

## BREV TILL REDAKTIONEN

Med anledning av en artikel publicerad i Slovo 37, 1989, har vi det något tvivelaktiga nöjet att publicera nedanstående ordväxling.

Lund, 2.8.1989

Sirs,

The last issue (No. 37) of your journal Slovo includes an article by Dr. Milan Bílý: The Case of the Invariant Case Reconsidered. I wish to inform you that the paper in question contains ideas that we, Bílý and I, worked out in collaboration. More than half of the text is written by us together. I myself wrote considerable parts of these pages without any participation of Bílý's whatsoever. Dr. Bílý did not consult me about his intention to publish our common work in his own name. Neither would he have obtained my permission to do so, if he had asked.

Thore Pettersson

Lund, 20.2.1990

Sirs,

I regret that Dr. Pettersson forces me to display our broken "scientific marriage", which I would prefer to forget, in public. My decision to break with Dr. Pettersson has grown successively and for many reasons. For the sake of brevity I am to mention only some of them.

What seemed to be a fruitful scientific co-operation at the beginning, has developed into rather a unilateral affair. Of five papers that we published four are more or less mine. Dr. Pettersson undertook a large editing and stylistic work with my drafts of papers, for which he would deserve great thanks if the papers were published under my name only. His own contributions were quite small and, in fact, diminishing with the progress of time.

I have also found that during the long time Dr. Pettersson repeatedly excused himself, being too occupied with his teaching duties or being mentally unable to write, he published seven or eight other papers of his own. Thus, our co-operation seems to have one purpose only, to use me as a means of increasing Dr. Pettersson's chances to qualify himself for professorship by increasing the number of publications with his name on.

I finally broke with Dr. Pettersson, when I discovered that he was to do what he is accusing me of, viz. that he was to start publishing parts of our unfinished book under his own name and that he even included as his own a new definition that principally changed the very basis of our case typology. This idea was, however, solely mine.

I know that Dr. Pettersson has shown an incredible ability to persuade himself – and me – that any good idea he was fond of, was his own. As I have the habit of keeping old drafts and redrafts of my texts,

it happened repeatedly that I came home brainwashed by Dr. Pettersson that this or that was his contribution to our work and then found the original draft written by me (with occasional commentaries written by Dr. Pettersson's hand in the margin and directed to me), where the idea was formulated.

Thus, perhaps even the accusation Dr. Pettersson has made, is conceived in good faith, but it does not for that reason become true. The paper in question is written by me. Dr. Pettersson's contribution is virtually restricted to the editing work on several text fragments of an older text written by me that I included in the paper in question. I also retained a few quotations from other authors which were looked up by Dr. Pettersson. However, I do not intend to ask him for a permission every time when I quote an author Dr. Pettersson has happened to quote before or when I touch the research area we used to write about.

I have tried to come to an agreement about how to divide the unpublished texts as regards copyright. Unfortunately, Dr. Pettersson only made obstructions — I even accepted his own counter-proposal, but then he changed his mind and made a new one. Thus, I decided to salvage at least some parts of the text that were genuinely and undisputably my own. My apprehensions were not ungrounded. A couple of weeks ago, for example, I managed to stop Dr. Pettersson's attempt to smuggle into a paper, written mostly by me but published in 1988 under both his name and mine, intended to be republished, Dr. Pettersson's "emendations" amounting to a personal attack against me plus insinuations that he was the sole author of the paper!

Yours Faithfully  
Milan Bílý