

7. Constitution

GLOW Newsletter 6, February 1981

At the Nijmegen meeting there was discussion about the organization of GLOW. Some people felt that, if we are to maintain a coherent rationale for GLOW, the organization should be sensitive to the fact that our meetings may from now on be held at institutions other than those where the present GLOW boardmembers work; there should be some way of ensuring continuity. Also there may be a need to secure funding independently of host institutions, and this means that we must have properly constituted delegates who can approach agencies in some responsible and representative function. In that case, some provision needs to be made to elect people to certain functions for fixed periods. This kind of institutionalization will also enable other people to percolate through the GLOW 'directorship'.

These needs can be met without making GLOW into another committee-heavy bureaucracy, which we all want to avoid...as was stressed at Nijmegen. We can have a small board with specified functions and elected members. The specific functions of the Board will help to avoid the kind of chaotic and unfocused business meeting that we had in Nijmegen.

Jan Koster, David Lightfoot, Henk van Riemsdijk and Jean-Roger Vergnaud have discussed this at some length and, in accordance with the suggestion of the Nijmegen business meeting, submitted a formal proposal to the boardmembers. This proposal has now been approved by the present boardmembers and is included in this Newsletter so that people have a chance to consider it before the Göttingen meeting. Hopefully the general meeting will ratify something along these lines in Göttingen; at their meeting there the Board will try to formulate some transitional procedure to get from the present set-up to the new one.

This constitution meets the requirements of UNESCO for registration as an 'International Non-Governmental Organization'; the point of that is that we shall then be recognized by UNESCO-affiliated grant-giving agencies (presumably the Council of Europe would also be satisfied with this kind of thing). That explains the talk of membership lists, dues, etc.; there is no plan to impose dues, but we must be seen to have an identifiable membership.

DRAFT CONSTITUTION

Article 1. Name and purpose

- 1.1 This society will be known as the society for Generative Linguistics in the Old Worlds (GLOW).
- 1.2 Its purpose shall be the advancement of the study of generative grammar in all its aspects, and to enhance communication and co-operation amongst generative linguists primarily in European countries but also elsewhere in the world.

Article 2. Members

- 2.1 Any individual may become a member by notifying the secretary of his/her name, address and affiliation, and paying the appropriate dues.
- 2.2 The dues and dates for payment shall be fixed by a vote of the Board.
- 2.3 All members may participate in the conferences arranged by GLOW.

- 2.4 Members may offer to the Program Committee papers to be considered for presentation at the conferences of the society. They may participate and vote in the business meetings of the society, and they may hold offices in the society.
- 2.5 If a member does not pay his/her dues within the time prescribed, he/she shall forfeit his/her rights of membership while his/her default continues.

Article 3. Officers and committees

- 3.1 The Officers of the society shall be a Chairman, a Secretary, and an Editor.
- 3.2 The Chairman shall serve for one year and shall take office at the conclusion of the annual conference. He/she shall preside at meetings of the Board. He/she shall act as director of the conference held during his/her term of office. He/she shall be chairman of the Program Committee appointed for that conference.
- 3.3 The Secretary shall keep the fiscal and other records of the Society and shall carry out other functions as directed by the Board and shall serve for two years.
- 3.4 The Editor shall be responsible for the production and circulation of the GLOW Newsletter and shall serve for two years.
- 3.5 There shall be a Board composed of the above Officers and three more members, one of the three being elected at each conference to serve for three years. All members of the Board shall be elected at a business meeting which shall take place towards the end of the annual conference. A new Secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years, a new Editor in even-numbered years. The Board shall co-opt a member of the host institution for the following year's meeting, who shall be responsible for the local organization of that conference and have full voting rights on the Board.
- 3.6 The Board shall appoint the Program Committee, which shall consist normally of the Chairman, the local organizer and five other members. The Program Committee shall meet, select the papers for the annual meeting and establish the program.
- 3.7 The Board shall hold regular meetings at the time and place of the annual conference. Between regular meetings any two members of the Board can ask the Board to vote on specific questions by mail. The Chairman, acting jointly with the Secretary, shall determine the order of business, but any other member of the Board has the right to bring up further matters for consideration and action by the Board. All decisions of the Board shall be by simple majority vote. In the case of a tie, the vote cast by the Chairman shall be decisive. If any member of the Board does not attend a meeting of the Board, he/she may, by written proxy, appoint a regular member of the society to attend and vote in his/her stead. But no one person shall by virtue of holding proxies or for any other reason have the right to cast more than one vote. The Board shall enter into discussions for the funding and venue of the annual conference, making a detailed report to the business meeting of the society. The Board shall decide the conference venues up to three years in advance. The Board shall propose a topic to the business meeting for the following year's conference; the decision about the topic will rest with the business meeting.

Article 4. Fiscal Policy

- 4.1 The funds of the society shall be used exclusively to cover expenditures related to the conferences of the society and the preparation and circulation of the Newsletter.

Article 5. Meetings

- 5.1 There shall be a conference on generative grammar arranged by the society each spring at a time and place determined by the Board.

- 5.2 There shall be a regular business meeting of the Society at the time and place of the annual conference. The agenda shall be announced at the beginning of the conference and the business meeting shall take place towards the end of the conference.
- 5.3 Abstracts of papers to be presented at a conference of the society must be submitted to the Program Committee before a deadline to be fixed by the Board. Abstracts shall be no longer than three pages and shall not specify the author's name. The disposition of such papers, including time allotted for their presentation, by the Program Committee shall be final. At least thirty minutes shall be allocated for each paper and, in addition, there shall be a discussion period. There shall be no concurrent sections.

Article 6. Dissolution

- 6.1 The society may be dissolved by a vote in favour of dissolution cast at the annual business meeting by nine tenths of the voting members present.
- 6.2 Upon dissolution of the society, its assets shall be disposed of as determined by a simple majority of the voting members.

Article 7. Amendments

- 7.1 Proposals to amend the Constitution shall be made in writing and not later than three months before a regular business meeting and addressed to the Secretary, who shall submit them to the next business meeting of the society. If such a proposal receives two thirds of the votes cast, it shall be considered adopted.