INTRODUCTION

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On June 29, 2021, Hans Petter Helland turns 60. We would like to take this opportunity to celebrate Hans Petter’s accomplishments to date, and we hope this Festschrift will provide additional inspiration for him to continue doing research for many years to come.

Hans Petter studied German and French at the University of Oslo from 1982 to 1987, where he graduated with an MA degree in French linguistics. The title of his dissertation was *Les constructions passives être + Vp passé et leur double interprétation*, which got an outstanding grade. In 1987, he also spent a semester in Strasbourg, obtaining a maîtrise de Lettres modernes. He qualified as a teacher in 1988, and he also spent a semester studying Norwegian as a second language.

After teaching French at the University of Oslo, Hans Petter applied for a scholarship from the research council to do his PhD in 1989. The project description is less than one page, which says a lot about how things have changed in academia since then. The application says that he would study central areas relating to the syntax–semantics interface, but beyond that, it does not say much about the specific topics. The application was successful, and on January 1, 1990, Hans Petter embarked on his PhD. In late August 1993, he defended his PhD dissertation, and the title was: *Une description sémantique et pragmatique de structures temporelles en français moderne. Application particulière au futur simple et au futur périphrastique*. His opponents were Professors Georges Kleiber (Strasbourg) and Henning Nølke (Aarhus). Tense and especially the future tense has always been a particularly beloved topic for Hans Petter.

After finishing his PhD, Hans Petter was hired as an Assistant Professor at the University of Trondheim (since 1996 NTNU – Norwegian University of Science and Technology) in 1992. After he defended his PhD, he was promoted to Associate Professor of French linguistics, a position that he held until 1999. On May 1 that year, he was promoted to full Professor of French linguistics. However, soon thereafter, Hans Petter left Trondheim and began as a Professor of French
linguistics at the University of Oslo (August 1, 1999). Since then, Oslo has been his main academic home, but he has also had adjunct professorships at NTNU in Trondheim (2010–2016), and at the University of Bergen (2020–2021). He was the director of teaching at l’Office franco-norvégien d’échanges et de coopération (OFNEC) in Caen, France, from 2011 to 2012. He has also been the chair of the Norwegian board for OFNEC from 2008 to 2011. From 2013 to 2020 he was an active member of the department board in Oslo with a keen interest in university politics and the particular challenges that the foreign languages face.

Hans Petter started out with work on passives and then tense, and he has returned to both topics several times. For instance, in 2002 he published the book *Le passif périphrastique en français moderne*. Later he has also done extensive work on secondary predication, possessives, adjuncts, and control. An interest which has become more prominent in recent years, involves the acquisition of second and third languages, including both natural and instructed language acquisition. All his research is heavily informed by theoretical developments within formal grammar, and he has played a vital role in disseminating insights from this framework to the French academic community in Norway. His textbook, *Ny fransk grammatikk: morfologi, syntaks og semantikk*, has been widely used. Hans Petter has also edited multiple special issues of journals, and two anthologies: *Challenging Clitics* (together with Christine Meklenborg Salvesen) published on John Benjamins in 2013, and *Affaire(s) de grammaire* (also with Christine Meklenborg Salvesen), published on Novus in 2014.

A lot of students have benefitted from Hans Petter’s insights, valuable advice, dedication, and commitment. He has supervised a huge number of MA theses and numerous PhD dissertations. In addition, he has served on a range of assessment committees nationally and internationally.

The contributions in this Festschrift relate in various ways to topics that Hans Petter has worked on. They have all been peer-reviewed. In addition to the editors and contributors, the following scholars have contributed to the peer review: Gisle Andersen, Helene N. Andreassen, Camilla Bardel, Kari Kinn, Hanne Korzen and Michael T. Putnam. We are very grateful to all of you for your help. In addition, we would like to thank Eirik Hvidsten for his terrific editorial assistance in the last stages of this project.

On behalf of all contributors and reviewers: Hans Petter, we offer you our warmest congratulations on your 60th birthday. Please accept this Festschrift as a token of our appreciation.

Oslo and Trondheim, June 14, 2021

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