

## English Abstract

*The Linguistic Life of Finns:*

*Fruits of the project 'Hundred Finnish linguistic life stories'*

This volume is based on the project entitled a 'Hundred Finnish linguistic life stories' in which over 100 Finns have been interviewed concerning their linguistic experiences and perceptions. The project differs from the earlier research projects in Finland in that for the first time informants representing different language backgrounds have been investigated within the frames of the same project. In addition to the speakers of the official languages, Finnish and Swedish, representatives of indigenous Sami languages, traditional minority languages (Karelian, Romani, sign languages, Tatar, Yiddish) and the most used new immigrant languages (e.g. Russian, Estonian, Somali, English, Arabic, Kurdish, Chinese, Albanian, Thai, Vietnamese, Turkish) were chosen to be interviewed. The interviewees illustrate multilingualism in contemporary Finland. The interviewees are 6–104-year-old men and women from different social groups and regions. The data have been collected mainly by crowdsourcing, i.e. students were recruited for interviewers as part of their studies. The project is also unique in the international context.

The volume discusses the linguistic diversity of present-day Finland and Finland's recent history. The aim of the volume is to strengthen the visibility of the minority languages and to decrease prejudices towards the speakers of different languages and varieties. The project also increases awareness of linguistic practices and wider ideologies. By analysing Finns with different backgrounds side by side, we will achieve a more wide-ranging picture of linguistic concepts, attitudes and experiences as well as the variety in language use in Finnish society. The project combines scientific and artistic aspects. In addition to the interviews, a professional photographer has photographed selected interviewees. The project is funded by the Kone Foundation.

The volume comprises nine articles based on the data of the project. They illustrate linguistic experiences and their relation to different languages among Finns with different backgrounds from different perspectives. Multilingualism in present-day Finland is the common theme for several articles. The articles discuss linguistic choices of multilingual individuals in their everyday life, linguistic contexts and experiences of Swedish-speaking Finns, linguistic strategies in multilingual families as well as reverse language change. The focus is on the interviewees' relation to their own language(s), Finnish and other languages. The description of the Finns' linguistic rights provides an introduction for the analysis of multilingualism. Other topics concern informants' concepts on politeness, the linguistic phenomena which irritate them, and linguistic variation in interviews, especially in the light of some phonological and morphological features. The volume also includes the photographs of 12 informants which are connected with short life stories.