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be had, too. The city renowned as the rain capital of Britain basked in a heatwave throughout the conference, thereby enhancing the social programme, which included trips to the Lake District and to nearby stately homes, a meal at a Cheshire banqueting hall, and receptions organized by the City of Manchester (in the Victorian Gothic splendour of the Town Hall) and the University of Manchester. Nigel Vincent, who presided over the conference, is to be congratulated on organizing one of the most successful ICHLs to date.

Several publications should result from the week’s presentations. Selected papers from the general sessions will appear in a volume edited by Delia Bentley, Linda van Bergen, Richard Hogg, and John Charles Smith, to be published by John Benjamins, of Amsterdam and Philadelphia. Another volume, containing most of the plenary papers and the proceedings of the workshop on “Syntactic Change in Cross-Linguistic Perspective”, will be edited by Kersti Börjars, David Denison, and Nigel Vincent. The organizers of the two other workshops are making separate arrangements for the publication of their proceedings.

The transatlantic pendulum now pauses for a while in Europe to allow Dieter Stein to organize the Thirteenth Conference at the University of Düsseldorf in 1997, before swinging back to North America, where Laurel Brinton will preside over the last ICHL of the millenium at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

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**PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED**

**OUVRAGES REÇUS**  
**EINGEGANGENE SCHRIFTEN**

**Note:** This listing acknowledges the receipt of recent writings in the study of language, with particular attention being given to those concerned with the history and the mechanisms of language change, comparative-historical philology, and language typology. Only in exceptional instances will a separate acknowledgment of receipt be issued; no book can be returned to the publisher after it has been analyzed in this section. It should be pointed out, moreover, that by accepting a book, no promise is implied that it will be reviewed in detail in *Diachronica*. Reviews are printed as circumstances permit, and offprints will be sent to the publishers of the works reviewed, including those items briefly commented upon in the present section.

Andersen, Henning, ed. 1993. Historical Linguistics 1993: Selected Papers from the 11th International Conference on Historical Linguistics, Los Angeles, 16-20 August 1993. (= Current Issues in Linguistic Theory, 124.) Amsterdam & Philadelphia: John Benjamins, ix, 460 pp. [The contributions are "Morpho-syntactic" by Andrew Allen, "Light shed on problems of Turkic conjugation: The Northeast Turkic progressive present in Ipač(t) and the 'mixed' conjugation" by Gregory S. Anderson, "On the history of relative clauses in French and some of its dialects" by Julie Auger, "Functional renewal" by Laurel Brinton and Dieter Stein, "Passives and ergatives in Middle Indo-Aryan" by Vit Bubenik, "Evidence of grammaticalization in Pennsylvania German" by Kate Burridge, "Old forms for new concepts: The recategorization of possessive duplcatives in Mexican Spanish" by Concepción Company, "On subjectification, modal adverbs" by C. Jac Coudal, "Gender, class, and prestige in the spread of an allomorph" by Thomas D. Cravens and Lucianon Giannelli, "Re-construction of the Proto-Romance syllable" by Naomi Cull, "The development of word-final /l/ in English" by Andrei Danchan, "Areal linguistics in prehistory: Evidence from Indo-European aspect" by Bridget Drinka, "The later stages in the development of the definite article: Evidence from French" by Richard Epstein, "Parameters underlying the organization of medieval Russian texts" by Jadranka Gvozdanovic, "What the choice of the overt nominizer NO did to Modern Japanese syntax and semantics" by Kaoru Horie, "On categorial evolution: A case study in Spanish possessives" by Masataki Ishikawa, "Regression and creation in the double accusative in Ancient Greek" by Bernard Jacquenoud, "Morphological reanalysis and typology: The case of the German r-plural and why English did not develop it" by Dieter Kastovsky, "On the grammaticalization of the definite article SE in spoken Finnish" by Ritva Laury, "Identifying an Old French text with the help of dialect analysis" by Leena Löfstedt, "Prototypicality and agendhohy in Indo-European" by Silvia Luraghi, "Genetic congruence versus areal convergence: The misfortune of Latin AD in Romanian" by Maria Manoloiu-Manea, "On the fate of adverbal declension in overseas Dutch (with some notes on the historic Dutch)" by Betty S. Phillips, "Verb-seconding in Old English" by Susan Pintzuk, "The thematic structure of the main clause in Old French, OR versus SI" by Pieter van Reenen & Lene Schøsler, "On different ways of optimizing the sound shape of words" by Elke Ronneberger-Sibold, and "Exaptation and grammaticalization" by Nigel Vincent. The volume closes with a useful name index of names and language index, but there is no subject index.]

Blässing, Uwe. 1995. Armenisch-Türkisch: Etymologische Betrachtungen ausgehend von Materialien aus dem Armenisch-Türkisch-Studienprojekt. (= Dutch Studies in Armenian Language and Literature, 4.) Amsterdam & Atlanta, GA: Rodopi, 207 pp. [In this fascinating and well-documented study, B presents detailed etymological discussions of 100 words, including 19 placenames, from the dialect of Turkish spoken in the Ermen region in northeastern Turkey, that are borrowings from Armenian, especially the local variety. Influences from other languages in the area, including Pontic Greek, Kurdish, Georgian, and Laz, among others, are also dis- cassed. There are as well a brief description of Henm Armenien (140-144), an extensive word-index (147-169), a rich bib. (171-190), and 17 interesting photographs and maps.]

Boutkan, Dirk. 1995. The Germanic 'Austlautgesetz'. (= Leiden Studies in Indo-European, 4.) Amsterdam & Atlanta: Rodopi B.V., viii, 476 pp. [This comprehensive and richly documented study, B's 1994 Leiden University doctoral dissertation, reexamines the question of the development of Proto-Indo-European final syllables on the way into Germanic from the perspective gained by various recent advances in the reconstruction of the proto-language. B argues that the "standard theory, which entered most handbooks of Old Germanic linguistics, has turned out to be unlikely as a result of new investigations" (p. vii). After introductory chapters in which the problems are laid out, in chap. 3, B presents the evidence "in the form of a historical overview of the nominal and verbal morphology of the Old Germanic languages" (p. vii), which by the way serves a lasting function as a reference guide to Germanic historical morphology. He then proceeds to formulate the 'phonological rules for Germanic final syllables and their relative chronology' (p. 384) in chap. 4. An appendix with the evidence for Runic and Gothic final syllable developments and a rather concise subject index close out the volume.]

Brown, Gillian. 1995. Speakers, Listeners and Communication: Explorations in discourse analysis. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, xii, 251 pp. [Concerned primarily with giving "an account of how listeners behave as they participate in dialogues in which information is exchanged" (p. i), this book examines the ways in which speakers will draw on their participation as listeners in a conversation in constructing what they say in their turn in the discourse. B's data base is a set of dialogues involving speakers/listeners with varied backgrounds who were given tasks to perform jointly, but with different amounts and types of relevant information given to the different participants, so as to encourage the sharing of information for the successful completion of the task. The book concludes with a bibliography and a somewhat sparse index of subjects and names.]

Carter, Ronald. 1995. Keywords in Language and Literacy. London & New York: Routledge, xii, 172 pp. [Intended as a reference work for "all teachers and students of language and education, and anyone interested in the place of language in our schools" (p. i), this book provides concise definitions for 76 terms and concepts, including 'language change', 'dialect', 'non-standard English', and 'Standard English', focusing on their relevance for how linguistics can be applied to education and educational issues. There is considerable cross-referencing among entries as well as suggestions for additional reading with each entry.]

Engel, Jan. 1994. Verb i passiv fylgja eft perkusum partispul: Bruk og historie. Oslo: Novus Forlag, x, 374 pp. [This work studies the Norwegian construction consisting of a verb in the passive followed by a perfect participle. E documents not only the synchronic use of this syntagm but also its historical antecedents in earlier stages of North Germanic and its development within Norwegian. The question of influence from other languages, especially Latin, is considered as well. Parallels with similar modes of expression in other languages are presented in an appendix. The volume closes with various indices and a bib.]
contributions are "The phonetic phenomena connected with the strengthening and the weakening of sonants in Bulgarian and Macedonian dialects" by Jerzy Durna, "Parasitic consonants: A homographic clash" by Thera de Jong, "The nature of Old English dialect distributions, mainly as exhibited in chapter boundaries" by Peter R. Kieon, "Geographical and linguistic distance in thirteenth-century Dutch" by Marijke Moojaart, "Copyist behavior: Historical linguistics and text filiation" by Margot van Mulken, "Contractions of preposition and plural article without s (e.g. a + les > au) in Old French, a completely overlooked problem of paradigm formation with implications for the theory of language change" by Pieter van Reenen, "Slavonic Pomerania in the past: Its links with neighboring areas and its internal division" by Ewa Szetselska-Feleszko, "New methods in textual criticism: The case of the Charrois de Blanes" by Marek Schuster, "Sociolectalization as a feature in different traditions of medieval drama" by Max Siller, "Realizations of the definite article in dialectal English and how and when they originated" by Wolfgang Vierack. "A hypothesis on the structure of macaronic business writing" by Laura Wright. A sparse subject index, a language index, and a name index round out the volume.

Franken, Gereon. 1995. Systematische ETymologie: Untersuchung einer 'Mischsprache' am Beispiel des Shakespeare-Wortschatzes. (= Anglistische Forschungen, 228). Heidelberg: C. Winter, 154 pp. [F reports here on some results from an on-going research project at the Universität Münster into the vocabulary of Shakespeare. Of concern here are the etymological sources of Shakespeare's lexicon, not only the ultimate origin of various words but more importantly the immediate source, the path by which an Arabic word, for instance, made its way into Shakespearean usage. F explores these questions against the backdrop of perspectives gained through recent investigations into language contact and especially extreme contact situations involving creoles and the notion of "mixed languages". The volume has a bib. but no index.]

Frellesvig, Bjørke. 1995. A Case Study in Diachronic Phonology: The Japanese 'onbin' sound changes. Aarhus & Oakville, Ct.: Aarhus Univ. Press, 168 pp. [Working within the model of language change put forth by Henning Andersen, F here analyzes a heretofore well-described but poorly understood set of sound changes that took place in Old (OJ) and Early Middle Japanese (EMJ) that mostly involve "the non-automatic change of certain word medial CV syllables into single segments, which became the second mora of long syllables" (p.20). These changes "resulted in a complete restructuring of the phonological (specifically: prosodic) system of EMJ: whereas OJ only knew short syllables, EMJ through the onbin changes acquired quantity sensitivity which has remained a salient feature of the language ever since" (p.16). Included in F's interesting work are detailed accounts of Andersen's views of how language changes (Chap.2) and of the phonology of the relevant periods of Japanese (Chap.3), with the bulk of the analysis of the sound changes per se given in Chap.4, 6, and 7. The work ends with a bib. but has no index.]

Hancock, Ian. 1995. A Handbook of Vlax Romani. Columbus, Oh.: Slavica Publishers, 178 pp. [As Victor Friedman remarks in the Foreword to this book, H presents here a grammatical account of Romanı that is not only "descriptive but also potentially [...] prescriptive insofar as its manner of description supplies a basis for the creation of a supradialectal standard" (p.14). H's focus is the "cluster of dialects known as Vlax (or Vlach, Wallachian or Danubian) [which] emerged during the five or six hundred years during which Gypsies were kept as slaves in Wallachia and Moldavia, former principalities which today constitute parts of modern Romania" (p.30). Vlax Romani is now the most widely distributed Romanı dialect, spoken in all of Europe, in the Americas, in Australia, and in parts of Africa and Asia, and is thus the variety "which will be most widely useful to the learner" (p.31). After a general introduction on Romanı, covering its Indic origins, its dialects, and its spelling, H gives detailed accounts of the phonology, morphology, and word-formation, with brief remarks on syntax and occasional etymological observations. An index and bibliography close out this extremely interesting and useful work.]

Huck, Geoffrey J. & John A. Goldsmith. 1995. Ideology and Linguistic Theory: Noam Chomsky and the deep structure debates. London & New York: Routledge, x, 186 pp. [The authors present here an account of the often acrimonious debates in the late 1960s on the role of semantics in generative syntax, specifically the dispute between advocates of Generative Semantics on the one hand and those of Interpretive Semantics on the other. They "reject the standard story of the rise and fall of Generative Semantics" and "conclude that the debates about deep structure failed to settle a number of the larger issues, although settlement is often presumed in current research" (p.3). They discuss some of the rhetorical techniques used by both sides, reasons why the Generative Semantics fell apart so rapidly in the 1970s, and the consequences of these debates for current investigations. A notable feature is the appendix, with conversations with four leading participants in the debates: Ray Jackendoff, George Lakoff, John Robert Ross, and Paul Postal. A thorough bib. and a useful index round out the volume.]

Keller, Rudi. 1995. Zeichentheorie. Zu einer Theorie semiotischen Wissens. (= Uni-Taschenb. Schriften, 1849). Tübingen & Basel: Francke, 276 pp. [Communicating is a rational guessing-game. People are able to interpret perceptible events and to take advantage of the interpretational abilities of their fellow human beings for the purposes of communication. They are engaged in a communicative endeavor that is not a prerequisite to successful communicative endeavours, but rather their unplanned consequence. The theory put forward here attempts to show how linguistic signs come into being through the communicative use of semiotic knowledge, how they function, and how they change. The following are the main questions addressed: Are linguistic signs images or tools? How do we calculate linguistic meanings? How do symbols come into being? What relationship is there between conventionality, arbitrariness, and motivation? How can a nonliteral sense be produced from a conventional meaning? What do "metaphorization", "lexicalization", and "fading" mean? The book is divided into an introduction, five sections ("Two sign interpretations", "Semantics and cognition", "Sign formation", "Sign metamorphoses", "The diachronic dimension"), and a summary.]

Lauer, Reinhard & Werner Lehfeldt, eds. 1995. Das jugoslawische Desaster: Historische, sprachliche und ideologische Hintergründe Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 199 pp. [This volume surveys the current situation in what is often referred to as "the former Yugoslavia" from a variety of perspectives—historical, literary, political, and linguistic. The extensive chapter by the noted Slavist Radislav Katčić, "Serbokroatische Sprache — Serbisch-kroatischer Sprachstreit", the longest in the book, examines the notions of "Serbian language", "Croatian language", and "Serbo-Croatian language" from the point of view of language history, language attitudes, and language ideology. The volume includes several photos of symbols and art relevant to the area, as well as various historical maps. Each chapter includes its own bibliographic references, and there is a name index for the whole volume.]

Loprieno, Antonio. 1995. Ancient Egyptian: A linguistic introduction. New York: Cambridge Univ. Press, xv, 322 pp. [In this work, L provides "the linguistic audience with an introduction to the historical grammar of Ancient Egyptian, one of the oldest and longest documented languages of mankind" while also aiming "to reach the numerically much
smaller public of Egyptologists interested in linguistic issues" (p.xi). The result is a fascinating and well-documented account of all aspects of the Egyptian language: its hieroglyphic writing system, phonology, morphology, and nominal, verbal, adverbial, and pseudo- verbal syntax. L focuses on synchronic accounts of Old and Middle Egyptian, but also "proceeds diachronically to investigate the main features of Late Egyptian and Coptic, especially when this evolution displays changes which attract the linguist’s attention" (p. xii). An extensive bib. (279-292), and indices of passages cited (293-300), of morphemes (301-303), of lexemes (304-312), and of topics (313-322) enhance the utility and interest of this fine volume.

Malmkjær, Kirsten, ed. 1995. The Linguistics Encyclopedia. London & New York: Routledge, xx, 575 pp. [In its more than 30 main entries, this encyclopedia treats nearly 150 topics in linguistics in some detail, with reference to numerous others. Of special interest to readers of Diachronica are the extensive section on "Historical linguistics" by James M. Anderson (the longest in the book), "Language surveys" and "Dialectology" by Mark Newbrook, and "Origin of language", "Language universals", "Language typology", "Diglossia", "Creoles and pidgins", "Artificial languages", and "Writing systems", all by the editor Malmkjær. There is excellent cross-referencing among entries, as well as an extensive bib. (304-542) and a detailed index (543-575).]

Matras, Yaron. 1994. Untersuchungen zu Grammatik und Diskurs des Romanen: Dialekt der Kelderasha/Lovara. (= Osteuropa-Institut der Freien Universität Berlin, Baltanologische Veröffentlichungen, 26.) Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, x, 256 pp. [This careful and informative study examines the most widespread and prominent Romani dialects from two key perspectives: that of discourse-pragmatics and that of language typology. Working from materials (narratives, speeches, debates) collected from 6 speakers of widely varying ages, M provides a description of the grammar, focusing on reference (especially indefiniteness and deixis), the verbal categories of tense, aspect, and mood, word order, predication, coordination, and complementation. The volume closes with a bib. (245-252) and general index (253-256).]

Matras, Yaron, ed. 1995. Romani in Contact: The history, structure and sociology of a language. Amsterdam & Philadelphia: John Benjamins, xvii, 205 pp. [This volume brings together revisions of some of the papers given at a 1993 workshop in Hamburg on "Romani in Contact with Other Languages", a gathering that was renamed the First International Conference on Romani Linguistics, in anticipation of similar meetings in the future. After an introduction that provides historical background on Romani studies, the following contributions are found: "On typological changes and structural borrowing in the history of European Romani" by Vit Bubeník, "On the migration and affiliation of the Dómbsa: Iranian words in Rom, Lom and Dom Gypsy" by Ian Hancock, "Plagiarism and lexical orphans in the European Romani lexicon" by Anthony Grant, "Interdialectal interference in Romani" by Norbert Bozetzyk, "Verb evidentials and their discourse function in Vlach Romani narratives" by Yaron Matras, "Notes on the genesis of Caló and other Iberian Para-Romani varieties" by Peter Bakker, "Romani lexical items in colloquial Romanian" by Corina Leechter, "Romani standardization and status in the Republic of Macedonia" by Victor A. Friedman, "Trials and error in written Romani on the pages of Romani periodicals" by Milena Hübschmannová. Each paper has its own bib., though there are no indices.]

Mayrhofer, Manfred. 1995. Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Altindoarischen. II. Band, Lieferungen 17, 18. (=Indogermanische Bibliothek II. Reihe. Wörterbcher). Heidelberg: C. Winter, 80 pp. (each). [The next two in the series of fascicles in which M is reworking his own earlier Kurzgefasste Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Altindoarischen, the first one covers pages 481-560 and runs from loka- to vavvant-; while the second one covers pages 561-640 and runs from viš- to stāya-. As with the previous fascicles, all the entries are of considerable interest and provide judicious summaries of the relevant literature on each word. Among the particularly important words and roots included herein are, in 17, loka- "world", vakṣ- "grow", vak- "speak", vacas- "foot", vajra- "thread", vad- "speak", vak- "strike", vadvā- "bride", vav- "bird", var- "choose", var- "enclose", varuna- "god’s name", vart- "tum", vardh- "increase", var- "min", vas- "wish", vas- "cloth", vas- "shore", vas- "dwell", vas- "good(s)", vah- "drive", and vāt- "wind", and in 18, viš- "settlement", viśā- "all", virā- "man", vṛka- "wolf", vṛṣā- "manly; male animal", ved- "find", know", vyadh- "damage", sves- "praise", sākara- "excrement", sata- "hundred", lām- "become quiet, grow weary", śiv- "lie", śiv- "grow strong", sās- "order", and strās- "head".]

Mills, Sara. 1995. Feminist Stylistics. London & New York: Routledge, viii, 230 pp. [This work "aims to make explicit some of the untenable assumptions underlining conventional stylistics, and, by not simply adding gender to its list of interesting elements to analyse, to take stylistics into a new phase" (p.17). Among its innovative approaches is the analysis of nonliterary texts, such as advertisements. Although linguistic change is not of particular concern in the presentation, there is some discussion, especially in Chap.4 on "Analysis at the Level of the Word", of ways in which feminist ideology and the concerns it has raised have led to a climate favoring certain changes in English, e.g., in the use of generic pronouns and nouns and of gender-free language in general; similarly, M discusses the semantics of English words pertaining to women, naming customs, taboo, euphemism, and the like, thus bringing out numerous instances of lexical changes reflecting various prevalent social attitudes. The volume ends with a glossary, a bib., and a brief index.]

Oostdijk, Nelleke & Pieter de Haan, eds. 1994. Corpus-based Research into Language, in honour of Jan Aarts. (= Language and Computers: Studies in practical linguistics, 12.) Amsterdam & Atlanta, Ga.: Rodopi, viii, 279 pp. [The contributions to this Festschrift are the "Introduction" by Nelleke Oostdijk and Pieter de Haan, "Continuity and change in the encoding of computer corpora" by Stig Johansson, "Tagging the British ICE corpus: English word classes" by Sidney Greenbaum and Ni Yblin, "The large-scale grammatical tagging of text: Experience with the British national corpus" by Geoffrey Leech, Roger Garise and Michael Bryant, "Computerized lexicons and theoretical models" by Willem Meijer, "Resolving lexical ambiguity" by Louise Guthrie, Joe Guthrie and Jim Cowie, "Prospects for practical parsing of unrestricted text: Robust statistical parsing techniques" by Ted Briscoe, "Robust parsing of unconstrained text" by Fred Karlsson, "Using parsed corpora: A review of current practice" by Clive Soutter and Eric Atwell, "An experiment in customizing the Lancaster Treebank" by Ezra Black, "SUSANNE: A domesday book of English grammar" by Geoffrey Sampson, "What is wrong with adding one?" by William Gale and Kenneth Church, "Intra-textual variation within medical research articles" by Douglas Biber and Edward Finegan, "On the functions of such in spoken and written English" by Bengt Altenberg, "Imparsable speech: Repeats and other nonfluencies in spoken English" by Anna-Brita Stenström and John Svertvik. A tribute to the honoree, and a composite bib. (255-276) are included as well.]
Sbeschler, Lene & Mary Talbot, eds. 1995. Studies in Valency I. (= RASK Supplement, 1). Odense: Odense Univ. Press, x, 235 pp. [Reflecting the “intense academic linguistic discussions” in Denmark “focusing on the notion of VALENCY since the mid-eighties” (p.vii), this volume contains 10 studies by Danish and Belgian scholars on this topic. The contributions are “The object relation and the notion of incorporation” by Michael Herlund, “Valency and semantic variation” by Finn Sørensen, “Complex noun phrases in Danish. A valency perspective” by Irène Baron, “Nominalization and valency in automatic NLP” by Helle Wegener, “Some computational problems in valency-driven machine translation” by Rudi Gebruers, “Methodological reflections on descriptive linguistics. Knud Togeby’s principles and the non-structural approach” by Karel van den Eynde, “Pronominal feature analysis with a view to a valency description of Danish” by Sabine Kirchmeier-Anderßen, “Valency description – A question of strategy and purposes. Expression and content valency. Part I” by Lisbeth Palser Jakobsen, “Valency description – A question of strategy and purposes. Expression and content valency. Part II” by Lone Schack Rasmussen, and “Danish predicative adjectives and adverbials as valency bearers” by Lars Helftto. While Danish is the focus of many of the papers, data from English, French, German, Latin, and Spanish also figure in the discussions.]

Trask, R. L[arry]. 1995. Language: The basics. London & New York: Routledge, xv, 197 pp. [Not a textbook per se but instead a work aimed “only to get [the reader] thinking about one of the most important and fascinating topics [they] could ever hope to encounter: human language” (p.xii). This book treats, in successive chapters, “The uniqueness of human language”, “The grammatical backbone”, “Language and meaning”, “Variation in language”, “Change in language”, “Language, mind and brain”, “Children and language”, and “Attitudes to language”. It includes suggestions for further reading, several pages of references (185-189), and a good index (191-197).]

Wang, William S-Y., ed. 1995. The Ancestry of the Chinese Language. (= Journal of Chinese Linguistics, Monograph Series, 8.) Berkeley, Cal., xiv, 438 pp. [This volume contains papers and commentaries from a conference held at the City Univ. of Hong Kong, in July 1994, that focused on various proposals for the linguistic relatedness of the Chinese dialects. Possible connections that are explored include grouping Chinese with Tibeto-Burman (discussed by William H. Baxter and by Gong Hwang-chung), with Austroasiatic (by Paul Jenkuc Li and by Laurent Sagart), with Indo-European (by E. G. Pulleyblank), and with North Caucasian and Yeneseian (by Sergei Starostin). Commentary on these proposals is provided by Robert Blust, William Meacham, and Stanley Starosta, and by most of the authors of papers as well (on papers other than their own). The result is not so much a consensus of any sort, but a high-level debate on where Chinese might fit in with other language families, and what the methodological bases are for making such decisions. An extensive (33-page) bib. concludes the volume.]

Waters, Calvert. 1995. How to Kill a Dragon: Aspects of Indo-European poetics. New York & Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, xvi, 613 pp. (As is well-known, the various ancient Indo-European peoples “spoke related languages, derived from a common ancestral tongue, and occupied then and now most of the territory from the western isles of Europe to the northern half of the Indian subcontinent” (p.vii)). In this monumental work, W advances our understanding of these ancient societies through the development of what he terms “comparative Indo-European poetics”, which he defines as “a linguistic approach — both historical and theoretical, both genetic and typological, both diachronic and synchronic — to the form, nature, and function of poetic language and archaic literature” (p.vii). Using the Comparative Method and a close and careful reading of a large number of textual passages, W develops a notion of “genetic intertextuality” of all versions of certain particular [Indo-European] formulas and themes, varying in time, space and languages” and argues that this “constitutes a background without which one cannot fully apprehend, understand and appreciate the traditional elements in a given poetic text in an early Indo-European language” (p.vii). After presenting the necessary tools for these explorations in part I of the book, W goes on to discuss numerous smaller-scale case studies from Greek, Indo-Iranian, Celtic, Italic, and Anatolian, before turning to the “main event”, the case study promised in the title. The second half of the book is devoted to a detailed exposition of the Indo-European form of a dragon-slaying myth, as revealed in the language of the formulas used in the references to this myth in a number of ancient Indo-European traditions. W builds a compelling case for his interpretation, and thus as well for the methodology he employs in reaching it. This work is richly illustrated with examples from the relevant literature, with all passages presented both in the original and in translation. An extensive bib. (550-576), an index of names and subjects (577-585), an index of passages cited (586-600), and an index of words cited (601-613) close this remarkable volume.]

Wexler, Paul. 1993. The Ashkenazic Jews: A Slavo-Turkic people in search of a Jewish identity. Columbus, Ohio: Slavica Publishers, iv, 306 pp. (In this provocative and well-documented book, W explores “the proposition that the Ashkenazic Jewish community — the largest by far of all the so-called Jewish communities in history owes its formation mainly to the mergers of majority non-Jewish proselyte populations with tiny ethnic Palestinian Jewish populations” (p.2). Moreover, he argues that the “major component in the Ashkenazic ethnogenesis is Slavic; minor strains came from European Turkic, Germanic, Hungarian, Balkan and possibly heterogeneous Western Asian (Anatolian) ethnic groups” (p.2). In support of his claims, in an attempt “to distinguish between the borrowing and the inheritance of religious practices and folkways” (p.7), W adds evidence of a linguistic, an historical, a cultural nature, and a religious nature. The work closes with an extensive bib. (274-306).]

Wichmann, Sören. 1995. The Relationship among the Mixe-Zoquean Languages of Mexico. Salt Lake City: Univ. of Utah Press, xxxiv, 619 pp. (Basing his presentation partly on the results of his own field work, W here describes the historical development of the phonology of the Mixe-Zoquean languages of southern Mexico (in the regions of Veracruz, Oaxaca, Tabasco, and Chiapas) and provides a new classification of the relationships among these languages. He first gives a summary of synchronic Mixe phonology (Chap.2), and then reconstructs his own view of proto-Mixe-Zoquean phonology (Chap.3). With that basis, W explores Mixean diachronic phonology in general (Chap.4), and then provides a detailed look at the phonological development of Oaxaca Mixe (Chap.5) and Chiapas Zoque (Chap.6). Chapters 7-9 provide an interpretation of this evidence with regard to subgrouping among the languages, including the sometimes confounding effects of language contact. In the long and especially valuable second part (pp.229-611), W presents “2,218 cognate sets, 2,207 of which are headed by reconstructed forms” (p.xiv), introducing them with a guide and following them by indices. This work will surely be of crucial importance to all Meso-Americans, but should be of interest as well to general historical linguists because of its level of detail.]

Compiled by Brian D. Joseph (with help from Hyeon-Seok Kang and Marilyn Blackwell)