

## CV: Höskuldur Thráinsson

DOB: January 15, 1946;                      Citizenship: Icelandic  
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### University Education:

1979 PhD in linguistics, Harvard University  
1976 MA in linguistics, Harvard University  
1974 MA in Icelandic linguistics, University of Iceland  
1972 *Zwischenprüfung* in linguistics, Christian Albrechts Universität, Kiel  
1969 BA in Icelandic and history, University of Iceland

### University appointments:

**Professor** of Modern Icelandic Linguistics at the Univ. of Iceland from 1980 (on leave 1991–1995)

**Visiting professor** Department of Linguistics, Harvard University, 1991–1995

**Visiting teacher:** University of the Faroe Islands, Tórshavn, September 2002; LSA Summer Institute, Cornell University, June–July 1997; LOT Winter School in linguistics, Nijmegen, The Netherlands, January 1997; 6th European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information, Copenhagen, August 1994

**Visiting scholar:** Department of Linguistics, UCSD, San Diego, fall 2012; Department of Linguistics, UCLA, Los Angeles, spring 2008; Department of Scandinavian, University College London, fall 1999; Department of Linguistics, MIT, Cambridge, MA, fall 1995; Department of Linguistics, Harvard University, fall 1987; Department of Linguistics, UC Santa Cruz, spring and summer 1984

**External examiner** in Faroese, University of the Faroe Islands, since 1999

**Research assistant and instructor:** Nordic Institute, Chr. Albrechts Universität, Kiel, 1970–1972

### Academic administration:

- Director/Chair of Institute of Linguistics, University of Iceland, 1981–1983, 1986–1987, 2010–2014
- Chair, Centre for the Humanities, University of Iceland 2005–2008; board member 2010–2014
- Vice-Dean, Faculty of Humanities Univ. of Iceland, 2004–2006, 1985–1987, 1981–1983
- Dean, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Iceland, 1983–1985
- Board Member for CASTL (Center for Excellence for Advanced Study in Theoretical Linguistics, Tromsø, Norway) 2003–2008
- Board member, Nordic Association of Linguists 1980–1985, 2005–2010
- Board member (styrelsemedlem) of the Nordic research network *ScanDiaSyn* (Scandinavian Dialect Syntax) 2005–2010
- Board member of the Nordic research network *NORMS* (Nordic Center of Excellence in Microcomparative Syntax) 2005–2010
- Board member of the Nordic research network *NLVN* (Nordic Language Variation Network) 2006–2009

### Other professional administration (a selection):

- Board of administrators for Mosfellsbær High School (gymnasium) 2013–
- Member of the governing board for NIFIN (Nordic Institute in Finland, Helsingfors), 1997–2000, Chair 1999–2000
- Chair, governmental committee on curriculum development for Icelandic in the schools 1997–1998

### Editorial experience:

- **Editor** of *Íslenskt mál* (a linguistic journal) 1980–1983, 1996–
- **Co-editor** of *Chomsky – Mál, sál og samfélag* [Chomsky – Language, mind and society]. Centre for the Humanities and University Press, Reykjavík, 2013
- **Main editor** of *Tilbrigði í setningagerð* [Variation in syntax], Institute of Linguistics, Reykjavík [vol. I appeared 2013, vols. II–III to appear 2014].
- **Co-editor** of *Linguistic Studies, Historical and Comparative*, Institute of Linguistics, Reykjavík, 2002
- **Co-editor** of *Minimal Ideas*, Benjamins, Amsterdam, 1996
- **Co-editor** of *Studies in Comparative Germanic Syntax II*, Kluwer, Dordrecht, 1996
- **Co-editor** of *Harvard Working Papers in Linguistics* 1–5, 1992–1995

**Editorial boards** (different times): *The Journal of Comparative Germanic Linguistics* (Kluwer, Springer (currently member of the honorary board of editors)); *Syntax* (Blackwell); *Studies in Germanic Linguistics* (series, Ohio State University Press), *Linguistics Today* (series, Benjamins); *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* (Kluwer)

### Reviewer

- for various **linguistic journals** in Iceland, Europe and North America in addition to those already mentioned, e.g. *Linguistic Inquiry*, *Journal of Linguistics*, *Aphasiology*, *Nordic Journal of Linguistics*, *Ritið*, *Orð og tunga*
- for international **linguistic conferences**, e.g. BU Conference on Language Development, NELS (North-Eastern Linguistics Society), Diachronic Generative Syntax, Comparative Germanic Syntax Workshop, Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, GLOW (Generative Linguists of the Old World)
- for Icelandic, European and American **research funds**, e.g. NSF (USA), ESF (Europe), ERC (Europe), HERA (Europe), NOS-H (Scandinavia), The Icelandic Research Fund, Research Fund of the University of Iceland, Eimskip University Fund

### Main research interests:

*Syntax* (especially Icelandic, Faroese, Scandinavian, Germanic); *Icelandic dialects and phonology*; *Variation and linguistic change*; *Comparative Scandinavian*; *Heritage languages* (especially in North America); *Linguistics in the schools*; *Agrammatism*

### Principal investigator

 (grants from the Icelandic Research Fund (IRF) unless otherwise indicated):

- 2013–2015: **Heritage language, linguistic change and cultural identity** [co-PI]
- 2012–2014: **Detailed comparison of real time dialectal data in phonology** [University Research Fund]
- 2010–2013: **Linguistic change in real time in Icelandic phonology and syntax**
- 2010–2011: **Phonological change in the span of 70 years** [National Anniversary Fund]
- 2008–2009: **Variation in Faroese syntax**
- 2005–2007: **Variation in Icelandic syntax** [IRF Grant of Excellence]
- 2004–2011: **Digitalization and adaptation of dialect material** [University Research Fund]
- 2004: **Variation in syntax: Methods of elicitation** (a pilot study)
- 1996–1998: **Comparison of Insular Scandinavian** (Icelandic and Faroese)

### Awards:

- The Ása Guðmundsdóttir Wright Award 2009 [a prestigious scholarly award given to one Icelandic academic each year]
- The University President's Award for scientific achievement 2008 [one academic at the University of Iceland selected each year]
- Nominated for the Icelandic Literature Prize (scholarly literature) for *Setningar – Handbók um setningafræði* [Syntax – a handbook] 2005

- Nominated for the Icelandic Literature Prize (scholarly literature) for *Handbók um málfræði* [A handbook on linguistics] 1995

## Selected publications:

### Books

- 2014 *On Complementation in Icelandic*. Routledge Library Editions: Linguistics (48). [Reprint of the 1979 dissertation originally published by Garland.]
- 2012 *Faroese: An Overview and Reference Grammar*. [Co-authors Hjalmar P. Petersen, Jógvan í Lon Jacobsen, Zakaris Svabo Hansen.] Second edition [first edition 2004]. Faroese University Press, Tórshavn, and Institute of Linguistic, Reykjavík.
- 2009 *Íslensk setningafræði*. [Icelandic Syntax – a textbook for university students.] 7th edition. Institute of Linguistics, University of Iceland, Reykjavík.
- 2007 *The Syntax of Icelandic*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. [Paperback 2010.]
- 2005 *Setningar*. Handbók um setningafræði. [Syntax. A handbook.] Editor and main author. Co-authors Eiríkur Rögnvaldsson, Jóhannes Gísli Jónsson, Sigríður Magnúsdóttir, Sigríður Sigurjónsdóttir, Þórunn Blöndal.] Almenna bókafélagið, Reykjavík.
- 1998 *Mályrkja III*. [A textbook for schools. Co-author Silja Aðalsteinsdóttir.] Námsgagnastofnun, Reykjavík.
- 1995 *Handbók um málfræði*. [A handbook on linguistics.] Námsgagnastofnun, Reykjavík.
- 1993 *Handbók um íslenskan framburð*. [Handbook on Icelandic phonetics. Co-author Indriði Gíslason.] Rannsóknastofnun Kennaraháskóla Íslands, Reykjavík.
- 1979 *On Complementation in Icelandic*. Outstanding Dissertations in Linguistics. Garland, New York.

### Articles

- 2013 Full NP Object Shift: The Old Norse Puzzle and the Faroese Puzzle Revisited. *Nordic Journal of Linguistics* 36,2:153–186.
- 2013 Málfræðibylting Chomskys [Chomsky's linguistic revolution.] In Höskuldur Thráinsson and Matthew Whelpton (eds.): *Chomsky – mál, sál og samfélag*, pp. 47–69. Centre for the Humanities and the University Press, Reykjavík.
- 2013 Markmið. [Goals. Co-authors Ásta Svavarsdóttir, Eiríkur Rögnvaldsson, Jóhannes Gísli Jónsson, Þórunn Blöndal.] In Höskuldur Þráinsson, Ásgrímur Angantýsson and Einar Freyr Sigurðsson (editors): *Tilbrigði í íslenskri setningagerð I*, pp.11–17.
- 2013 Efnissöfnun og aðferðafræði [Data elicitation and methodology. Co-authors Ásgrímur Angantýsson, Einar Freyr Sigurðsson, Sigrún Steingrímsdóttir and Þórhallur Eypórsson.] In Höskuldur Þráinsson, Ásgrímur Angantýsson and Einar Freyr Sigurðsson (editors): *Tilbrigði í íslenskri setningagerð I*, pp. 19–68.
- 2013 Ideal Speakers and Other Speakers. The Case of Dative and Other Cases. In Beatriz Fernández and Ricardo Etxepare (eds.): *Variation in Datives: A Micro-Comparative Perspective*, pp. 161–188. Oxford Studies in Comparative Syntax, Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- 2010 Predictable and Unpredictable Sources of Variable Verb and Adverb Placement in Scandinavian. *Lingua* 120:1062–1088.
- 2009 Looking for Parametric Correlations within Faroese. *Nordlyd* 36,2:1–24.
- 2007 The Icelandic (Pilot) Project in ScanDiaSyn. *Nordlyd* 34,1: 87–124. Special Issue on Scandinavian Dialect Syntax 2005. [Co-authors Ásgrímur Angantýsson, Ásta Svavarsdóttir, Þórhallur Eypórsson og Jóhannes Gísli Jónsson.]
- 2006 Regional Variation in Icelandic Syntax? [Co-author Sigríður Sigurjónsdóttir.] Torben Arboe (ed.): *Nordisk dialektologi og sociolingvistik*, pp. 344–352. Peter Skautrup centret for jysk dialektforskning, Aarhus universitet, Århus.
- 2006 Case and Grammatical Functions: The Icelandic Passive. [Co-authors Annie Zaenen and Joan Maling.] Miriam Butt and Tracy Holloway King (eds.): *Lexical Semantics in LFG*, pp. 163–207. CSLI Publications, Stanford, CA. [Reprint of a paper originally published 1985.]
- 2003 Fonologiske dialekttræk på Island. Generationer og geografiske områder. [Co-author Kristján Árnason.] Gunnstein Akselberg, Anne Marit Bødal and Helge Sandøy (eds.): *Nordisk dialektologi*, pp. 151–196. Novus, Oslo.
- 2003 Syntactic Variation, Historical Development, and Minimalism. Randall Hendrick (ed.): *Minimalist Syntax*, pp. 152–191. Blackwell, Oxford.
- 2001 Object Shift and Scrambling. In Mark Baltin and Chris Collins (eds.): *The Handbook of Contemporary Syntactic Theory*, pp. 141–202. Blackwell, Oxford.

- 2001 Syntactic Theory for Faroese and Faroese for Syntactic Theory. An example of a Symbiotic Relationship. Kurt Braunmüller and Jógvan í Lon Jacobsen (eds.): *Moderne lingvistiske teorier og færøsk*, pp. 89–124. Novus, Oslo.
- 1998 Two Heads Aren't Always Better than One. [Co-author Jonathan Bobaljik.] *Syntax* 1:37–71.
- 1998 Infinitival Complements in Some Old and Modern Germanic Languages. John-Ole Askedal (ed.): *Historische germanische und deutsche Syntax*. Akten des internationalen Symposiums anlässlich des 100. Geburtstages von Ingerid Dal, pp. 335–363. Peter Lang, Bern.

### Recent presentations:

- September 20, 2013:** North American Icelandic – Some Elicitation Methods. 4th Annual Workshop on Immigrant Languages in the Americas. University of Iceland.
- August 25, 2013:** Tilbrigði í færeyskri og íslenskri setningagerð. [Variation in Faroese and Icelandic Syntax.] The Faroese-Icelandic conference *Frændafundur*, University of the Faroe Islands.
- May 14, 2013:** Testing an “Apparent Time Prediction” in Real Time. 25th Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, University of Iceland.
- March 16, 2013:** Tilbrigði í íslensku hljóðkerfi og setningagerð og málbreytingar í rauntíma. [Variation in Icelandic phonology and syntax and linguistic change in real time.] Humanities Congress, University of Iceland.
- October 15, 2012:** How Do Languages Change? Presentation in *Linguistic Colloquium*, University of San Diego.
- September 6, 2012:** How Do Languages Change? Invited talk, Lund University.
- August 14, 2012:** On Quantity and Quality in Variation Studies. Invited talk, N’CLAV Grand Meeting, Oslo University.
- April 23, 2012:** How Do Languages Change? Invited talk, Boston University.
- April 20, 2012:** When is Orthography Optimal? Invited talk, Boston University.
- March 22, 2012:** Object Shift in (older) Icelandic and Faroese: What does it Tell Us? International Workshop on Object Shift, University of Gothenburg.
- March 25, 2011:** Málbeytingar í sýndartíma og rauntíma [Linguistic change in real time and apparent time]. Humanities Congress, University of Iceland.
- February 25, 2011:** Icelandic A, B, C, D ...? Or: How Long is the Icelandic Alphabet? Presentation at *DGfS* (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft), University of Göttingen.
- December 11, desember 2010:** How Can V2 Vary? NORMS-workshop: The Nature, Triggers and Effects of Verb Movement. University of Amsterdam.
- October 8, 2010:** The Icelandic Variation Projects RÍN, IceDiaSyn, FarDiaSyn & RAUN: An Overview and Some Sociolinguistic results. Presentation at *Nordic Language Variation: Grammatical, Sociolinguistic and Infrastructural Perspectives*, University of Iceland.
- August 23, 2010:** Tilbrigði í færeyskri setningagerð – yfirlit. [Variation in Faroese syntax.] Presentation at a workshop on variation in Faroese. University of Iceland.
- June 23, 2010:** Ideal Speakers and Other Speakers. Invited talk at *Edisyn 4*, Donostia/San Sebastian.
- March 6, 2010:** Innri og ytri breytileiki í fallmörkun. [Intra-speaker variation and inter-speaker variation in case marking.] Humanities Congress, University of Iceland.