

## Introduction

As editors we are proud to introduce the very first volume of BeLLS; *Seven mountains, seven voices*. BeLLS is founded by three institutions of higher education in Bergen, the city surrounded by seven mountains. It is our sincere wish that BeLLS may be of use to the three founders: University of Bergen, Bergen University College and the Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration, and also that it will be of benefit to the wider research community.

This volume has been almost 18 months in the making, which to us seems like a long time. However, included in this time-period is the setting up of the publication channel, enlisting editors, the peer reviewing process and learning the ropes of open-access online publishing. This first volume contains seven selected papers from the third Scandinavian PhD conference in Linguistics and Philology in Bergen, June 16–18, 2009. At the conference 37 participants from more than 15 countries presented papers, displaying a great diversity in approaches to the study of language.

The seven articles presented in this volume reflect this diversity, as well as the high quality of the conference. Aysa Arylova investigates two aspects of the Russian *be*-possessive: subjecthood and argument structure. Karin Beijering outlines the etymology, development and grammaticalization path of Mainland Scandinavian *maybe*. Eva Kardos explores the argument expression of change-of-state verbs and pseudo-transitive verbs. Manuela Korth discusses the prosodic behaviour of constituents in German V1- and V2-sentences. Maria Filiouchkina Krave presents a study of Russian converb constructions and their interpretations, addressing the question of whether their semantic diversity could be explained in terms of vagueness. A wholly different approach to Russian language is pursued in Elisa Moroni's article on the translation of Russian texts based on oral epics into Italian and English, in which Moroni shows how orality has influenced translation strategies. Sonja Müller investigates extractions from *that*-complements in German, which provide a challenge to every syntactic theory.

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