

ON PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ESTONIAN AS A RESEARCH LANGUAGE IN ANTHROPOLOGY – THE ROLE OF THE YEARBOOKS OF THE ESTONIAN ANTHROPOMETRIC REGISTER (1998–2002) IN IT

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ABSTRACT

A few years after its foundation (1993), the Centre for Physical Anthropology at the University started cooperation with the Estonian Anthropometric Register. Together, it was decided to publish the Estonian-language Yearbook of the Estonian Anthropometric Register to preserve and develop Estonian as the language of research in anthropology. By that time, the Centre for Physical Anthropology had also started to publish the collection *Papers on Anthropology* in English.

The article provides an overview of the Yearbooks of the Estonian Anthropometric Register 1998–2002. The covers of the yearbooks were designed by Michael Walsh and the language editor was Leelo Jago. From 1999, all the articles were accompanied by summaries in English. The Yearbook of 2002 is indexed in SPORTDiscus database. All the Yearbooks were printed by University of Tartu Press.

The overview presents the cover, title page and contents of the first Yearbook; the following Yearbooks are represented only by the contents and summaries of prefaces by editor-in-chief Helje Kaarma.

General characterisation of the five Yearbooks: 1129 pages in total, 125 published publications, 125 researchers as their first authors, in addition to them 171 co-authors; thus, 296 researchers participated as authors of articles. Actually, these numbers turn out to be smaller, as the number of authors of articles ranges between one and eight.

Based on this, a table has been compiled about the distribution of articles per number of authors.

The second part of the overview presents, as Tables, the distribution of articles according to their first authors by years and the distribution of articles between the authors from Tartu and Tallinn, and from the institutions of these towns. We also add the list of co-authors and the numbers of their participation in the articles of the Yearbooks.

Based on the overview, it can be said that the five Yearbooks of the Estonian Anthropometric Register published from 1998–2002, their 125 publications and 56 researchers as first authors and their 77 co-authors, thus a total of 133 authors have a definite and constant role and significance in the preservation and development of Estonian as a language of research in this period.

The question arises whether there is any other branch of research in Estonia, the representatives of which would have done anything similar in these years or earlier for the preservation and development of Estonian as a research language in their area, not only published articles in English.

Keywords: Centre for Physical Anthropology at the University of Tartu; Yearbooks of the Estonian Anthropometric Register; Estonian as research language in anthropology; Helje Kaarma

PART I

For several reasons, researchers from Estonia have published their research papers on anthropology in Latin, German, Russian, French, Estonian, and finally, in English, the main language of research in the present-day world, as it has become the common language of researchers.

It is known how, during this period, some journals in national languages have switched to English. To begin with, summaries in English were required, then articles were translated into English, and finally, only papers written in English were admitted as contributions to journals [7].

English has exerted a remarkable influence on the once strong and independent German-language world of research – today, English is the main working language for more than three quarters of German natural scientists [8].

Finnish scientific and academic life turned to English in the 1950s when exchange programmes with US universities began [9].

The Anglo-German bibliographic databases of the initial years of the 21st century show that English dominates clearly in all areas of research, e.g. in natural sciences 87.2% of publications are in English, in social sciences the proportion is somewhat smaller, 82.5% [1].

Against the background of such general developments, English is inarguably becoming more predominant in research activities in Estonia as well. Still, it should be considered how the Estonian language develops as a language of research and what should be done so that the university teaching staff and students, when writing their research papers or presenting their results, could use immaculate Estonian language.

Although throughout the 19th century, Tartu had a world-class university, we did not have Estonian-speaking intelligentsia and even academic Estonian language in the early 20th century.

Therefore, after gaining independence, the Republic of Estonia considered it necessary to make Estonian the language of tuition at the University of Tartu.

Along with developing international research, the creation of Estonian-speaking intelligentsia was set as a major aim to enable the state to function and develop in Estonian. The objective of the Republic of Estonia is the preservation of the Estonian people, the Estonian language and the Estonian culture. This it is not possible without Estonian intellectuals.

An intellectual is a carrier of the literary language. If Estonian intellectuals' linguistic value assessments are shaped by some other language instead of the mother tongue, what is it then that would keep the Estonian language and Estonian-language culture alive? The extinction of languages always begins from education and intellectuals [11].

At present, approximately 7000 languages are spoken in the world. The Estonian language is not among the one third of languages that are in direct danger of extinction, as the number of speakers of Estonian is about a million, Estonian has a status of the official language and is one of the 24 official working languages of the European Union [14].

What can be done to keep the Estonian language from becoming only a home language or falling into the danger of direct extinction – would we be happy about this kind of development?

Action is needed, as in the digital age some changes, including the decline of smaller languages, can happen very quickly.

In the early 20th century, Professor of Anatomy A. Rauber planned founding an institute of anthropology at the University of Tartu but did not get any support from the University. In the years before World War II, Prof. Juhan Aul, the grand old man of our anthropology, considered it necessary to found an anthropological research institute at the Estonian Academy of Sciences but did not succeed either [13].

In the first years after Estonian regained independence, during the reforms of the University of Tartu, the Centre for Physical Anthropology was created

as a separate structural unit of the Institute of Anatomy at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Tartu. The Centre was founded at the initiative of Prof. Helje Kaarma by the order of Rector Prof. Peeter Tulviste (1945–2017) on 18 July 1993.

The aim of the Centre was to direct and coordinate teaching and research of anthropology at the University and the whole of Estonia and to supervise degree studies in the speciality.

The Centre for Physical Anthropology unites experts in different specialities from the whole of Estonia who are interested in anthropology. The Centre became a member of the European Anthropological Association [10].

The series of anthropology conferences in Tartu continued. During the first five years of the Centre, three collections of conference abstracts were published in English and two collections of articles in English – *Papers on Anthropology* VI and VII (respectively in 1995 and 1997). The articles of the latter collection were internationally peer-reviewed. By today, this collection has become the journal *Papers on Anthropology*, which is published twice a year and is also available electronically [12].

In 1995, a new structure became operative at the Centre – the Estonian Anthropometric Register, financed from the state budget. The Register was established in cooperation with the Bureau of Medical Statistics. The Anthropometric Register was meant for storing the anthropometric data of the whole of Estonia [10].

By that time, the Centre for Physical Anthropology had published the collection *Papers on Anthropology VI* in English, and the next issue was being compiled.

Before that, the anthropologists of the University had published their papers in the series of the Transactions of Tartu State University *Antropoloogia-alased tööd (Труды по антропологии)*, no. 1–4, 1964–1988.

In the first three collections, if the article was in Estonian, the summary was in Russian and in German or English; if the article was in Russian, the summary was in Estonian and in German or English; if the article was in German, the summary was in Estonian and Russian. The fourth collection was entirely in Russian.

In the 1980s, several changes took place in Estonian education and research. On 30 September 1988, the university council adopted new statutes, according to which the name of the university was changed into the University of Tartu. The University of Tartu became the national university of Estonia. The Transactions of Tartu State University were renamed the Transactions of the University of Tartu.

The publication of *Papers on Anthropology* continued, now with the title in English, but the serial numbers of the series that had its beginning in 1964 with its old name *Antropoloogia-alaseid töid* did not change.

Issue 951 of Transactions of the University of Tartu, *Papers on Anthropology* V was published in English on 130 pages in 1992, thus after the restoration of Estonia's independence [12].

As can be seen, the language of this collection also finally changed to English, similarly to research literature elsewhere in the world.

Therefore, to develop and preserve Estonian as a research language in anthropology, the Centre for Physical Anthropology and the researchers interested in anthropology decided to found the Yearbook of the Estonian Anthropometric Register (Eesti Antropomeetriaregistri Aastaraamat) that was published in Estonian.

The first Yearbook of the Estonian Anthropometric Register was published in 1998. Its cover and title page are shown respectively in Figures 1 and 2.



Figure 1. Cover of the Yearbook of the Estonian Anthropometric Register 1998 [2].



Figure 2. Title page of the Yearbook of the Estonian Anthropometric Register 1998 [2].

As the Yearbook is in Estonian, we publish the introduction by its editor-in-chief, Prof. H. Kaarma here in English: “Hereby, the new periodical publication, Yearbook of the Estonian Anthropometric Register, has come out in print. We hope to converge around it everyone interested in anthropology: practising doctors, biologists, mathematicians, experts of health promotion, and medical researchers of narrower specialities. Everyone’s efforts are necessary and welcome to find the constitutional peculiarities of healthy and sick people, and their significance in biology, medicine and health promotion. [2]”

Below, we present the contents of the first Yearbook in English [2]:

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Figure 9. Contents of the Yearbook of the Estonian Anthropometric Register 2002, p. 9 [6].

Figure 10. Contents of the Yearbook of the Estonian Anthropometric Register 2002, p. 10 [6].

In the introductions to the four Yearbooks published from 1999–2002, editor-in-chief Prof. H. Kaarma has written respectively the following:

With the current Yearbook, we celebrate the 60th anniversary of foundation of the Anthropology Section at the Estonian Naturalists' Society by Juhan Aul [3];

As we have reached the third issue of the collection of anthropological studies in Estonian, I wish you continuing strength in developing this research area significant for our small nation [4];

In the fourth collection, the reader will find a greater number of articles than before; their themes continue to be diverse, which testifies to the vitality of the anthropological trend in health care and physical education [5];

The jubilee year – 200 years since the reopening of the University of Tartu – has arrived; in a few years, the cradle of theoretical disciplines of the Faculty of Medicine, the Old Anatomical Theatre, will celebrate its 200th anniversary. For the following collections, we are looking forward to articles in Estonian on the history of science [6].

Below, we present the following summary about the Yearbooks of the Estonian Anthropometric Register (1998–2002).

The covers of all the Yearbooks have been designed by Michael Walsh; the language editor was Leelo Jago.

From 1999, each article of the Yearbook is accompanied by a summary in English.

From 2002, the Yearbook of the Estonian Anthropometric Register was indexed in the database SPORTDiscus.

All the five Yearbooks were printed by Tartu University Press.

For general characterisation of the Yearbooks, we provide the number of pages, publications, first authors, co-authors, summative number of persons who were authors and first authors in each Yearbook separately and in five Yearbooks in total. The results are presented in the following Table.

Table 1. General characteristics of the Yearbooks of the Estonian Anthropometric Register (1998–2002)

Yearbook of the Anthropometric Register	1998	1999	2000	2001	2001	Total in five Yearbooks
Pages	160	233	185	279	272	1129
Number of publications	27	24	21	26	27	125
First authors	27	24	21	26	27	125
In addition, co-authors	39	30	32	30	40	171
Total of authors	66	54	53	56	67	296
Persons as 1st authors	25	22	21	24	26	118

Table 1 shows that the bulkiest Yearbook of the Estonian Anthropometric Register with 279 pages appeared in 2001. The most modest in its volume was the Yearbook of 1998 with 160 pages. In total, the five Yearbooks had 1129 pages.

The number of publications was the biggest in the Yearbooks of 1998 and 2002 – 27 in both; the Yearbook of 2000 included only 21 publications. In total, 125 publications appeared in the five Yearbooks.

The number of first authors was the biggest in the Yearbooks of 1998 and 2002 – in both of them 27. Their number was the smallest 2000 – only 21. In total, the number of first authors in the five Yearbooks was 125.

The number of co-authors was the largest in 2002 when it was 40. Their number was the smallest in 1999 and 2001 – 30 at both times. In total, the five Yearbooks had 171 co-authors.

The total number of authors was the largest in 2002 when there were 67 of them. Their number was the smallest in 2000 – 53. The total number of authors in the five Yearbooks was 296.

Table 1 shows that the number of first authors in the Yearbooks does not equal the number of persons who were first authors. The reason is that seven first authors had two publications in some years.

The number of persons as first authors was the greatest in the Yearbook of 2002 when it was 26. Their number was the smallest in 2000 – 21. The total number of persons as first authors in the five Yearbooks was 118.

In the Yearbook of 1988, 25 researchers as first authors published 27 articles; in the following four Yearbooks, they published respectively 16, 12, 12 and 11 articles – thus, a total of 78 articles in five Yearbooks.

In the Yearbooks of 1999–2002, the number of new first authors was respectively 7, 8, 8 and 8, making the total number of researchers 31. The number of publications by them is respectively 14, 14, 11 and 8 – 47 articles in total.

Thus, we can say that 56 researchers as first authors published a total of 125 publications in the five Yearbooks (Part 2, Tables 3–7).

Along with the first authors of the articles published in the Yearbook of 1998, there were 29 co-authors; in the following four years, the number of new co-authors was respectively 14, 10, 10 and 14; thus the five Yearbooks had a total of 77 co-authors (Part 2, Table 8).

Table 2. Distribution of articles in the Yearbooks of the Estonian Anthropometric Register (1998–2002) according to the number of authors

Number of authors of articles	1998	1999	2000	2001	2001	Total of articles per number of authors	% of all the articles in 5 Yearbooks
1 author	11	10	6	12	10	49	39.2
2 authors	5	6	7	7	4	29	23.2
3 authors	3	4	2	2	6	17	13.6
4 authors	5	3	4	2	5	19	15.2
5 authors	2	–	1	2	1	6	4.8
6 authors	1	–	1	1	1	4	3.2
7 authors	–	–	–	–	–	–	0
8 authors	1	–	–	–	–	–	0.8

Table 2 shows that the number of articles with one author was the largest in the Yearbook of 2001 – 12. The number of such articles was the smallest in 2000 when it was 6. In total, there were 49 articles by one author in the five Yearbooks, which accounted for 39.2% of all the published articles.

The number of articles compiled by two authors was the biggest in 2000 and 2001 – 7 in both years. Their number was the smallest in 2002 – 4. In total, the number of articles with two authors in the five Yearbooks was 29–23.2% of all the published articles.

The number of articles with three authors was the biggest in 2002 when their number was 6. The number of such articles was the smallest in 2000 and 2001 – 2 in both years. The total number of articles with three authors in the five Yearbooks was 17 – 13.6% of all the articles.

The number of articles with four authors was the biggest in 1998 and 2002 – 5 at both times. Their number was the smallest 2001 – only 2. In total, the number of articles with four authors in the five Yearbooks was 19 – 23.2% of all the articles.

The number of articles with five authors was the biggest in 1998 and 2001, at both times 5. The Yearbooks published in 2001 and 2002 both had one article with five authors. In total, the number of articles with five authors in the five Yearbooks was 6 – 4.8% of all the articles.

Articles with six authors were published in 1998 and 2000–2002, one in both years. In total, there were 4 articles with six authors in the Yearbooks, which makes 3.2% of all the articles.

The only article with eight authors was published in the Yearbook of 1999. It accounts for 0.8% of all the articles published in the five Yearbooks.

The overview of the development and preservation of Estonian as the language of higher education and research in anthropology, which dealt with the role of the Yearbooks of the Estonian Anthropometric Register in it, turned out longer than expected; therefore, we publish it in two parts.

The second part of the overview will include, in the form of tables, the distribution of articles by years according to their first authors, a list of co-authors and numbers of their participation in the articles of the Yearbooks, and the distribution of articles between the first authors from Tartu and Tallinn according to the institutions where they work.

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