Language and Linguistics

GENERAL LINGUISTIC THEORY

70–283 Schubiger, Maria. A note on speech and writing. *English Studies* (Amsterdam), **50**, 2 (1969), 212–16.

The earliest representations of speech were ideograms, standing for sense groups or sentences. Ideograms for single words followed, and ideograms were also used to symbolize sound sequences. The Phoenicians elaborated a consonantal script. The post-Homeric Greeks invented the alphabet. Spaces between words became general only in the Middle Ages.

The syllable peak is a phonetic reality, but no general statement can be made about syllable boundaries. It is doubtful whether anything in the phonic substance of speech corresponds to the units of phonetic script: articulation is a continuous and complex process. There is little evidence that the word is a unit of speech. The natural unit of speech is the sense group, realized phonetically by intonation and pauses.

70–284 Zimek, Rudolf. Recent developments of syntactic theories in Czechoslovak linguistics. *Kivung* (Boroko), **2**, 2 (1969), 57–73.

The Prague school is well known for its investigations into problems of phonology. These investigations were carried out in the first decade of the school from 1928 to 1938. Since then work has been carried out on syntax, including the relation of syntax to morphology and lexicology, the concept of the sentence as the principal syntactic unit, the description of sentence structure and problems of word order. Mathesius introduced the aspect of potentiality and function into structural linguistics. By potentiality, he meant instability of speech among individuals inside language communities in a given

period. He was the founder of contrastive language study in Czech linguistics. He studied language as function and as structure. Functional onomatology (the theory of naming) represents the first stage of speech and this is followed by functional syntax when the linguistic signs are put into mutual relations. Linguistic investigation moves from speech to language and from functional necessities to the formal means by which they are satisfied. In this conception of the theory of language, morphology is not regarded as an independent part of language theory. This theoretical concept of language levels is now expressly stated as underlying the new multi-level theory elaborated by Daneš and Sgall. Sgall arrives at a system which is very near to Lamb's stratificational grammar.

A very important innovation by the Prague school syntactic theory is the distinction made by Mathesius between *sentence* (as a unit of language) and *utterance* (as a *parole* unit). Much work has been done on the definition of a sentence and subsequently on word order. Recently, and in the light of transformational grammar, the condensation of the sentence by a semi-predicative construction has been studied. In the last few years the theory of enunciation (or utterance) has come to the foreground in Czech linguistics which means that a linguistics of *la parole* is under way alongside the study of *la langue*. [Bibliography.]

LANGUAGE AND LOGIC

70–285 **Lavédrine, Jean.** Linguistique formelle et formalisation chomskienne. [Formal linguistics and Chomskyan formalization.] *Langues Modernes* (Paris), **63**, 6 (1969), 77–82.

Chomsky succeeded in applying to grammar the principles and methods of logico-mathematical formalization and in drawing a distinction between 'formal' and 'substantive' universals. The formalization of linguistic analysis still accepts the form–substance dichotomy but has changed its level. Formal linguistics recognized syntax as the 'form' and semantics as the 'substance'. But transformationalism sees a 'form' or system of signs on metalinguistic

level and a 'substance' on linguistic level. This enables semantics to take its place again in the field of linguistic investigation. Transformationalism is not solely responsible for this reintegration but it has contributed considerably to it. Generative algebra constitutes the wholly original contribution of transformationalism to linguistics. By the representation of abstract relationships in concrete form metalinguistic reflexion is made possible. The fact that generative algebra is one algebra among others is to its advantage because one is thereby able to hold on to the spirit and ignore the letter and envisage transposing principles in order to use them in a different way or in a different place. Transformational theory is one among many theories. This is also a source of strength because, being a hypothesis by definition, it is provisional and ready to be modified and expanded.

LINGUISTIC DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

70–286 Fairbanks, G. H. Language split. *Glossa* (Burnaby, British Columbia), **3**, 1 (1969), 49–66.

Problems of language kinship can be resolved by study of the beginnings of a language split. Closeness of relationship may refer to genetic relationship determined by the point of language split, or to divergence determined by the number and degree of changes that have taken place in the languages investigated. [The paper is concerned only with the former.]

Phonemic change results from the processes of phonetic change, analogical change and borrowing. Under this definition a change which produces allophones, a change in which a sound [x] in all environments changes to [y] (there being no previous [y] in the language), and 'phonemic change without loss of contrast' (Hoenigswald) are not considered to be phonemic change.

Phonological change signifies any change that affects the phonological system and includes phonemic and sub-phonemic changes. Phonemic change is a sufficient and necessary criterion for language split and when it takes place this change is irreversible. In order to

determine the particular phonemic change that produced a language split it is necessary to be able to determine the relative chronology of changes. When one phonemic change impinges on another, the relative chronology cannot be inferred, but if two phonemic changes do not impinge on each other, relative chronology may be plausibly assumed.

An effective comparative methodology involves the reconstruction of a proto-language and then determination of the changes that have taken place in the individual languages and the relative chronology of these changes.

The original language has split when a phonemic change has taken place in one language and not in a second one deriving from a common language.

GRAMMAR

70–287 Admoni, V. G. Ещё раз об изучении количественной стороны ̇грамматических явлений. [Some more remarks on the study of the quantitative aspect of grammatical phenomena.] *Вопросы языкознания* (Moscow), 1 (1970), 89–101.

Recent times have witnessed a great increase in interest in the quantitative aspect of grammatical phenomena. Mainly this has been the result of developments in applied and mathematical linguistics but the role of diachronic linguistics must not be overlooked either. Many of those who have used the tools of mathematics for linguistic research have restricted themselves in the field of linguostatistics to the use of probability statistics which they see as the only methodology available. It is unfortunate that 'grammatical or symptomatic statistics' which seek to elucidate and emphasize links between the quantitative and the qualitative aspects of grammar have been underestimated. A real effort is needed to illustrate more clearly the specific interrelationship existing between the systems of form and of content by means of symptomatic or non-parametric statistics, even though this means relinquishing some of the mathematical

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precision which is in vogue. There is a definite danger that the precision of many results in probability-statistical studies of language is only apparent and that these methods may become an end in themselves rather than a means to an end. The symptomatic method in language statistics ensures on the other hand that the concept of using quantitative data as the 'symptoms' of qualitative features is not lost from sight. Language is a combination of so many intricately interwoven aspects, layers and tendencies that priority must be given in quantitative studies to methods which are capable of detecting new interrelationships and tendencies in linguistic systems.

LEXICAL STUDIES

70–288 Newmark, Peter. On lexical correlativity. *Audio-Visual Language Journal* (London), **7**, 3 (1969/70), 165–71.

[A theoretical study of the concept of correlativity (antithesis, in its extreme form) exists in a previous article and is summarized in abstract 68–175, q.v.] The present article is an attempt to define and illustrate the categories of correlativity. Reference books containing lists of correlational classes could assist translators, linguists and teachers and students of language and languages.

70–289 Roudný, Miroslav. The theory of the Prague linguistic school and the terminological activities in Czechoslovakia. *Babel* (Avignon), **15**, 3 (1969), 147–9.

As the Czech and Slovak languages are spoken by fairly small populations, work on the terminology of scientific and technical thought is very important for translators and the help of linguists is useful. The Prague linguistic school has paid great attention to terminology in its theoretical work. A language norm has been recognized, akin to a social code. Its existence is only realized when it is broken. Such a norm is helpful in coining new terms. Artificial inventions must respect the stability of a language. Classification and systematization of concepts and terms presents some sort of

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metatheory of the given field which serves as a means of orientation in the complex of knowledge and notions of the given science. Study of the formation of words and terms in different languages is still in its infancy. In 1958 the *Czechoslovak Standards Committee for Terminology* was founded, and at the Institute of Czech Language a card index system of the standardized terms is kept. International cooperation in terminological theory is very important.

COMMUNICATION

70–290 Crystal, D. New perspectives for language study. 2: Semiotics. *English Language Teaching* (London), **24**, 3 (1970), 209–15.

Semiotics studies the various systematic and conventional bodily activity which a community uses in order to communicate. The overall complexity of the semiotic situation has been underestimated. Many of the cues signalling our attitudes are visual, subtle, and non-instinctive. They vary from culture to culture. Foreigners may give offence by ignoring a behaviour pattern. Kinesic information often overrules the linguistic information in an utterance.

The full range of vocal effects that carry meaning has been insufficiently studied. Prosodic or suprasegmental features cover much more than intonation and stress, and there is more in intonation and stress than is traditionally studied under that label. Speed variations and variations in loudness, rhythm, pause, muscular tension, whisper, nasalization, velarization and labialization have some importance. People from different language backgrounds use different norms of pitch, loudness, rhythm and so on. The discourse aspects of intonation, and the use of variations in pitch-range over lengthy stretches of utterance, need studying.

Language is one component of communication activity.