

The author divides his book into a Uralic, a Fenno-Ugric, an Indo-European (loanwords) and a Uralo-Altaic "word-list". That means that the user has sometimes to look more than once for the same topic unless he does start at the end: the Index verborum. And that occurs even the expert because e.g. though Szinnyei writes that the numerals one to six are genuine Fenno-Ugric, we have to look for "two" and "four" in the Uralic, for the other ones in the Fenno-Ugric list.

C. adds the results of the research in Ural-Altaic comparison as an appendix, though the question, also in the author's opinion, is open to discussion, but he omits the results of Uralic-Sumerian (Accad) comparison, whereas Hungarian scholars in Western-Europe and America are very busy on this object at present. It is known, since Simonyi wrote: "Auch das Sumerische ist diesen Sprachen beige stellt worden, jedoch mit Unrecht" (Die ungarische Sprache. Strassburg, 1907, p. 34) the linguists are shivery for enumerating Sumerian beyond Fenno-Ugric relationship, and I suppose C. has good motives for his refusal, though Ida Bobula, Gosztonyi and others try to make the relationship plausible. C. has a certain method for mentioning the topics. He numbered the Fenno-Ugric languages from 1 to 9 and Samoyed ones a to e. The title-words are the Finnish and, if they don't exist, the Hungarian corresponding forms of the Fenno-Ugric etymologon and only if both are unknown, the title-word is in another language and then in the order of their numbers or letters. As it happens that one does not know all the equivalents of a certain Uralic word one comes across, all the words mentioned are arranged according to the various languages in the 'Index verborum'.

This is the structure of this analytic vocabulary, without doubt well invented. The reader should realize that it has been "planned (as) a comparative grammar of the Uralic languages" (p. XIII).

*Scheveningen*  
*Prins Willemstraat 23*

ANTAL SIVIRSKY

L. RENO, *Histoire de la langue sanskrite*. Collection les langues du monde, publiée sous la direction de Henri Hierche, vol. X, Lyon-Paris 1956, 236 p.

In publishing this volume which is designed to collect in a concise

form the results of the investigations in the linguistic aspects of Sanskrit, Professor Renou has increased the debt of linguists and orientalists to him. Without aiming at perfection and completeness — unattainable on account of a considerable lack of preparatory work and many irretrievable lacunas in our knowledge — the learned author has completely succeeded in describing the main characteristics of Sanskrit as written in different epochs and in a variety of styles during the thirty centuries of its existence. Although the book cannot be said to be addressed to the general reader it will prove an excellent introduction to the subject for those who are interested in Sanskrit and have some experience of reading the language. It will also be of great value to those students of Indo-European linguistics who attempt seriously to apply themselves to the history of a language which will always remain essential to the understanding of the whole family of languages to which it belongs.

The book begins with an account of the Vedic period, especially of the Ṛgveda (phonetics, morphology, syntax, style, vocabulary and a discussion of the younger parts of the Ṛgveda in which the possibility of social and geographical differences beside a difference in time has not been touched upon), the other saṃhitās, the prose of the brāhmaṇas, upaniṣads and sūtras. The author is no doubt right in giving evidence of a certain scepticism with regard to the excessive expectations of success cherished by some of those who attempt to explain large parts of the Vedic vocabulary through a study of modern Munda or Dravidian idioms.

Next the importance of Pāṇini and the other great grammarians are examined with reference to their relations to the spoken languages, their influence upon the ensuing generation of authors, the connection between Sanskrit and the Middle Indian idioms, the language of the inscriptions. The three other chapters are likewise adequately documented by an abundance of references and examples: one on epic Sanskrit and its continuation (purāṇas, tantras etc.), a long description of classical Sanskrit in its various aspects — the idiom of the commentaries, narrative Sanskrit the dialogues in the stage-plays, the kāvya proper, its style, vocabulary and grammar —, and a chapter on the language of the Buddhists and Jainas in their extensive literatures. All these subjects are described and characterized with profound knowledge of the relative facts and problems. The book also contains well-chosen

selections from texts and a large number of notes giving useful and not rarely original information on a variety of special subjects touched upon in the body of the work, and an abundance of lucid arguments and stray observations of value. The references to special literature will however by their extreme brevity often present some difficulties to the non-initiated. From the bibliographical adnotations it may be inferred that the printing and publishing of the book have been protracted. Some recent publications — e.g. Burrow's 'Sanskrit Language' and P. Hartmann's 'Nominale Ausdrucksformen im wissenschaftlichen Sanskrit' — have not been utilized or referred to.

For the so-called expletive relative pronoun (p. 106) and the insertion of the antecedent in the subordinate clause (p. 108) see *Lingua* IV, p. 1 ff. On p. 20, 1.12 I would hesitate to call all those Vedic *nomina agentis* which may or must be translated by infinitives by that same name.

*Utrecht*

J. GONDA

GÖRAN HAMMERSTRÖM: *Etude de phonétique auditive sur les parlers de l'Algarve*. Uppsala-Stockholm. Almqvist & Wiksels Bocktryckeri Ab, 1953, 187 pages.

M. H. présente les résultats d'une enquête, menée en collaboration avec son maître, M. A. de Lacerda, directeur du laboratoire de phonétique expérimentale de Coïmbre, sur les parlers de l'Algarve, la province la plus méridionale de Portugal et celle qui est restée le plus longtemps sous la domination des Maures. L'auteur commence par nous donner des généralités sur le milieu géographique et culturel de l'Algarve. Ensuite il défend les avantages d'une transcription indirecte faite après l'enquête, d'après des enregistrements sur fils et bandes magnétiques, méthode qu'il a exclusivement appliquée au cours de son travail. Illustrés par des cartes linguistiques, les matériaux et leur discussion prennent plus de la moitié du volume. Cette partie de l'ouvrage représente l'examen approfondi de 13 localités (sans compter quelques coups de sonde plus rapides) basé sur les réponses de 33 informateurs.

Les résultats des recherches du jeune savant suédois permettent de constater qu'en général les sons des parlers de l'Algarve ne diffèrent pas très sensiblement de ceux du portugais normal. Contrairement à leur conservatisme dans le domaine lexicologique, les parlers