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Die Amsterdamer Beiträge zur älteren Germanistik erscheinen in zwangloser Folge in Bänden von etwa 200 Seiten. Beiträge und Rezensionsexemplare werden an den Herausgeber

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erbeten. Der Verlag liefert den Verfassern 15 Sonderdrucke. Weitere Sonderdrucke können gegen Berechnung bestellt werden.

Es wird gebeten, die Titel der Literaturdenkmäler zwischen einfachen Anführungszeichen zu schreiben und nur die behandelten Wörter und Textstellen zu unterstreichen (kursiv).
abweimeln zu lassen (und die Daten neu einzugeben), sondern darauf zu bestehen, daß sie gelöst werden. Dazu wäre es aber nötig, daß Philologen und Sprachwissenschaftler, Historiker, Theologen und Rechtswissenschaftler sich eine Stimme in den zuständigen Gremien verschaffen.

Im Beitrag von Klaus M. Schmidt wird ein teilautonomatiches Verfahren zur Disambiguierung vorgestellt, wobei sowohl auf morphologischer Ebene als auch auf Begriffsebene eine kontextsensitive Methode benutzt wird. Für die morphologische Disambiguierung reicht ein Kontext von drei Wörtern links und rechts. Zwecks Disambiguierung auf Begriffssebene muß ein Kontext von 10 Wörtern links und rechts berücksichtigt werden. Durch statistische Verwertung von Kookkurrenzscheinungen lassen sich dann ausreichend frequenten Wörtern die richtigen Bedeutungen zuordnen.

Hans Fix-Bonner gibt einen überblick über Editionstypen, wie sie auf dem Gebiet des Altisländischen gemacht sind, und schildert wie auf Grundlage einer maschinenlesbaren, engen Transkription verschiedene Editionen produziert werden können.

Es ist gut zu sehen, daß auch in diesem Bereich zunehmend statistische Hilfsmittel verwendet werden, wie zum Beispiel im Beitrag von Brigitte Edrich "Computerunterstützte Analyse der Ambraser 'Erec'-Handschrift".

Andrea de Leeuw van Weenen


This volume is a collection of lectures which were held in Alkersum on the island of Föhr (North-Friesland) 10-11 October 1991. In the preface this "Förher Symposium zur friesischen Philologie" is placed in the tradition of Frisian philologist symposia dating back to the first filoloche kongres in Leeuwarden/Ljouwert, held in 1956. The organizers of the symposium, the "Ferring Stiftung" on the island of Föhr, considered this the proper moment to bring together frisologists from different countries, so that they could discuss each other's different approaches and methods of research. They hoped that by doing so they could avoid a further deviation of frisologists from the different Frisian regions (Friesland, North-Friesland, East-Friesland).

Considering the scope of this periodical I shall only discuss the articles dealing with a subject that could be of particular interest of its readers. Therefore the following articles will remain undiscussed: Jarich Hoekstra, 'Fering tu-Infinitives, North Sea Germanic Syntax and the Universal Grammar'; Siebren Dyk, 'Nomeninkorporation'; Adeline Petersen, "Jedermanns Freund ist jedermanns Narr - jedermanns Braut ist eine Hure". - Zum Bild von Frau und Mann in der friesischen Lexikographie'.

It is interesting to note that a large portion of the articles in this volume deal with lexicographical problems or issues. This is also the case with two of the three articles I want to discuss here. There are some interesting similarities between the article of Oebele Vries, 'Die Terminologie des schiedsgerichtlichen Verfahrens in der altfriesischen Urkundensprache' and that of Volkert F. Faltings, 'Die mittelniederdeutsche Schreibtradition Nordfrieslands als Quelle der ältesten nordfriesischen Sprachüberlieferung'. Both authors are hunting mediaeval sources for "real Frisian". Vries examines 112 mediaeval charters from Wester Lauwens Friesland, dating from 1382 to 1543 and written in Old Frisian. His interest concerns "real Frisian" tech-

27 Bei meinen Untersuchungen über altisländische und armenische Texte habe ich die gleichen Erfahrungen gemacht.
nical terms for the particular kind of law-procedure, known as "Schiedsgericht", court of arbitration. Vries follows the procedure word by word - or should I say: technical term by technical term. By looking into the vocabulary of the neighbouring languages Middle Dutch (MD) and Middle Low German (MLG) - by means of dictionaries - he tries to find out whether one is dealing with a common word or whether it is only found in the Frisian sources. In my opinion Vries is trying to do the impossible here and there are some objections to his methodology. As far as I am concerned, it was a surprise to see that he is able to present the word baer 'arbitrator's decree' as a convincing "real Frisian" technical term.

Faltings' approach is largely similar to that of Vries, but he is not in the same comfortable position as Vries is: there already exists something we call Old Frisian, which is, however, not the case with Old North Frisian. In order to be able to say something about the earlier phases of North Frisian, Faltings tackles a rather extensive corpus of Middle Low German "Dingprotokolle", written in the North Frisian region (Föhr and Amrum) between 1658 and 1671. These texts were probably written by people who spoke (North) Frisian in their daily life. But contrary to Vries, Faltings is using phonological, morphological and lexicographical evidence to support his argument. The fact that by doing so he provides the reader with an excerpt from a fictive Old North Frisian Grammar makes the article all the more interesting and readable. The only objection that could be made against both authors' arguments - and I think this goes more for Vries than for Faltings because of the former's more limited corpus - is that they seem to be treating the vocabularies of the "other" languages (MD and MLG) as if they were complete. This is evidently not the case, and we are just as much dependent on the texts that have survived as we are for Old Frisian. But this is only a minor point, certainly as far as Faltings, who has done a really thorough job, is concerned.

Rolf Bremmer's article - 'Willibrord through Anglo-Saxon and Frisian Eyes: from History to Myth' - is the only one that is written in English. Bremmer points out that there exists a peculiar dichotomy between the character of the Anglo-Saxon missionary Willibrord (658-739) as it is described in the early mediaeval Anglo-Saxon sources and that which appears in the Frisian sources from ca. 1200 to 1500. In the first part the author tells us what is known about Willibrord from the Anglo-Saxon sources. These, of course, do not tell us who the real Willibrord was, since we are sure to encounter many idealisations (hagiographical and other), but they do give us a more or less reliable account of the historical Willibrord's actions. In the second part Bremmer shifts to the image of Willibrord in Old Frisian texts. Here the missionary is no longer a devout monk, but a hero, a Christian knight who saves the Frisian people from the evil king Redbad and leads them into the safety of Charlemagne's reign. From the emperor (who is made into a contemporary of Redbad) they obtain the well known Frisian freedom. The author suspects that this tradition may have come into existence prior to 1220 (p. 9). Bremmer in his conclusion typifies the Frisian texts, in which the older Anglo-Saxon sources were ignored, although they circulated in mediaeval Friesland (p. 18) and a whole new history of the Frisians was forged from different traditions, as "literary monuments of a small people that, ever since their inclusion into the Carolingian Empire, had been struggling to maintain some kind of political independence" (p. 17). During this process a new Frisian mythography arose, which gave the Frisians their own place in the larger Christian community of medieval Europe, one they could be proud of. I think that by writing this article the author has made the first step (and a first step it is, according to the article itself and to a look in its bibliography) to a new, fruitful
approach towards the Frisian mediaeval sources. I certainly hope that more mediaevalists will follow his example.

Han Nijdam


The intense contact between Middle Low German (hence: MLG) and Middle Danish, Swedish and Norwegian (hence: MSc) in the days of the hanseatic league is one of the most interesting and decisive periods in Scandinavian language history. Its effects can hardly be overestimated - in one paper on MLG influence on Swedish (Törnqvist 1955) it is even stated that the Swedish language risked losing its Nordic identity. In Niederdeutsch und die skandinavischen Sprachen I, edited by Kurt Braunmüller and Willy Diercks, the contact-induced changes that the Scandinavian languages underwent are described as "der typologische und lexikalische Umbau vom Altdänischen und -schwedischen unter dem Einfluß des Mittelniederdeutschen" (p.88, my italics).

Therefore, it should cause little surprise that MLG influence on MSc has been extensively dealt with in Scandinavian philology. Some recent publications are Lena Moberg’s Lägtsk och svenskt i Stockholms medeltida tänkeböcker (1989) and the proceedings of the Niederdeutsch in Skandinavien conferences.

However, in spite of the merits of these works, thorough interdisciplinary studies, in which the various aspects of MLG-MSc contact are systematically approached within a solid theoretical framework, are absent. Thus, a project like "Niederdeutsch in Skandinavien", of which Niederdeutsch in Skandinavien I, as the title suggests, is the first result, is a praiseworthy enterprise. And the table of contents is indeed promising.

In the first paper, by the editors Willy Diercks and Kurt Braunmüller, the theoretical framework is described. The historical background is treated in Michael Engelbrecht's "Mitteleuropäisch-skandinavischer Kontakt zwischen 800 und 1600 aus historischem Blickwinkel". There is a paper by Gabriela Niepage called "Rezeptionsbedingungen volkssprachlicher Erzählastoffe im spätmittelalterlichen Skandinavien" (the title speaks for itself) and one by Ludger Zeevaert: "Sprachkontaktforschung anhand von Übersetzungsliteratur" (on textual functions). Three papers deal with linguistic matters in more detail: Kurt Braunmüller's "Voraussetzungen für die Übernahme mittelniederdeutscher Sprachstrukturen in die skandinavischen Sprachen"; Willy Diercks' "Zur Verwendung prä- und postmodifizierender Morpheme im Mittelniederdeutschen und in den Skandinavischen Sprachen", and again by Kurt Braunmüller: "Syntaktische Divergenzen und Transferenzen". Finally, the software that is being used is treated in Per Warter's "MANAL. Automatische Lemmatisierung zur Computersimulation des Sprachkontakts". The papers are followed by a description of the written sources that the research is based upon, references and index.

The text corpus consists of four MLG texts and their MSc (Danish + Swedish) translations (the MLG works, in turn, are often translations themselves). The reason why just these - relatively late - texts were chosen is that printed books, unlike the earlier manuscripts, were relatively widespread and represent "schriftlich normiertes volkssprachliches Material".

The texts are: 'Broder Rusche' (first printed in 1488; first Danish translation in 1555; first Swedish translation in 1645); 'Reynke de Vos' (first printed in 1498; first