

Language and linguistics

LINGUISTIC THEORY *See also abstracts 81–132, –150*

81–130 Gray, Bennison. The impregnability of American linguistics: an historical sketch. *Lingua* (Amsterdam), **50**, 1/2 (1980), 5–23.

Examination of the conflict between the mechanists (such as Bloomfield and Hall) and the mentalists (such as Spitzer and Chomsky) in American linguistics reveals that, despite irreconcilable differences, both schools are committed to a conception of science that prohibits debate on the fundamental issues. The party in power can and does change, but debate is always stifled by dismissing the outsiders as unscientific. For both, it is enough that linguistic inquiry be conducted scientifically for linguistic science to emerge. But what the nature and limits of such inquiry are, they neither agree upon nor debate. Consequently, the field is characterised by increasing paralysis, which spreads behind a façade rendered impregnable by the joint defense of irreconcilable opponents.

81–131 Zribi-Hertz, Anne. La démarche explicative en grammaire générative: autour du concept de transformation. [Processes of explanation in generative grammar: transformations and allied concepts.] *Langue Française* (Paris), **46** (1980), 8–31.

As an illustration of modes of argument and processes of explanation in generative grammar, this article reviews the debate between the lexicalist and transformationalist approaches. A brief summary of the basic principles of generative grammar is followed by an outline of the lexicalist hypothesis as initially proposed by Chomsky, and subsequently extended by Bresnan and Wasow. A number of criteria proposed by these investigators as crucial for the distinction between transformations and lexical redundancy rules are critically reviewed. [Exemplification from French.]

LINGUISTIC UNIVERSALS *See also abstract 81–147*

81–132 Chomsky, Noam. On binding *Linguistic Inquiry* (New York), **11**, 1 (1980), 1–46.

This working paper (not originally intended for publication) tackles some problems of English syntax within the framework of the so-called Extended Standard Theory of generative grammar. The theory assumes a biologically endowed, hence universal, core grammar. Chomsky claims that the task of the linguist is to discover general principles specifying the structure of the human language faculty, thus leaving the grammarian of, say, English to state only the idiosyncratic facts which

need to be learnt by a competent speaker. For example, no adequate grammar of English can fail to state that *each other* is a reciprocal phrase; but, given an adequate 'core grammar', no grammar of English should state more than this. For instance, it will follow from universal grammar that *each other* must have a plural antecedent. The target is a highly unified theory with just a few, minimally complex, abstract rules; the *ad hoc* properties of particular languages, which the child has no option but to learn, define the limit that universal grammar must approach. The paper contains much technical argument concerning the properties of structures underlying English sentences which contain indirect questions, e.g. *John asked Bill who to visit*. These properties fall under certain supposed universal conditions, which independently deal with cases of 'bound anaphora' such as reciprocals and reflexives.

The form of a grammar is thus: the familiar surface structures (generated by base and transformational rules) associated, via other kinds of rules, with (a) phonetic representations, and (b) logical form. The elaboration of such rules is the aim of universal grammar.

81-133 van Valin, Robert D., Jr. On the distribution of passive and antipassive constructions in universal grammar. *Lingua* (Amsterdam), **50**, 4 (1980), 303-27.

The distribution of passive and antipassive constructions in a number of languages is examined, particularly promotional passives and anti-passives of the kind found in German and Dyirbal, respectively. Two accusative languages, German and Choctaw, and two ergative languages, Dyirbal and Enga, are surveyed, and Choctaw and Enga are found to lack constructions of the type found in the other two languages. This is related to a fundamental difference in the nature of the grammatical processes in the two groups of languages, and a distinction between role-dominated and reference-dominated languages is proposed to capture this difference.

SEMANTICS See also abstracts 81-147, -165

81-134 Carter, Richard. La notion d'explication en sémantique. [Explanation in semantics.] *Langue Française* (Paris), **46** (1980), 73-89.

Two widely discussed topics in semantics, polysemy and compositionality, are considered with reference to expressions of movement in English and French. A notion of 'strict compositionality' is proposed, according to which a language is strictly compositional if the meaning of its sentences is determined uniquely by their constituent lexical items, so that no semantic rule introduces any meaningful element. A 'minimum polysemy constraint' is also proposed, according to which polysemy is to be avoided wherever possible by the assignment of a

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maximally general semantic representation to any given lexical item. It is hypothesised that in the unmarked case, languages will be strictly compositional and will minimise polysemy.

The operation of these principles is considered with regard to expressions of movement by verbs and prepositions in English and French (*John went/swam in(to) the cave, Jean est entré/a nagé dans la caverne*). The two languages differ in that French is strictly compositional whereas English is not; a general framework for the treatment of such cases is proposed.

81-135 Kratzer, Angelika. Possible-worlds semantics and psychological reality. *Linguistische Berichte* (Brunswick), **66** (1980), 1-14.

The same proposition can be expressed by uttering sentences in very different languages. But what are propositions? This paper illustrates one possible approach to the question within the framework proposed by Montague for the semantic description of natural languages.

In order to prevent the study of semantics from being merely an academic exercise, it should be shown that the components of the model have some kind of 'psychological reality'. There is some evidence for a modular approach to semantics drawn from research in sentence processing and language acquisition, which suggests, for example, that lexical knowledge should distinguish 'function words' from 'content words'.

LINGUISTIC DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS *See abstracts* 81-146, -163.

SOCIOLINGUISTICS *See abstracts* 81-160, -184, -187, -210

PSYCHOLINGUISTICS *See also abstracts* 81-140, -183

81-136 Corrigan, Roberta. Use of repetition to facilitate spontaneous language acquisition. *Journal of Psycholinguistic Research* (New York), **9**, 3 (1980), 231-41.

The role of repetition as a facilitator of spontaneous language acquisition was examined in a 12-month longitudinal study of three children: John, Mindy and Ashley. Imitation was first defined in a traditional fashion as the exact repetition of a model utterance, within five utterances, without changing the model except to reduce it. During the single-word utterance period, John entered words into his vocabulary by imitating them and then using them spontaneously, while the two girls did not. He also imitated longer utterances than he produced spontaneously,

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while the two girls did not. At the same time, John showed the most rapid language acquisition of the three children. John did not use imitation, as defined, to enter new syntactic–semantic relations into his speech during the two-word stage. However, when the definition of imitation was broadened to include other kinds of repetitions such as repetitions with expansion, either of the child's own productions or of those of others, it was found that repetitions played a significant role in the acquisition of new vocabulary and new syntactic–semantic relations in two-word utterances.

81–137 Winkler, Peter. Über die perzeptiv-psychologische Realität der distinktiven Merkmale von R. Jakobson. [On the reality of R. Jakobson's distinctive features in terms of the psychology of perception.] *Linguistische Berichte* (Brunswick), **65** (1980), 1–8.

The article criticises the assumption, attributed to Jakobson himself, that Jakobson's distinctive features have a psychological reality. They do not uniquely constitute those signal characteristics which carry pieces of information relevant to the recognition of speech sounds. Parameters which are functions of time are equally important in the recognition of these sounds as the frequency, band width, and amplitude of individual elements treated as stationary phases in the articulatory or acoustic process. Jakobson's conception of language perception is based on the erroneous belief that the linguistic stimulus is analysed initially by the hearer on the level of the phoneme. In reality, utterances are produced and perceived so quickly that it is unreasonable to assume that every acoustic event is segmented on the level of the phoneme, each segment examined to establish its distinctive features, and the phonemes then strung together into syllables. There are several levels at which the process of perception and recognition operates, including those of the sentence and the syllable, and it is impossible to decide which level has priority. Chomsky's conception of distinctive features as universals is criticised as being inadequate.

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN *See also abstracts* 81–136, –143

81–138 Clark, Eve V. Lexical innovations: how children learn to create new words. *Papers and Reports on Child Language Development* (Stanford, Calif), **18** (1980), 1–24.

The meanings of children's lexical innovations are distinguished from the forms they rely on to convey these meanings, even though meaning and form are tightly linked. Children's innovative meanings are often contextual. They require knowledge of the context, and what mutual knowledge that would entail, for the addressee to arrive at the child

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speaker's intended meaning. This is often achieved by default, since children tend to limit their early conversations to the here-and-now, thus making it possible for the addressee to use the context even when the speaker is not taking it explicitly into account. Learning to assess what the addressee does and does not know is only one of the factors children must eventually attend to as they acquire the conventions on innovation.

Lexical innovations require word forms for their expression. These seem to be acquired in a predictable order, with forms that are productive in the language – and hence more readily available – being mastered earlier. In addition to the principle of productivity, children also attend to the semantic coherence of the new forms they are constructing, and they regularise the lexical paradigms that result, e.g. choosing a single form for all agent nouns. But the three principles outlined here – productivity, semantic coherence, and regularisation – are only some of those that operate in the acquisition of the word formation rules for a language.

81–139 Ferguson, Charles A. and Macken, Marlys A. Phonological development in children: play and cognition. *Papers and Reports on Child Language Development* (Stanford, Calif), **18** (1980), 138–177.

This general paper on phonological development aims to make developmentalists more aware of phonology as an important aspect of development and to open up to child phonologists a range of significant issues not often treated by them.

The role of sound play in phonological development is discussed, with a focus on three general types: babbling (the fourth to tenth months of life); expressive sound play (roughly ages two to five); and language games (early adolescence). The changes in research of the past decade reflect a shift from universalist-linguistic models to a broadly cognitive model of phonological acquisition. An outline of such a model is presented together with the data on which it is based; an evaluation is also made of the model's limitations.

BILINGUALISM

81–140 Ehri, Linnea C. and Ryan, Ellen Bouchard. Performance of bilinguals in a picture–word interference task. *Journal of Psycholinguistic Research* (New York), **9**, 3 (1980), 285–302.

The picture–word interference task was administered to Spanish–English adults in order to determine whether the lexicons of bilinguals are integrated or whether words are stored and accessed separately in semantic memory. Pictures were printed with Spanish words naming other objects, with English translations, and with Xs. Spanish and

English distractor words were observed to slow down picture naming in both languages. Also, an interaction was detected among subjects naming pictures in English. On the first trial, Spanish words produced more interference than English words, whereas the pattern was reversed thereafter. This effect is attributed to task novelty, which disappears with practice. No differential patterns of interference were observed among subjects naming pictures in Spanish, probably because of greater error variance. Results for English picture-naming bilinguals supported the integration hypothesis but suggested that there is less distance between words within a language than between languages in semantic memory.

81-141 Lipski, John M. Bilingual code-switching and internal competence: the evidence from Spanish and English. *Language et l'Homme* (Paris), 42 (1980), 30-9.

Code switching, the rapid, spontaneous alternation between two languages which may even occur more than once within the same sentence, is a feature of the speech of balanced bilingual speakers which is proving of increasing interest to psycholinguistics. Some attempts to explain the phenomenon postulate the internal linguistic competence of the bilingual as a composite of the two languages somehow amalgamated into a single superstructure, while the opposing view maintains that bilingual speakers have command over two totally separate grammars.

These theories are not however mutually exclusive, and in spite of the difficulty of reaching an accurate assessment of the true measure of language mixing in bilingual speakers, it appears that they do in fact possess, to a greater or lesser degree, a sort of composite grammar, a system mediating between the two stored languages, and also the mental capacity to compare equivalent sentences in both. Research indicates that certain grammatical constraints operate, e.g. noun is not separated from article nor verb from subject. Further studies of languages which are further apart than English and Spanish are called for.

81-142 Saunders, George. Adding a second native language in the home. *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development* (Clevedon, Avon), 1, 2 (1980), 113-44.

A progress report is given on a longitudinal study of the acquisition of English-German bilingualism by two Australian-born children who, from the onset of speech, have always communicated with their father in German and with their mother and most other people in English. The situation is unusual in that English is the native language of both parents and is also the dominant and official language of the community. The problems of creating and fostering bilingualism under such circumstances are examined. Perseverance and patience on the part of the parents can overcome possible reluctance by the children to speak both languages. Communication patterns within the family are discussed. A

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one person – one language home environment is conducive to the establishment of bilingualism and has no adverse effect on family harmony. The father's not being a native speaker of German has more advantages than disadvantages. To compare the children's progress in both languages, various tests were conducted: fluency and accuracy were tested with story-telling tasks and an analysis of free speech, receptive vocabulary was gauged with the PPVT and language dominance with Edelman's (1969) naming task. Overall, the results slightly favoured English, but, considering the disparity in exposure to, and practice in, the two languages (3:1 in favour of English), the standard of bilingualism attained is encouraging.

PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY *See also abstracts 81–139, –166*

81–143 Brazil, David. The meaning-system of English intonation. *MALS Journal* (Birmingham), 5 (1980), 97–107.

The meanings associated with selections from three systems in English intonation are discussed with particular reference to their role in child language. Within the 'tone' system, two subsystems are considered: rising v. falling and, within the former category, rising v. falling–rising. Rising tones are used when the speaker is referring to some aspects of the situation already shared by speaker and listener, whereas falling tones occur when the speaker is proclaiming something as yet unknown to the listener. The distinction between rising and falling–rising tones is that the latter are used when the speaker accepts the existing distribution of roles within the conversation, whereas the former are used when the speaker wishes to become dominant or assume control.

In the 'key' system, high key has contrastive implications, and low key is equative in the sense that a tone unit in which it is chosen is marked as being situationally equivalent to the preceding one. The 'termination' system is employed by speakers to indicate what kind of rejoinder they expect: high termination correlates with a high key response, and mid termination correlates with a mid key response. Low termination does not pre-empt the type of response.

81–144 Danley, Martha and Cooper, William E. Sentence production: closure versus initiation of constituents. *Linguistics* (The Hague), 17, 11/12 (1979), 1017–38.

Experiments were conducted to test the effects of surface structure syntactic boundaries on the durations of segments in speech production. Ten speakers of American English read sets of phonetically-matched sentences containing key words just prior to phrase boundaries of varying strength. The experiments were designed to assess the individual and relative contributions of constituents occurring before versus after

the syntactic boundary. Measurements of segment durations were obtained using computerised techniques of acoustical analysis. The results showed that, in single-clause sentences, constituents terminating at the boundary exert a significantly greater effect on the key segment durations than constituents initiating at the boundary. The results are discussed in terms of a theory of syntactic boundary strength.

81-145 Kenning, Marie-Madeleine. Intonation systems in French. *Journal of the International Phonetic Association* (London), 9, 1 (1979), 15-30.

An analysis of French intonation is presented, analogous to that proposed by Halliday for English. The basic unit of intonational organisation is the tone group, which contains one or more rhythmic groups and comprises a 'tonic' together with an optional 'pretonic'. Intonation patterns are analysed in terms of three sets of choices: 'tonality' – the segmentation of the utterance into tone groups; 'tonicity' – the location of the tonic syllable in the tone group; and 'tone' – the pitch pattern of the tone group. A further option is the location of *accents d'insistance*. [Description of the various possibilities available under tonality, tonicity, and tone]. An informal account is given of the meanings associated with the various intonation patterns.

COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS *See also abstracts 81-167/8*

81-146 Abraham, Werner. *But*. *Studia Linguistica* (Lund, Sweden), 33, 2 (1979), 89-119.

The English conjunction *but* is argued to have three distinct locutionary functions, corresponding respectively to the German *aber*, *sondern* and *dafür*. Demonstrated cases of true ambiguity count against the suggestion that the difference is illocutionary in nature. *But_a* (cf. *aber*) is represented semantically by the (defined) predicate *Us*, linking two events in terms of their temporal proximity. The events are thereby characterised as being usually associated with one another. The use of *but_a* disqualifies this association in the particular case. *But_s* (cf. *sondern*) is defined in terms of the predicates PREF and MIN, indicating respectively the preference for one event over another, and the negative character of an event. The function of *but_s* is to contradict exclusively, without the element of concession entailed by *but_a*. The third reading of *but*, corresponding to German *dafür*, can be defined simply with the two-place predicate PREF. In contrast to German, Dutch, as well as English, does not lexicalise these distinctions.

81-147 Wierzbicka, Anna. Ethno-syntax and the philosophy of grammar. *Studies in Language* (Amsterdam), 3, 3 (1979), 313-83.

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The choice of one syntactic construction over another in a given language can be used to signal a corresponding conceptual distinction. By comparing several such distinctions across languages, the Whorfian hypothesis that different languages embody different outlooks can be conveniently examined. This paper concentrates largely on the various concepts associated with the expression of events occurring within or with respect to the human individual. Thus, while in Romance languages the absence of a reflexive may indicate the lack of mediation in an action carried out by a part of the body (*Pierre a ouvert les yeux*), the same syntactic distinction in Polish carries the sense of a routine, simple bodily action (*Piotr umyl zęby* 'Peter_i cleaned his_i teeth'). Romance, Germanic and Slavic languages display several such distinctions. In a different conceptual field, the 'ignorative' component of Russian semantics, registering the cause or impetus of an event as unknown, is not found in certain other languages. The expression of the good/bad dichotomy, on the other hand, might be a linguistic universal [examples].

LEXICOLOGY

81-148 Geens, D. Computational recognition of English syntactic structures. *Cahiers de Lexicologie* (Paris), 35, 2 (1979), 63-89.

A programme of automatic syntactic analysis is described, which aimed to simulate part of the verbal behaviour of the 'hearer' of the language. A description is given of the syntactic characteristics studied and the principles of codification utilised for representing the syntactic information in the memory of the computer.

The two main elements of the programme were paradigmatic analysis and syntagmatic analysis. The former discerns actual and potential word valencies. Actual valencies are defined with the help of distributional rules, and potential valencies are deduced from the lexical information. Instead of the one traditional lexis, three were grouped together: a static lexis made up of most of the useful words, a dynamic lexis made up of the lexemes of the texts being analysed, and a third containing morphological generalisations based on word-endings.

Syntagmatic analysis established mutual units between the word groups according to distributional rules. The programme is between 85 and 95 per cent accurate depending on the kind of text being analysed.

81-149 Willems, D. Syntaxe, morphosyntaxe et sémantique. Les verbes dérivés. [Syntax, morphosyntax and semantics. Derived verbs.] *Cahiers de Lexicologie* (Paris), 35, 2 (1979), 3-25.

An analysis of the syntactic and semantic properties of French derived verbs containing substantival or adjectival roots. The study, based on an examination of some 900 derived verbs, is part of a more general work on French verbal constructions and the relation between syntax and

semantics. The main point is that those derived verbs stand in a paraphrase relation with more general verbs used in more complicated syntactic constructions. The syntax of a derived verb can be described as a 'short cut' construction, in which an increase in lexical and morphological complexity is paralleled by syntactic simplification.

The syntax switches from clause level to word level following some simple rules. These rules enable one to integrate the derived verbs in a more general framework in which all verb constructions can be adequately dealt with. Speakers of French have in fact three ways of expressing a particular semantic relation: by using a general verb in a complex construction, by using a derived verb in a simple construction, or by using the substitute verb *faire*, which has a syntax *sui generis*.

LEXICOGRAPHY

81–150 Mallinson, G. The dictionary and the lexicon: a happy medium? *ITL* (Louvain), 45/6 (1979), 10–18.

Some possible points of contact and difference are suggested between the practical dictionary and the theoretical lexicon. Dictionaries are meant to be used and have a ready market. No-one actually uses the lexicon and little is known about it. Some similarities in their general structure are that dictionaries can be organised alphabetically or on semantic grounds, corresponding to the two types of lexicon (one for the speaker and one for the hearer). Varieties of lexicon differ in terms of (a) how much material is included and (b) how that information is organised within the lexical entry. The greatest distinction between the dictionary and the lexicon in terms of internal structure of lexical items is in the realm of features, particularly semantic features. The major lesson for both is that although formalism is an antidote to sloppiness, it has its own pitfalls, e.g. over-formalising and segmenting *ad infinitum*.

How important a role is the lexicon allowed to play in the structure of the grammatical model as a whole? Its usual role is that of a repository for material not fitting into grammatical rules – the list of exceptions. Likewise the lexical entry in the dictionary lists irregularities. Some linguists have been tempted to regard the semantic structure as equivalent to the syntactic structure. Transformational linguistics has tended to relate distinct structures on the grounds of simplicity despite the fact that the whole of the grammar has not yet been set up. The structure of individual entries in the lexicon might benefit from the simpler, more practical example of the dictionary entry.

81–151 Opitz, K. Technical dictionaries: testing the requirements of the professional user. *ITL* (Louvain), 45/6 (1979), 89–95.

A teacher investigated the reported inadequacy of various bilingual English/German dictionaries when her students applied them to

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nautical texts. The students were given a text and identified words they considered to belong to this specialised field. The items mentioned were then checked in various dictionaries. Two of the dictionaries (one monolingual, one bilingual) identified as 'nautical' a surprisingly small percentage of the selected vocabulary (8 and 18 per cent, respectively). A specialised (shipping/navigation) bilingual dictionary, on the other hand, identified 75 per cent as nautical. It is concluded that specialised dictionaries should fully espouse the fact of their specialisation. It is not a question of sheer volume but of the right choice. Compatibility of lexical items across language boundaries should be a natural aim of lexicography, and is more likely to be achieved in scientific and technical fields. There is a real and as yet unsatisfied need for terminological norms.

PRAGMATICS

81-152 De Beaugrande, Robert-Alain. The pragmatics of discourse planning. *Journal of Pragmatics* (Amsterdam), 4, 1 (1980), 15-42.

The basic notions of natural language pragmatics cannot be the same as those of syntax and semantics as developed so far. Instead, pragmatics must be an empirically oriented theory of action and interaction. The role of sentences and predications is secondary.

The most promising approaches for such a pragmatics are: (1) conceptual dependency theory, in which language is a form of actions specified by goal-directed plans (e.g. Schank); (2) plan theory, in which the analysis of tasks and resources leads to the specification of a planned sequence of steps (e.g. Sacerdoti); (3) problem-solving theory, in which points or states in a problem space have to be connected by a successful pathway (e.g. Newell and Simon); and (4) procedural theory of discourse, in which language elements and systems are investigated with respect to how people utilise them in communication and processing.

The paper offers the framework of a natural language pragmatics along these lines and applies the resulting theory to a study of a scene from a stage play by Sidney Howard. It is shown that the actions and discourse actions of the scene are indeed generated by the characters' plans and goals.

81-153 Gazdar, Gerald. Pragmatics and logical form. *Journal of Pragmatics* (Amsterdam), 4, 1 (1980), 1-13.

It has often been observed that there exist certain apparent differences in meaning between natural language words like *some*, *possible*, *and*, *or*, and their logical counterparts. These differences are described and an examination is made of their implications for the view that natural languages can be handled semantically in the same way that formal logical languages can be. It is argued that the differences can be

CONVERSATIONAL ANALYSIS

naturally explained within an elaboration of Grice's pragmatic theory of conversation. The view of meaning that emerges from these considerations is a hybrid one, compounded from a restricted logicist semantics on the one hand, and a broadly based pragmatics on the other.

SPEECH ACT THEORY *See abstracts 81-171, -174*

DISCOURSE ANALYSIS *See abstracts 81-152, -183, -193*

INTERACTION ANALYSIS *See abstract 81-199*

CONVERSATIONAL ANALYSIS *See also abstract 81-157*

81-154 Beneke, Jürgen. Fremdsprachenanwendung in 'real life situations'. [The use of foreign languages in real life situations.] *Linguistik und Didaktik* (Munich), **39** (1979), 238-65.

The article is based on an analysis of conversations, mainly of a business nature, in which English was used as a lingua franca. The social and cultural norms applying in such situations are examined; these norms are established from case to case by informal agreements, and native speakers of English suspend their norms in favour of those temporarily operating. New criteria are needed for evaluating the relative importance of various kinds of linguistic mistakes. Grammar errors, for example, may be less detrimental to successful communication than is generally thought. English used as a lingua franca is an independent variety, a 'communication dialect'; sustained stretches of successful communication, using forms which would be seen as defective in the written language, are evidence that it is the communicative power of the communication dialect which should be given prominence and not its inadequacies.

81-155 Lapteva, O. A. О грамматике устного высказывания. [On the grammar of the spoken utterance.] *Вопросы языкознания* (Moscow), **2** (1980), 45-60.

The author sets out to determine the general features of the spoken form of language, which she sees as a necessary first step in determining the specific properties of conversational style. A variety of such features is illustrated, especially the greater density of verbs in spoken than in written Russian. This gives rise to a particularly common construction where the same noun relates to two separate finite verbs, one preceding it and the other following. Another manifestation of the same tendency

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is the much smaller number of verbal or nominal modifiers in spoken Russian.

The existence of such constructions is an extension of the normal process of adding modifiers of various sorts to the end of the sentence. A typology is presented of the various positions in which such 'extra' verbs appear. [Examples from a variety of spoken styles.]

81-156 Luger, Heinz-Helmut. Formen rituellen sprachgebrauchs. Eine vorläufige Skizze. [Forms of the ritual use of language: a provisional sketch.] *Deutsche Sprache* (Berlin, FRG), **1** (1980), 21-39.

Conversation rituals are by no means merely exceptional instances of speech, which may be liable to depreciatory valuation. The feature of reduced individuality rather reveals that, with varying degrees of markedness, these rituals can characterise a variety of spheres, such as institutional speech acts, forms of stereotyped language use, and phatic formulas.

NEEDS ANALYSIS

81-157 Abbou, André. Approche ethnomethodologique des échanges langagiers en situation de face-à-face. [An ethnomethodological approach to language exchanges in a face-to-face situation.] *Études de Linguistique Appliquée* (Paris), **37** (1980), 61-79.

This article is based on a series of face-to-face language exchanges with employees of a food business in the Paris region. These meetings related to specific day-to-day situations, encountered during an investigation of training needs. An interpretation of 'need' from the practical and psychological points of view leads to a psycho-social definition which forms the basis for a functional and actionist analysis of the language exchanges, including a detailed exposition of the nature of the business and of the needs of the workers. The importance of environmental and socio-cultural factors are emphasised in relation to any face-to-face discussion; only limited faith can be placed in any such restricted exchanges, because of the variability of norms of production and interpretation of communicative acts.