, Ks. 15, Telegram; 208 x 147 mm; Stamp: Telegrafstation Lyngby, Modt. 20/7 1982, kl 1802; 1 leaf, 1 side.

[To:]

eli fischer-jorgensen

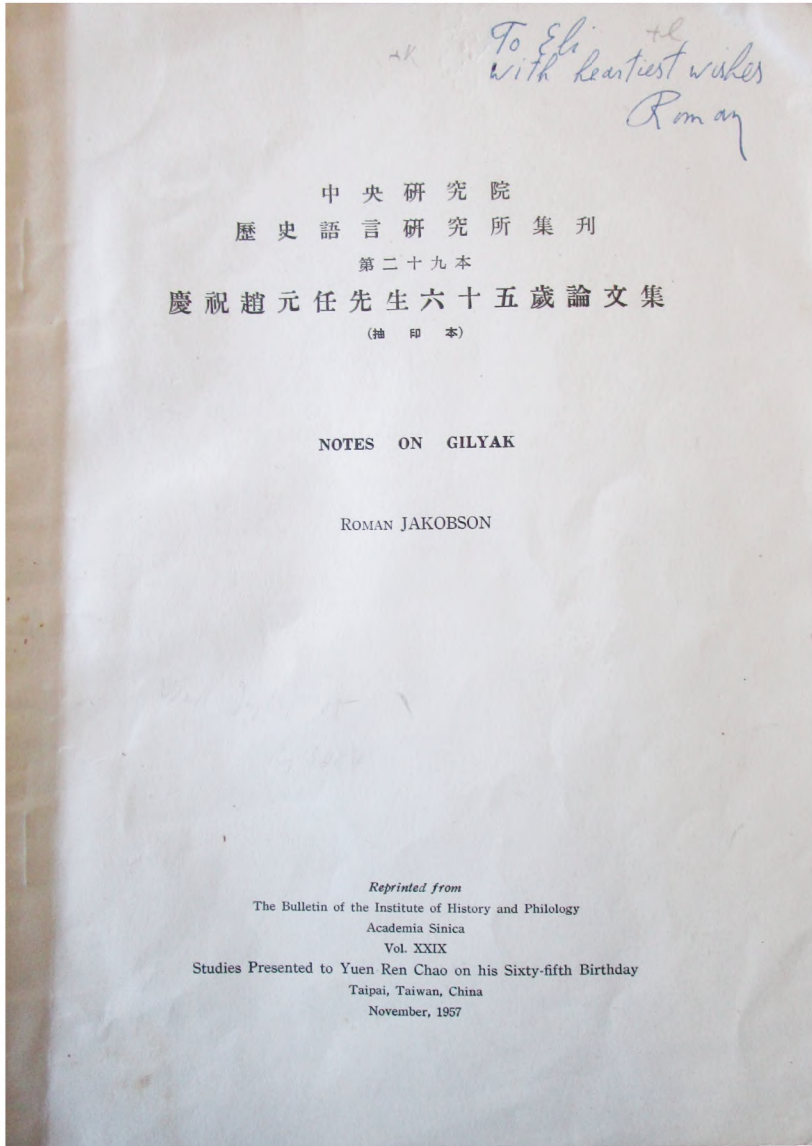
45 kongestien

virum2830

roman died sunday⁵⁶³

krystyna

563. July 18, at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass.



EFJ's copy of an offprint of RJ 1957b: *Notes on Gilyak* with his dedication. The dedication is mentioned in letter 32 of August 8, 1958. The text in Chinese corresponds to the text in English at the bottom of the front page. The copy is kept at the EFJ collection, University Library of Southern Denmark.

PART 7

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PART 8

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E, K & S references are taken from Koerner or directly.

DBL = Dansk Biografisk Leksikon

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