BRUENAL'S SYSTEM OF GRAMMAR: A TRANSLATION OF, AND COMMENTARY ON, MORPHOLOGY AND SYNTAX (1832)

BY

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This thesis is a study of the largely neglected grammatical theories of the Danish structuralist and co-founder of the linguistic circle of Copenhagen, Viggo Brøndal (1887-1942). The introduction discusses the general linguistic background and the main trends in linguistics during Brøndal's student and teaching years. Two special sections deal at some length with the semantic system of grammatical terminology and the theory of *paster* (word classes) and *membræ* (sentence members or constituents). Both topics are crucial to an understanding of Brøndal's work.

The central part of the thesis consists of an English translation of *Mortologi og syntax* (1933). The work was the second of three major works elaborating his scheme of logico-linguistic analysis. It continued the use of Aristotelian generic logical concepts first set out in *Ordklassene* (Word classes) (1918), and the theory developed in the present work was in turn to be refined in *Prepositionernes teori* (Theory of prepositions) (1948). The first work in this series has been translated into French (Les parties du discours, 1944), as has the third (Théorie des propositions, 1956), which has also been translated into Italian (1957). *Mortologi og syntax*, however, has never been translated into any other language.

The translation is followed by a detailed commentary which seeks to provide the English-speaking reader with a guide not only to unfamiliar aspects of Brøndal's own system of grammar, but also to the copious references and quotations from other languages (also translated where necessary; from classical, mediaeval, renaissance and modern sources, philosophical, philological and linguistic. Throughout the commentary cross-references are supplied to Brøndal's other works to chart the development of the system. Consideration is also given to counter-arguments by scholars opposed to his views. The arguments presented in *Mortologi og syntax* are evaluated, and in some instances demonstrated to be clearly erroneous, though the overall significance of the work as a valuable and highly original contribution to modern linguistic thought is stressed. Finally, the catholicity of Brøndal's approach, as against the doctrinaire positions of Jakobson and the Genevan, is seen as vindicated in the light of recent developments (e.g., functional grammar, cognitive grammar) which reject the narrowness of 'autonomous' linguistics.
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Note: I have rearranged the position of Brendal’s Bibliography and his Contents page in accordance with English convention; in the original the annotated Bibliography precedes the text, the Contents page follows it.