

## Werk

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## Editorial note

*Turkic Languages, Volume 1, 1997, Number 2*

‘What an explosion of interest and work on Turkic these last years!’ The exclamation is quoted from one of the numerous letters to the editors which underscore the necessity of a new forum dedicated exclusively to the dynamic field of Turkic language studies. The journal *TURKIC LANGUAGES* has been initiated to meet this new interest, and the extraordinarily positive response to it and to our first call for papers has really been heartening to the editors.

One aim of the journal is to pave the way for more openness and mutual understanding between different branches of Turkic language studies. Some readers have expressed interest in an explicit discussion on theoretical and methodological differences in the field. The editors are encouraging all kinds of constructive interactivity, and would thus also consider publishing articles with peer commentary, complementary articles, multiple reviews, etc. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for this sort of more direct exchange of opinions and ideas.

It has been our ambition to let the ingredients of this first volume of *TURKIC LANGUAGES* intermingle to produce a taste pleasing a wide range of readers. The present issue contains contributions relating to several domains and written by older and younger scholars of various orientations.

Gunnar Jarring, the unrivalled founder of modern Eastern Turki studies, who published his first contributions to this field back in the 1930’s, presents a new solution to the problem of the etymology of the toponym *Takla-makan*.

With his article on two Turkic-based ‘hybrid languages’ in north-western China, Stephen A. Wurm, widely known for his linguistic atlases of the Pacific area and China, for coordinating the project *Endangered Languages of the World* etc., returns to the field of interest where his academic career started in the 1940’s—the Turkic languages of Central Asia.

Talât Tekin, who began his investigations into Old Turkic in the 1960’s and has been highly active in this field ever since, publishes his interpretation of the Yenisey inscription known as “Altın Köl I”.

The study of Turkish dialects, an old field of work currently subject to new and growing interest, is represented by Bernt Brendemoen's article on the peculiar use of the Turkish *-mİş* past in the Eastern Black Sea coast dialects.

Geoffrey Haig, who has just finished a book on the structure of Turkish relative clauses, discusses some aspects of this inexhaustible topic in a summarizing article.

Marc Vandamme and Hansje Braam report on the Uzbek part of the so-called Central Asian Language Corpora (CALC) project, aiming at language data collection and the creation of computer-readable text corpora for Central Asian Turkic languages.

Claus Schönig continues his discussion on questions of classification of the Turkic languages.

The obituary devoted to the Danish Turcologist and Mongolist Kaare Thomsen is written by Even Hovdhaugen, a linguist who originally began his career as a Turcologist with Thomsen at the University of Copenhagen.

In two articles in the section "Reports", Jurij V. Shcheka informs us on current Turcological work at the Moscow University, and Lütfiye Oktar gives an account of the 8th International Conference on Turkish Linguistics held in Ankara in 1996.

The second issue of the first volume of *TURKIC LANGUAGES* is concluded by five book reviews written by Sumru A. Özsoy, Árpád Berta, Fahrünnisa B. Kahraman and Erdal Şahin.

*Lars Johanson*