

Joachim Grzega

In Memoriam Sture Ureland (1937–2022)

It is with great sadness that we learned the passing of Sture Ureland, one of the pioneers of Eurolinguistics, on November 19th, at the age of 85.

Sture was born on June 26th, 1937. He graduated from the university in Uppsala in 1965 with a study on a problem in German syntax, but his interest in contrastive linguistics had already awakened during a stay in Berlin and later became even more profound during stays in Austin and Stockholm. He received his doctor's degree from the university of Umeå in 1973 with a study on verb complementation in Swedish and other Germanic languages. He finally turned professor for General Linguistics at the university of Mannheim.

In the late 1990s, after organizing several symposia on contact linguistics for over twenty years, he decided to foster the various aspects of what became known as Eurolinguistics and, in 1999, co-founded the international association Eurolinguistischer Arbeitskreis Mannheim (ELAMA), of which he was elected chairman. He co-organized and participated in several international conferences all over Europe. And since Eurolinguistic groups had also formed in Italy and Croatia, he brought all three together in the Eurolinguistic Association (ELA). From 2003 to 2018, he edited eleven volumes of his series *Studies in Eurolinguistics*. Some volumes are the proceedings of conferences. Even if not all papers presented a Eurolinguistic contribution in the strict sense of the word, Sture created the larger European picture through his preface.

I first met him personally at a Eurolinguistics conference in Leipzig in 2007. I had been into Eurolinguistics for about five years, and my *Journal for EuroLinguistiX* was only in its fourth year. Just before the conference start he saw me distributing a few flyers for the journal and said: "I'm Sture Ureland. I've seen you have an online journal. I would gladly like to support you." And so he did—by serving as a consulting editor of *JELiX* for some time. Further, he supported me by attending the first international Eurolinguistics conference that I organized at Europäisches Haus Pappenheim (EHP) in 2013. There, I was charged by the town of Pappenheim with establishing, as director, an institutionalized home of Eurolinguistic research and teaching. Sture kindly wrote about the EHP and the conference in his annual Eurolinguistics newsletter. A few years later, I was charged by Volkshochschule Donauwörth to initiate a project field "Innovative Europäische Sprachlehre (InES)". There, I have organized two conferences so far. Sture wanted to participate in the 2019 conference, but in the end, regrettably, did not feel strong enough to attend. However, he had been at my 2016 Eurolinguistics conference at the EHP and endorsed my Memorandum on Establishing Eurolinguistics as a University Field. One of the goals of this memorandum was that "Eurolinguistics shall promote an understanding of the language-driven causes of conflicts between groups in Europe, thereby serving peace research – within Europe and beyond Europe." This was based on the 1999 Pushkin Manifest, which he had co-initiated himself. Thesis 12 of this Manifest reads: "Eurolinguistics will promote an understanding of the inner causes of cultural, religious and political conflicts between major languages and between major and minority languages in Europe, thereby serving peace research." Sture was indeed a strong adherent of Eurolinguistics as a discipline that should and can help promote peace. This is also the spirit of *JELiX* in these times.

Thanks for your commitment and support, Sture. Rest in Peace.

— Joachim