

**6th European Symposium on
Language for Specific Purposes
August 3-7, 1987, Vaasa**

Opening Address

Rector Ilkka Virtanen
University of Vaasa

Ladies and Gentlemen!

On behalf of The University of Vaasa I have a great pleasure and honor to extend a hearty welcome to all of you attending The 6th European Symposium on LSP. It is the first time we here in Vaasa have an international conference of this size and having participants from so many different countries.

I am glad that the organizers have been able to attract so many high-level scientists from Europe and outside Europe to give lectures here. On the other hand, it is good to notice the promising Finnish participation in the conference. I am sure that you have a good basis from which to start a stimulating and fruitful symposium.

Among the 17 universities in Finland, The University of Vaasa is one of the youngest and smallest. The university was founded 19 years ago as a private business school. Its name was Vaasa School of Economics and Business Administration. In 1977 the school was taken over by the state. In 1980 the scope of instruction and research of the institution was expanded when The School of Modern Languages was founded. At the same time, the name of the school was changed to University of Vaasa. In 1983 the university got its third school. The School of Social Sciences, when a M.A. program in administrative sciences started. We hope that in one or two years we can start also technical education in our university.

Besides the scientific institutes the university has 4 separate institutes: The Library, The Computer Center, The Western Finland Center for Economic Research and The Center for Continuing Education. The total number of our students is about 1800, the annual intake being about 350. The number of fulltime staff is about 200, of which about 120 belong to the teaching personnel. Although our university is young and small, we have made progress and had success both in teaching and research. A good example is the organizing of this international LSP-symposium. On behalf of the

university I want to congratulate professor Christer Laurén and his working group on bringing this outstanding event to Vaasa and to our university. I also want to thank them for their work and efforts to make the conference successful.

Dear speakers, chairmen and participants in the LSP-symposium. I wish you a stimulating and enjoyable symposium and a nice stay in Vaasa.