

**SEVENTH ANNUAL KENNETH E.
NAYLOR MEMORIAL LECTURE IN
SOUTH SLAVIC LINGUISTICS**

ILSE LEHISTE
The Ohio State University

***THE STRUCTURE OF THE
DESETERAC – THE METRE OF
SERBIAN EPIC POETRY***

**Friday, May 28, 2004
at 3:30 p.m.**

**Grand Lounge
Faculty Club
The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio**

A reception will follow

The Lecture

The phonetic structure of Serbian epic poetry is described here on the basis of six contemporary readings of one of the most famous epic songs, namely the Song of the Battle of Kosovo (which took place in 1389). The metre is based on counting syllables – the name *deseterac* refers to the fact that there are ten syllables in the line. The line is divided into two hemistichs of four and six syllables each, separated by a caesura that may or may not be realized as a pause. Since there are contrastively short and long syllable nuclei in the language, the duration of a line may be expected to vary to a considerable degree; this, however, is not the case. Although timing is influenced by segmental durations, the unit of temporal programming turns out to be the line.

The Speaker

Ilse Lehiste, a native of Estonia and currently a professor emeritus at the Ohio State University, is an outstanding scholar who has contributed greatly to several fields — most notably, linguistics, phonetics, Slavic studies, and poetics — and who has helped make linguistics at Ohio State an internationally renowned program. She earned two Ph.D.s, from Hamburg (1948) and from Michigan (1959), and in the past 25 years has been honored with honorary doctorate degrees four times, from Essex, Lund, Tartu, and Ohio State. She taught at a number of schools in the United States prior to coming to Ohio State in 1963, first in Slavic and then, in 1965, in Linguistics, of which she was the founding chair.

Dr. Lehiste has a remarkable record of scholarship: sole author of 8 books, including the standard and still most widely-cited work on intonation and accent in general (*Suprasegmentals*, MIT Press 1970); co-author of 5 other books, one of which is the most authoritative compendium of information and analysis of intonation and accent in Serbo-Croatian (*Word and*

Sentence Prosody in Serbo-Croatian, with Pavle Ivic, MIT Press 1986); author or co-author of over 185 articles and some 100 reviews; holder of several NSF grants and two Guggenheim Fellowships. Her scholarship has made lasting contributions to the study of the physiology and the psychology of speech as used in language and in poetry, and to the analysis of the prosodic characteristics of Serbo-Croatian.

She has been recognized locally, nationally, and internationally for her accomplishments. Besides the four honorary degrees, Dr. Lehiste is a recipient of the OSU Distinguished Researcher Award (in its first year) and of the Order of the Yugoslav Flag with Golden Wreath; she is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and of numerous other scholarly organizations; she is a past-president of the Linguistic Society of America; she has also been a frequent invitee to conferences, symposia, and visiting professorships, all around the world.

More recently, her work has focused on the folk poetics and prosody of various Finno-Ugric languages, thus continuing and extending her earlier interest in similar phenomena in the Balkans.

The Professorship

The Kenneth E. Naylor Professorship of South Slavic Linguistics was established November 5, 1993 in the College of Humanities through gifts to The Ohio State University from the estate of Dr. Naylor. The professorship, a five-year renewable appointment, is dedicated to preserving and continuing the scholarly legacy of Dr. Naylor. Professor Brian D. Joseph, a Balkan/Greek scholar in the Department of Linguistics at The Ohio State University and a colleague of Dr. Naylor, was named the first Kenneth E. Naylor Professor in 1997, renewed in 2002. He now holds joint appointments in the Department of Linguistics and the Department of Slavic

and East European Languages and Literatures.



Brian D. Joseph, first and current Kenneth E. Naylor Professor of South Slavic Linguistics

Kenneth E. Naylor, Jr.

Kenneth E. Naylor, Jr. was born on February 27, 1937 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He received his B.A. in French Linguistics from Cornell University in 1958, and his M.A. in General Linguistics from Indiana University in 1960. At Indiana, he began to study Slavic with Professor Edward Stankiewicz, who became a personal friend and mentor. When Professor Stankiewicz moved to the University of Chicago, Kenneth Naylor went with him. There he received his doctorate in Russian and South Slavic linguistics in 1966. Dr. Naylor was an assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh from 1964 to 1966. In 1966, he began teaching Slavic linguistics at The Ohio State University. At the time of his death, Dr. Naylor was the Acting Director of the Center for Slavic and East European Studies at the Ohio State University. Dr. Naylor was the recipient of numerous awards, grants and fellowships from many sources, including the American Council of Learned Societies, the Fulbright program, and the countries of Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, from which he was awarded medals of honor (the Jubilee Medal and the Order of the Yugoslav Flag with Golden Wreath, respectively). In 1990, he testified

before the U.S. House of Representatives, Foreign Affairs Committee on ethnic rivalry in Yugoslavia and the development of the Serbo-Croatian language. Dr. Naylor's research centered on the Serbo-Croatian language and on South Slavic linguistics in general. He served as editor of the journals *Balkanistica*, *Folia Slavica*, and *The American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies*. The overwhelming majority of his seventy articles focused on Serbo-Croatian and Balkan linguistics. His dedication and many accomplishments live on in his work and in the love of the field he instilled in his students.

Brian D. Joseph

Born in New York in 1951, Dr. Joseph took his B.A. at Yale University (1973) and his M.A. (1976) and Ph.D. (1978), both in Linguistics, at Harvard University, with a year in Greece for dissertation research. After a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Alberta, he began teaching in 1979 at The Ohio State University in Linguistics, where he has been ever since, becoming a full professor in 1988, and serving as department Chair from 1987 to 1997. Dr. Joseph has received numerous honors, including a University Distinguished Professorship (2003), a Fulbright Research Award in Greece (1987), an NEH Fellowship (2002), and the currently held Naylor Professorship. Professor Joseph's scholarly focus is on historical linguistics, with an emphasis on the latter history of Greek, especially in relation to its Balkan neighbors, including the South Slavic languages. His work on the Balkan *Sprachbund* explores the effects of long-term language contact and bilingualism, leading to converging linguistic structure in the languages of the region, a research area of great interest also to Dr. Naylor. Author or co-author of 5 books and editor or co-editor of 12 volumes, Professor Joseph's publications include several on Balkan linguistics. He is currently writing a book with Professor Victor Friedman, the

first Naylor Lecturer (1998), on the Balkan languages for Cambridge University Press.

The Lecture Series

As part of the Naylor Professorship, Professor Joseph has established an annual Lecture on South Slavic Linguistics in Kenneth Naylor's memory that brings leading scholars in the field to OSU each Spring to give a public lecture and to lecture in Professor Joseph's South Slavic classes.

The Naylor Lectures are published in the Naylor Memorial Lecture Monograph Series. Victor Friedman's 1998 Lecture (*Linguistic Emblems and Emblematic Languages: On Language as Flag in the Balkans*), Ronelle Alexander's 1999 Lecture (*In Honor of Diversity: The Linguistic Resources of the Balkans*), and Wayles Browne's 2000 lecture (*What is a Standard Language Good For, and Who Gets to Have One?*) are all now available; for information, contact the Dept. of Slavic & East European Languages & Literatures (614-292-6733).



The late, distinguished professor of South Slavic linguistics, Dr. Kenneth E. Naylor

Other Naylor Lectures

The Naylor Memorial Lecturer for 2005 will be Grace Fielder, Professor in the Department of Slavic Languages of The University of Arizona, speaking in May of 2005.
