

ANALYSIS OF
DIS/AGREEMENT –
with particular reference to
Law and Legal Theory

by

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Preface to the English edition

This book is a translation of *U/enighetsanalyse – med særlig sikte på jus og allmenn rettsteori* (Oslo 1996, mimeographed; Oslo 1998, Universitetsforlaget/Scandinavian University Press). I have shortened the book to some extent by omitting sections II B 3.3.5 og IV 4. A few references to the literature have been deleted or added. In other respects this English edition is identical to the Norwegian edition.

The task of translating the Norwegian text into English gave rise to many challenges. The very act of going from a dense Germanic language like Norwegian to a grammatically more flexible language like English in itself raises many problems. But also on account of the content of the work, the translation of *U/enighetsanalyse* was very demanding. In the first place it is a matter of a work that has language itself as its subject; the work presents certain general structures in our concrete use of language, and builds the presentation up as a close interplay between the level of theory and concept on the one hand and the level of examples of language usage on the other. Secondly it is a matter of a work that had itself to establish and justify its perspective; one aspect of this was that to a considerable extent there was a need for innovation with respect to concepts and terms.

The fact that these difficulties have shown themselves to be surmountable is to a great extent thanks to the exceptional obligingness and commitment on the part of my colleague Patrick Chaffey in the Department of British and American Studies. Throughout the years 1999-2003 we co-operated very closely on this translation. In the main the work consisted in his writing first drafts of translations of parts of the book, drafts which I reworked, and which we then discussed, word for word, until we had gone through the whole manuscript; after this I went through the manuscript in several rounds and in so doing discussed innumerable questions with him. For long periods of time we had lengthy discussions on a daily basis. Without his help I do not know whether I would have managed to see the translation safely completed, and it would in any event most certainly have been less faithful to the original. It is with great pleasure and gratitude that I look back on our co-operation.

At different stages of the work on the translation I received valuable help from colleagues in Norway and abroad in solving different problems that the work occasioned. I should like to thank Zenon Bankowski, Ronald Craig, Dagfinn

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I also want to thank Arnt Myrstad, Aleksander Peczenik and Eivind Smith for their encouragement and valuable support along the way.

Finally I should like to express my gratitude to my closest family for their encouragement and patience; the English edition is, like the Norwegian edition, dedicated to them.

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Parts of section II F appeared earlier in (2000) 13 *Ratio Juris*, and section III 3 appeared earlier in (1999) 18 *Law and Philosophy*.

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Svein Eng