

Preface

Mark Hale's work is among the most original, thought-provoking and provocative in the field—or fields, rather, since his interests range from comparative Indo-European linguistics and reconstruction to phonological theory, syntactic change, Polynesian comparative reconstruction, Middle Iranian philology, and subgrouping methodology all the way to sociolinguistics (as anybody who has ever heard him lecture about change and diffusion will know). It is not easy to do justice to all these interests in a single volume, but we are proud to say that the contributions collected here pay homage to quite a respectable subset of them—hence the all-encompassing “linguistic studies”. This is all the more pleasing given that when we began the project of organizing what was then referred to by its preliminary working title as “Mark Hale's so-called Festschrift” (have you heard him talk about “Wackernagel's so-called Law”? for his 65th birthday, we certainly did not anticipate having to navigate a global pandemic. “Ha!” aptly describes how we felt when we were finally able to complete this volume despite such adversities. It is, of course, also an interjection that you might utter while reading one of Mark's articles and suddenly encountering a new solution to an old problem—or to something that you hadn't even realized was a problem! And, finally, “ha” is also one of the infamous particles and clitics in Vedic that we now understand so much better thanks to Mark's work. In fact, it is also in the title of his contribution to the *Gedenkschrift* for Jochem Schindler (Hale 1999, “*ha*: so-called ‘metrical lengthening’ in the Rigveda”), in which he elegantly explains the distribution of the particles *ḥā* and *ghā* and the variation in their vowel quantity as having arisen through the interaction of regular sound change (Brugmann's Law) with metrical position. This article, which is such a good representative of Mark's careful application of philology and linguistic theory, inspired us to recycle the eponymous particle for him.

We are extremely grateful to all our contributors for their cooperation, patience, and ingenuity in finding topics that resonate with Mark's research, and to the colleagues who helped us review these contributions: Dieter Gunkel, Dana Isac, Stephanie Jamison, Bernhard Koller, Hans Christian Luschützky, Alexander Nikolaev, Markus Pöchtrager, and George Walkden. Melanie Malzahn supported the project at every stage and we are grateful for her help in honoring Mark as a long-term friend of the Department of Linguistics in Vienna. We would also like to thank Madelyn Kissock for providing guidance, advice, and the perfect photo of our honorand.

In addition to this collection of articles, we received heartfelt congratulations from a number of Mark's friends and colleagues which we are happy to relay here, namely from Jonathan D. Bobaljik, Jeff Bourns, Claire Bowern, Heiner Eichner, Hans Christian Luschützky, Sigríður Magnúsdóttir, Diane Massam, Waltraud Paul, Prods Oktor Skjærvø, Donca Steriade, George Walkden, and Susi Wurmbrand.

Missing from the table of contents is the name of Annette Teffeteller, who, as we were deeply saddened to learn, passed away in August of 2020. Annette had kindly

agreed to contribute a paper on “‘The poetics of syntax’ in Ancient Greek”. We are certain that Mark and her other colleagues at Concordia will remember her as fondly as we do.

Finally, we thank Sigrun Kotb and Ursula Reichert at the Dr. Ludwig Reichert Verlag for their guidance and support in steering this project to completion. We hope that our honorand will enjoy the result—or at the very least, enjoy telling us how completely wrong we all are!

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The Editors