

A tribute to Ferenc Kiefer

Dear colleagues and friends,

It is with sadness, and at the same time pleasure that I use the opportunity given to me by the organizers of this memorial meeting to bring a tribute to my deceased colleague Ferenc Kiefer.

I came into contact with Ferenc because he organized the morphology conferences in Hungary, alternating with those in Vienna, organized by prof. Wolfgang Dressler and his Vienna colleagues. The conferences in Hungary since the 1980's were very important for me as sources of inspiration for my work as a morphologist. I also liked going to Hungary, a country that I already visited as a student in the sixties, and later on in the seventies with my wife, in order to visit Hungarian friends who had a difficult time due to the political situation in the sixties and seventies.

Going to Budapest, this wonderful twin city, has always been a joy for me, not in the least because of the excellent conferences organized by Ferenc.

Thanks to the organizational qualities of Ferenc, we visited various places in Hungary outside Budapest, for instance Veszprem (during the Tsjernobyl disaster), Szentendre, and Szombathely.

These conferences were always great happenings thanks to the atmosphere of cooperation and mutual respect created by Ferenc, who did all these things always with a smile. Moreover, Ferenc gave always interesting papers himself, and I learned a lot from him about Hungarian morphology, for instance on the topic of Hungarian preverbs, such a challenging topic for theoretical morphologists.

Later on I also met Ferenc in the Netherlands. He was an active member of the Comité International Permanente de Linguistique, and this brought him sometimes to my native country. We used this occasion to have dinner together, and to talk about our common research interests.

In short, Ferenc has always been a wonderful colleague. I miss him, but I cherish my good memories of him, and I am convinced that his contributions to linguistics will continue to be of value. Above all, I miss an inspiring model colleague, and I am grateful for what his life and work meant for me.

Geert Booij