

Descriptive studies of particular languages

English

90-386 Kelly, Michael H. (U. of Pennsylvania). *Journal of Memory and Language* (New York), **28**, 6 (1989), 690-710.

Disyllabic English nouns tend to be stressed on the first syllable, whereas disyllabic verbs tend to be stressed on the second syllable. In concert with other papers, this report argues that the stress asymmetry was partially caused by two factors: (1) a rhythmic preference for alternations between strong and weak beats, and (2) contextual differences between nouns and verbs that bias verbs toward second syllable stress. In particular, verbs are more likely than nouns to receive inflections that take a syllabic form. Because such syllabic inflections are weakly stressed, their appearance on disyllabic words with first syllable stress will produce two consecutive unstressed syllables. Verbs might therefore be pressured toward second syllable stress, which would establish rhythmic alternation. Prior research has found that stress assignments of disyllabic pseudowords acting

as verbs can be modified in the predicted ways through syllabic *-ed* and *-ing* inflections. The experiments reported here extend these findings to (1) nouns, (2) plural and third person present singular *-es*, and (3) actual English words. A final experiment indicates that the locus of the alternation preference is in speech perception and not speech production. The discussion examines reasons why other modifications that could create rhythmic alternation are not observed, the implications of the analysis for stress patterns on trisyllabic English words, and implications of the noun-verb stress difference for one type of language creativity. The paper in general illustrates how basic research in psycholinguistics can be used to study long-term structural changes in language.

90-387 Meier, Gerhard E. H. The postpositive conjunctions 'though,' 'as' and 'that'. (Heidelberg, FRG), **27**, 4 (1989), 307-24.

This article analyses postpositive English constructions with the conjunctions *though*, *as* and *that* (based on a corpus of some 330 English examples). Observations are made concerning structural, sem-

antic and textual aspects. The constructions are compared with each other and with subordinated propositions with preceding conjunctions.

90-338 Mitchell, Keith (U. of Edinburgh). On comparisons in a notional grammar. *Applied Linguistics* (Oxford), **11**, 1 (1990), 52-72.

In the context of designing a communicative-pedagogical description of English oriented towards the needs of the syllabus designer and materials writer, this article re-examines the semantics and syntax of English comparative structures, which, it is argued, traditional reference grammars have presented in a misleading light. In particular, the

paper challenges the common assumption (which can be traced back to the work of Jespersen) that the *as... (as)* construction serves to express a notion of 'equality'. An alternative analysis is proposed, based on the identification of the semantic relation that holds between *-er(than)* and *as... (as)* constructions as one of 'inverseness'.

90-389 Morrow, Phillip R. (Sugiyama Jogakuen U., Japan). Conjunct use in business news stories and academic journal articles: a comparative study. *English for Specific Purposes* (New York), **8**, 3 (1989), 239-54.

This study describes the use of conjuncts in two genres of written English: business news stories and academic journal articles about economics. The first part presents a quantitative analysis of conjunct usage for each genre in terms of overall frequency of

conjunct use and frequency of specific types of conjuncts. This analysis shows a much higher frequency of conjunct use in the academic journal texts. The quantitative patterns of conjunct use are then discussed in relation to a description of the two

genres of texts, the communicative functions each genre serves and the pragmatic factors which influence its forms. Finally, there is a brief discussion

of the pedagogical implications of this study with some suggestions about directions for further research.

90–390 Tauroza, Steve (City Poly. of Hong Kong) and **Allison, Desmond** (U. of Hong Kong). Speech rates in British English. *Applied Linguistics* (Oxford), **11**, 1 (1990), 90–105.

The estimate of English speech rates most widely known to teachers and researchers in EFL is that provided by Pimsleur *et al.* (1977). However, that estimate of standard rates of speech was based on one particular variety of English: that of radio news announcers. Moreover, Pimsleur's data included the speech rates of French-speaking radio news announcers, and the range of speech rates they reported reflected the wide variations found between the French-speaking announcers rather than the smaller

variations between the English-speaking announcers.

Speech produced in four different types of situation (conversations, academic lectures, interviews, and radio monologues) was analysed in order to check whether the standard range of speech rates reported by Pimsleur was applicable to different varieties of English. It was found that this was not the case and an alternative range of speech rates is proposed.

French

90–391 Calvé, Pierre (U. of Ottawa). De l'économie des moyens linguistiques en français et en anglais dans l'usage standard contemporain. [On the comparative economy of linguistic resources between French and English in contemporary standard usage.] *Canadian Modern Language Review* (Toronto), **46**, 1 (1989), 22–49.

Under the pressure of new norms imposed by the mass media, English is proving better able to adapt than French. The reasons lie partly in the intrinsic natures of the languages and partly in the cultural attitudes towards them of their respective speech communities.

Whereas French, under the influence of the *Académie*, has been cultivated according to certain norms of style and rhetoric derived from the classics and made heavily dependent on borrowings from Latin, English has enjoyed greater freedom and flexibility and leaves more to the context to establish meaning. Whereas French is more explicit in requiring function words to be spelt out, English leaves the readers or interlocutors to negotiate meaning in the absence of such function words, using context and shared knowledge.

English forms collocations largely by simple juxtaposition and by a small number of affixes, e.g. *-ing*, whereas French grows by derivation and has a greater number of alternative affixes whose boundaries are arbitrarily fixed. Hence to transfer or extrapolate them to meet new challenges, as English might do, leads to error rather than new language. Abundant examples and parallel cases are adduced; it is shown that with English, a maximum number of messages can be expressed with a minimum of forms, which is ideal for the modern demands of journalism, advertising, and rapid communication. In the face of this challenge, French is having to be less strict about its criteria for development than it used to be, particularly in Canada.

German

90–392 Dieckmann, Walther. Die Untersuchung der deutsch-deutschen Sprachentwicklung als linguistisches Problem. [The study of inter-German language development as a linguistic problem.] *ZGL* (Berlin, FRG), **17**, 2 (1989), 162–81.

Discussions in the GDR of the question of whether it is possible to speak of a GDR variant of German have tended to be dismissed by writers from the Federal Republic as little more than political tracts.

This is, however, based on a selective reading and ignores the linguistic character of the discussion. Following the 8th Party Congress of the SED, a theoretical discussion of the relationship between

language and society was initiated in which expected future development in the languages of East and West Germany were hypothesised on the basis of the different societies. The only empirically based research was that of vocabulary relating to the differing ideologies. The variant thesis consisted of the questions: Is there a single *Standardsprache* (literary language) and are there two variants of the *Gesamtsprache Deutsch* (the totality of the language, including its sociolinguistic aspects)? The views expressed at a colloquium at the *Zentralinstitut für Sprachwissenschaft* in Berlin in 1973 are representative of the discussion. It was generally agreed that the new relationships in 'the socialist society of the GDR' influence language usage, but that the system is indifferent to society. Lerchner alone argued in favour of two variants of the *Standardsprache* on the basis of different norms, a level which he introduces between system and usage. Similarly Lerchner favours two different norms of the *Gesamtsprache*, but this is rejected by others on the grounds that is

impossible for an abstract concept of this nature to have norms. Since 1973 there has been no real change in the views held, and Fleischer's supposed 'new approach' of 1983 is no more than a reiteration of his previously held views rejecting a GDR variant of German. A number of West German linguists have in fact supported the idea of variants as either fact or to be expected. Criticism of East German thinking has largely revolved around the use of the term *Nation*. Thus reaction against *Nationale Variante der deutschen Sprache* appears to be not so much against the concept of variants, as the existence of two nations. Perhaps the use of von Polenz's (1988) formulation of a *plurizentische Sprachkultur* (multi-centred language culture) would help to take much of the heat out of the debate. As this article shows, it is possible to argue at length over the question of whether or not there are two or more variants of German without adding anything to our empirical knowledge of the development of the German language in the two states.

90-393 Jung, Matthias. Der öffentliche Sprachgebrauch und die Umweltdebatte in der BRD. Versuch der Kommunikationsgeschichte eines Themas. [Everyday language use and the environment debate in the Federal Republic of Germany. Attempt at a history of communication on a subject.] *Sprache und Literatur* (Munich, FRG), **63** (1989), 76-98.

Two phases in the development of the environment debate are identified and the language used in published material from these phases examined. Wahrig's dictionary is chosen as a check of acceptance in the language as this is the only general dictionary with sufficient revisions to show the development of the language. During the early phase (1945-69), when debate is limited, considerable use of everyday expressions with broad and therefore imprecise meanings is made, even by experts, e.g. *Gift*, *Dreck*. In the second phase (1969-74), which was initiated by the importance given to the environment (*Naturschutz*) by the new

SPD/FDP Government, the debate becomes more widespread and notable changes occur in the use of language. The earlier debate in America leads to a strong influence of English on terminology. The end of political consensus and the sharpening of opposition between economy and environment after 1974 mark a further stage in the development of the environment debate. If the methodological problems of describing the history of communication in this recent period could be overcome, the result would go a long way to meeting the demand that the history of language should be viewed as an expression of social dynamics.

90-394 Köpcke, Klaus-Michael and Panther, Klaus-Uwe. On correlations between word order and pragmatic function of conditional sentences in German. *Journal of Pragmatics* (Amsterdam), **13**, 5 (1989), 685-711.

In German, the apodosis of conditional sentences may be syntacticised as either VS (integrative word order) or TOP-V (non-integrative word order). This article attempts to provide a semantically and pragmatically based explanation for this syntactic variation. The authors demonstrate that the speaker's communicative intentions correlate with the word order in the apodosis. In general, 'content conditionality' is syntacticised through VS-order in the apodosis, whereas 'relevance conditionality' corresponds to TOP-V-order in the consequent clause.

However, this tendency is overridden by two principles which are termed *ego involvement* and *speaker's degree of certainty*. In those cases in which the speaker of a content conditional intends to convey a strong ego involvement, s/he will resort to TOP-V; conversely, a relevance conditional may be grammaticalised as VS if the speaker wishes to communicate that the content of the apodosis does not constitute an item of factual knowledge, but rather his/her personal opinion about the truth of some proposition.

90–395 Shibles, Warren (U. of Wisconsin). How German vocabulary pictures emotion. *British Journal of Language Teaching*, **27**, 3 (1989), 137–41.

The cognitive theory of emotion holds that emotions are assessments or evaluations which produce bodily feelings. We ourselves cause emotions by our own assessments and can thus change our emotions by changing our assessments. It follows that we can prevent and eliminate negative emotions by clarifying our assessments. However, an examination of German words for feelings and emotions suggest that they do not conform to this theory: e.g. *Eifersucht*, 'passion sickness' (jealousy) suggests the

sufferer caught up in the grip of a passion about which little can be done. Similarly, *Trübsinn*, 'depression'/'melancholy', imposes a mood (*trüb*) on meaning (*Sinn*) and is negative in that it is based on faulty assessment. Various emotions are metaphorised in terms of fluids (*überschäumend* 'foaming over-exuberant' – 'heat'; *überkochen* 'boil over' – 'seethe') and treat emotions as if they were things like steam or energy. This mentalism is at odds with the cognitive theory of emotion.

Russian

90–396 Kasatkin, L. L. Одна из тенденций развития фонетики русского языка. [One of the trends in the development of Russian phonetics.] *Вопросы языкознания* (Moscow), **6** (1989), 39–45.

This article considers phonetic changes in the Russian language. One of the chief features characterising the articulating base of a language is the degree of tenseness of the articulating organs at the moment of speech. The changing of the articulated base of the Russian language can be defined as the transition from a more to a less tense articulated base. Hypotheses are advanced to describe and explain the process of articulatory change.

The composition of the vowel phonemes has changed considerably, as well as the lessening of their quantity. The palatal consonants were replaced by palatalised consonants; the mechanism of this change can be seen as a broadening of the zones of

articulating soft consonants. The process of the deafening of voiced consonants at the end of words began. The transition from a more complicated to a simpler articulation of sound and the substitution of a long consonant for a short one, and the hardening of consonants, meant less effort for the speech organs.

The change of the degree of tension in the articulating process did not happen smoothly – the process began in separate words and then many others became involved; sometimes a reduction of tension in one area resulted in more tension in another.

90–397 Kuznyetsova, N. G. Сочетания типа согласного с гласным в позиции основа + флексия в словоизменении существительных. [The combination of a type of consonant with a vowel in the position of the stem and the inflexion in the word changing of nouns.] *Русский язык за рубежом* (Moscow), **5** (1989), 82–6.

This article examines the problem of Russian sound syntagma concerning the combining of sound units at the juncture of the stem and the inflexion in the word changing of nouns. The phonological/phonetic system helps to realise the lexical and grammatical system of the linguistic structure. The combination of consonants and vowels at the juncture of the stem and inflection of nouns, and the alternation of palatalised and non-palatalised ('soft' and 'hard') consonants together with concomitant differences in the quality of adjacent vowels, is linked with the word-changing of Russian nouns and plays a key role in the linguistic structure. All

Russian consonant phonemes at the juncture of the stem and inflexion of nouns can be subdivided into groups of phonemes according to their type. The consonants which characterise a particular gender of noun are described – for example, the paired hard consonants T, D, C, Z generally characterise masculine and neuter nouns.

The morpheme structure of nouns shows an influence on the syntagma of the consonant/vowel phonemes at the morpheme juncture. The segment organisation of nouns in the position of the morpheme juncture of the stem and inflexion essentially depends on its morphological structure.

90–398 Knyazyev, Yu. P. Конструкция с русскими причастиями на -н, -т в семантической классификации предикатов. [Constructions with Russian participles in -N, -T in the semantic classification of predicates]. *Вопросы языкознания* (Moscow), **6** (1989), 83–94.

The constructions with Russian participles in -N, -T are examined from the view point of the semantic classification of the predicate. The diversity of the participle construction in -N, -T is considered. Two types of meaning are suggested: 'aktionsalnyi', which can mean a change occurring at a described moment, and 'statalnyi', which can mean a change taking place during an indefinite period of time. The differences that exist between these two constructions are examined.

The participles in -N, -T are considered from the viewpoint of the passive, the perfect and static characteristics. The perfective meaning is distinguished from the 'statalnyi' meaning of participles in

-N, -T, in many examples. The semantic components of 'action' and 'condition' can occupy different positions in the interpretation of linguistic events.

Static situations are described as not being uniform. Static situations are subdivided into 'unproductive' and 'productive' categories. Generally, the dependence on the lexical meaning of the initial verb is removed for constructions with participles in -N, -T, designating non-productive static situations. The perfect in -N, -T, can, in principle, designate an event remote in time. However, clearly it is generally used for describing a recent event, or one that has just happened.

90–399 Rahilina, E. V. Отношение причины и цели в русском тексте. [The relationship between cause and aim in Russian text.] *Вопросы языкознания* (Moscow), **6** (1989), 46–54.

This article compares the categories of cause and aim in Russian text. Question–answer pairs were examined which used the interrogative words *zachem* and *pochyemu* and the possible answers to particular questions discussed. It is generally accepted that *pochyemu* is found in questions asking the cause of a situation, whereas *zachem* relates to questions concerning aims. The answers to such questions are introduced by words which indicate cause (e.g. *because*) or aim (e.g. *in order that*).

There are also, however, occasions in both oral and written dialogues when a question about a cause is answered by a statement of the aim, and vice

versa. For the purposes of discussion, the terms 'cause' and 'aim' should be replaced by a more universal term which suggests the justification of a particular situation; different methods are advanced for the justifying of possible answers to questions.

The questions themselves are then analysed, once more using the interrogative words *zachem* and *pochyemu*; their semantic and pragmatic properties are considered. Situations are discussed which cannot have a 'justification'. The original ideas of 'cause' and 'aim', and their relevance both to simple questions and to more complex semantic considerations of events, are examined.

90–400 Zolotova, G. A. Об основаниях классификации предложений. [About the foundations of the classification of a sentence.] *Русский язык за рубежом* (Moscow), **5** (1989), 66–73.

The foundations of the classification of a simple sentence are one of the most important questions of contemporary syntactical study of the Russian language. For a long time, the nominative-verb model of a sentence was the main focus of consideration and so deflected attention from various syntactical models, peculiar to Russian. Then in 1954, various non-verbal methods of expression of the predicate were recognised, and this was followed by other advances, which are still continuing.

Fundamental questions concerning the problems of syntactical analysis include the type of meaning of the sentence expressed in a given model, linguistic methods and the type of communicative activity for which the sentence is intended. The general traits of

the types of modification of a simple sentence are outlined, grouped according to the character of the predicative component and of the subject component. Several types of communicative action are distinguished, including informative (which gives information) and reactive (which expresses the reaction of the speaker).

The internal links between the essential characteristics of the sentence (its structural–semantic arrangement and communicative function) are confirmed by the analysis of the material studied. The acceptance of these characteristics for the basis of the classification of the sentence opens the way for further study.