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Looking Back at 20 Years of JELiX

When JELiX, the *Journal for EuroLinguistiX*, was founded in 2004, we started with a cultural definition of Europe as a point of reference; and the first two articles were programmatic articles that tried to lay the foundations for cultural and social perceptions of Europe, the search for linguacultural commonalities of Europe in this perception, and the teaching of this kind of Eurolinguistics. I named it *Journal for EuroLinguistiX* to mark it as a complement to a *Journal of Eurolinguistics*, whose creation had been announced, but then never realized.

At first, I felt a little bit like Johannes Schröpfer, who created his *Semantische Hefte* more or less alone. But in volume 3 (2006), we could published the first external contributions, and also the first contributions not in English. These were provided by two pioneers in Eurolinguistics: Norbert Reiter and Uwe Hinrichs. Another pioneer, Harald Haarmann, contributed in 2013. Norbert Reiter, who died in 2009, also gave me advice on how to continue with the journal. Another pioneer, Sture Ureland, who died in 2022, supported the journal as a consultant to the editor and as a participant to two of the five Eurolinguistics conferences, the proceedings of which were published in this journal. The elaboration of the journal would not have been possible without these supporters as well as the various reviewers in the background that we have had over the years. I am deeply grateful for their support.

The journal has by now covered a broad range of topics, related to diverse definitions of Europe: from morphology, lexicology, and semantics to pragmatics to manifold issues of language and society as well as teaching Eurolinguistics. Various theoretical and diverse empirical approaches have been applied. As already indicated, five issues covered the proceedings of international Eurolinguistics conferences, three of which I organized at Europäisches Haus Pappenheim (2013, 2014, 2015), where I was director from 2012 to 2016, and two of which I organized at VHS Donauwörth (2017, 2019), where I have been head of the project section “Innovative Europäische Sprachlehre (InES)” ‘Innovative European Language Teaching’ since 2016. But there have also been further special issues:

- vol. 5 (2008) on the occasion of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue—here, several national studies were carried out based on the same questionnaire, a collaborative project of international students and international colleagues, when I was guest professor at the university of Freiburg, teaching in the M.A. European Linguistics program
- vol. 7 (2010) on the occasion of the European Year of Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion
- vol. 13 (2016) on Reviewing the Work at the Europäisches Haus Pappenheim
- vol. 18 (2021) as “Papers from a Project Seminar: Aspects of Applied Historical Eurolinguistics”, which was an alternative to public events where my students present research results to general audience, which, however, however was not possible during the COVID-19 pandemicwith its compulsory online only courses
- vol. 19 (2022) as “Pieces of Peace Linguistics”, as a contribution to understand and overcome problems related to the war in Ukraine

In these twenty-one volumes there have been 109 contributions: 99 studies, 7 reviews, 2 poetic contributions and 1 obituary. 1 poetic contribution uses a mix of English and European elements; 69 contributions were in English, 34 in German, 2 in French, 1 in Spanish, 1 in both German and Esperanto and 1 in Low German. Abstracts were always provided in English, French and German at least, 1 article also added Polish, 1 also Bulgarian, 1 also Low German, 1 also Spanish, 1 also Spanish and Catalan. Contributors have mostly come from Germany, but also from other countries (in alphabetical order): Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, and the UK.

The participants of the 2015 Eurolinguistics Conference in Pappenheim agreed on a Memorandum on Establishing Eurolinguistics as a University Field, which aimed at giving Eurolinguistics a more institutionalized character, for instance by installing chairs of Eurolinguistics and by incorporating Eurolinguistic knowledge into school curricula. In this respect, the results have been rather disappointing. We are still waiting for truely Eurolinguistic chairs. On the other hand, JELiX did help to make Eurolinguistics more renown. For instance, it is also thanks to our journal that Routledge suggested to me, in early 2023, to edit a Handbook of Eurolinguistics. This handbook project is currently in its final stages and will bring together some of the JELiX contributors as well as other scholars who may become future JELiX contributors. The book is to appear in spring 2025.

Connecting the teaching of Eurolinguistics with student projects, it was also natural that JELiX was also open to papers by students (M.A. theses, B.A. theses or other papers) as long as a certain standard was given.

We are living in times where the definition of *Europe* and *European* is hotly debated, both in terms of denotation as well as in terms of connotation. A venue for linguistic analyses of European issues thus seems indispensable. I hope that JELiX can continue to be such a venue and attract many more contributors.

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