

## *Studies of particular languages*

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**ENGLISH** See abstracts 80-173, -175, -197, -223

**FRENCH** See also abstracts 80-176/7, -182, -252, -302

**80-231 Burston, Jack L.** The pronominal verb construction in French. *Lingua* (Amsterdam), **48**, 2/3 (1979), 147-76.

The clitic pronoun *se* appears in a variety of constructions: reflexive (*Jean se voit dans la glace*), reciprocal (*Jeanne et Marie se parlent l'une à l'autre*), passive (*cette espèce de livre se vend chez les bonnes soeurs*), [etc]. Analyses which treat these as being semantically distinct reduce to the claim that the occurrence of *se* is essentially a matter of fortuitous homonymy, and fail to account for the fact that the syntactic behaviour of *se* is in all cases the same. An alternative account is proposed in which the various constructions with *se* are seen as manifestations of a single semantic notion, namely that the verbal subject is simultaneously viewed as both the initial focus and the ultimate reference point of the verb.

**80-232 Marcellesi, Jean-Baptiste.** Quelques problèmes de l'hégémonie culturelle en France: langue nationale et langues régionales. [Some problems of cultural hegemonie in France: the national language and regional languages.] *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* (The Hague), **21** (1979), 63-80.

In a French context, the language/dialect opposition cannot be viewed in terms of distinct scientific concepts. The real problems of diglossia – in a broad sense – appear in the opposition between French and regional languages, e.g. Basque, Breton, Catalan, Corsican, Flemish, Occitan and the language of Alsace-Lorraine. Inasmuch as French is a vehicular language spoken by the French as a whole, it is first and foremost a written language, but orally a single written form may vary geographically on a large scale. This normative French is negatively defined by the exclusion of a number of pronunciations, lexemes and syntactic structures. Such exclusion is based on an ideological – which does not mean non-functional – aesthetic of the language.

The ideology of the culturally dominant social strata has pigeonholed each linguistic system; this justified, up to the 1950s, the refusal to introduce regional languages into the educational system. As a consequence, regional features developed, particularly as regards phonetics, but also lexis and syntax, while feelings of alienation and linguistic and cultural claims multiplied. A new language policy – limited and

sometimes without any practical consequences – has accompanied a change in the mentality of the culturally dominant strata, but a cultural revolution is still needed.

**80–233 Pottier, B.** *Les voix du français. Sémantique et syntaxe.* [Voice in French – its semantics and syntax.] *Cahiers de Lexicologie* (Paris), **33**, 2 (1978), 3–39.

A method is described for establishing the characteristics of simple sentences in French. Attention is first drawn to those operations (predication, topicalisation, focalisation, impersonalisation, reduction of the number of participants) which facilitate the transition from analytic conceptual models to resultative syntactic structures. The distinctive characteristics of voice are established: the organisation of participants, the three degrees of being (stative, evolutive, causative) and six classes of voice (existential, equative, situative, descriptive, possessive, subjective). The semantic links between these voices are indicated and the choice at the speaker's disposal is described. The corresponding syntactic patterns are also defined by the nature of the phrase (noun, verb or adjective) and by the cases of the noun phrases.

**GERMAN** *See abstracts* 80–184, –217, –219, –221

## ITALIAN

**80–234 Mioni, A. M. and Arnuzzo-Lanszweert, A. M.** Socio-linguistics in Italy. *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* (The Hague), **21** (1979), 81–107.

The structural distance between dialects in Italy is greater than that between the dialects of the U.S.A., Great Britain and Northern France. The impact of the Standard on them is considerable but does not threaten their vitality, at least in the majority of regions. The Standard and dialects have different relationships of diglossia (macro- and micro-) and societal bilingualism, as a function of regional differences and social class. Many Italians do not have active competence in the Standard. Dialect interference is a major problem and often causes school failures and social discrimination, especially against the internal migrants. Linguists and educators realise the seriousness of the problem: research and tentative applications are now in progress. The written Standard has to become more tolerant and flexible, thus narrowing the gap between rhetorical models and everyday speech. Dialects and minority languages have to find their rightful place in school curricula, at least on a contrastive basis.

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**SPANISH** See abstracts 80–190, –192

**RUSSIAN** See also abstract 80–220

**80–235 Birkenmaier, Willy.** Die analytische Wiedergabe des Passivs im Russischen. [The analytical rendering of the passive in Russian.] *Linguistics* (The Hague), **204** (1978), 5–23.

The passive consists of converting relational concepts, the object becomes the subject and the subject the agent, which can often be omitted. In Russian verbs in the imperfective the passive is formed with the morpheme *-sja/s'*, and verbs of the perfective aspect use an auxiliary and a participle. Verbs can only form their passive with *-sja/s'* when the context clearly debars them from being interpreted as reflexive forms. There is also semantic ambiguity in the case of the passive with the verb 'to be' and a past participle which corresponds to both the actional and *sčatal* passive in German. Although the passive is also formed by periphrastic constructions these have been neglected. The most frequent periphrastic is *podvergat'sja*, lit. 'to undergo', plus a noun. The construction *podvergat'sja* plus noun is also used in the active where it is equivalent to single verbs. This passive construction has several advantages. It can turn verbs which normally could not be passivised into transitive verbs which can then undergo passivisation. It provides verbs which take different prepositions with a uniform passive. Its use is restricted in that only affective verbs can be passivised and then only if their effect is negative. The verb *pol'zovat'sja* is used with verbs with a positive effect. In many cases the only possible way of forming the passive is with *podvergat'sja*.

**80–236 Birkenmaier, Willy.** L'expression verbale de l'éventualité en russe et en polonais comparée à l'allemand et au français. [The verbal expression of 'eventuality' in Russian and Polish compared with that of French and German.] *International Review of Slavic Linguistics* (Edmonton, Canada), **3**, 3 (1978), 399–406.

Three aspects of possibility can be defined in all four languages – material, moral and eventual. This article concentrates exclusively on the latter meaning, in particular on the interdependence of aspect, context and modality. Russian and Polish differentiate between the expression of the three types of possibility by recourse to aspectual changes not apparent in French and German. Polish has a special modal verb to designate distributive eventuality, which is analagous to the French expression *il arrive à quelqu'un de faire quelque chose*. In all four languages the word expressing possibility – *pouvoir*, *können*, *moć*, *móc* and *potrafic* is polysemic, expressing at least three types of possibility, including that discussed. The freedom of movement of the negative

particle in French, Polish and Russian give these languages an extra means of modal differentiation not open to German.

- 80-237 Burjakov, M. A.** К вопросу об эмоциях и средствах их языкового выражения. [On the problem of the emotions and their linguistic expression.] *Вопросы языкознания* (Moscow), 3 (1979), 47-59.

The article is concerned with the semantic description of verbs and adjectives relating to emotion, and begins with an extended critique of previous researches in this area. The main problem, it is claimed, is that predefined semantic oppositions are imposed on the linguistic material, which as a result is given a distorted description. In particular, a description of predicates of joy and sadness is rejected in which the opposition of states and processes is utilised.

As an example of superior method, an analysis is presented of the word *pan* in Old Russian, and the development of its meanings. Its initial use is shown to have involved an objective state arising as a result of some action [and this fact leads to an extended aside on the resultative perfect]. From this meaning, the development of a use relating to an emotional state, and a modal use is mapped out, along with concomitant syntactic changes.

- 80-238 Khovalkina, A. A.** О семантической соотнесенности общеславянских слов. [Divergence and convergence of meaning in words of Slavonic origin.] *Русский язык в национальной школе* (Moscow), 2 (1979), 60-4.

The Russian words *челюсть*, *лоб*, *горло*, *язык*, *лицо* are compared with their equivalent derivatives in Polish to illustrate aspects of semantic divergence. Stylistic neutrality, emotional colour, levels of abstraction, and differing primary and secondary meanings are considered, together with their implications for both translators and learners.

- 80-239 Kretova, V. N.** Как называют любимых. [Terms of endearment.] *Русская речь* (Moscow), 4 (1978), 80-3.

Terms of endearment may be allocated to four main groups: literary, colloquial, dialect and folk-poetic. The final category is seen to contain the richest range of synonyms for 'loved one'. Other distinctions are to be found in regional variations, in restricted application to male or female, and in metaphoric derivation. [Many examples.]

- 80-240 Shumilov, N. F.** Фразеологический оборот в современном фельетоне. [Turns of phrase in contemporary journalistic satire.] *Русская речь* (Moscow), 4 (1978), 88-91.

In order to sharpen and add wit to their satire, writers in newspapers and magazines make extensive use of set phrases. One tactic is to take the words literally, for example, *честь* in the phrase *Пора и честь*

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*знать*. Words may be changed ('I came, I saw, I bought'), or added ('...the further one goes into the *administrative* forest, the more *assorted bureaucratic* firewood you find.') Set phrases may be combined to give, for example, *знаки уличного препинания*.

As a general rule, where the original phrase represents a move towards abstraction in meaning, the new variants follow the opposite process, reverting to more direct and concrete meanings.

**80–241 Veyrenc, Jacques.** Агентный залог/объектный залог. [Agentive voice/objective voice.] *Russian Linguistics* (Dordrecht), 4, 1 (1978), 57–73.

Traditional notions of verb voice, here termed 'agentive voice', are contrasted with 'objective voice', where the verb takes on distinct forms for two synonymous arrangements of its non-subject actants. Where the second and third actants may be permuted ['translocatives'], three variants are distinguished: 'transmissive', involving transference of possession, 'translative', involving filling or covering something with something, and 'transformative', involving the construction of something from something else.

It is shown that transmissive voice involves the same contrast as that between 'have'-verbs and 'be'-verbs in various languages, and the latter are claimed to be the unmarked variant. The relationship of the Russian verbal prefixes to these various classes of translocatives is discussed.

**80–242 Van Tkhah', Voo.** О сочетании отглагольных существительных с существительными в родительном падеже. [The collocation of nouns derived from verbs with nouns in the genitive case.] *Русский язык в национальной школе* (Moscow), 2 (1979), 58–60.

Nouns in *ние* derived from verbs are a common feature of technical literature. Three types are identified. Type I: those deriving from intransitive verbs, in which case the following noun in the genitive retains its character as a grammatical subject and emphasis is on process (e.g. *Падение тела*). Type II: the verbal derivative is formed from a transitive verb via a reflexive alternative (*вращать – вращаться: вращение Земли*). The concept of process predominates, but an alternative subject is assumed. In Types I and II the meaning of the original verb is retained. Type III: the verbal derivative acquires a meaning distinct from the original verb and becomes a technical term with attributive characteristics (*строение атома, направление силы*).

**AFRICAANS** See abstract 80–194

## SWEDISH

**80-243 Mitchell, Stephen A.** Address and decision-making in modern Swedish. *Anthropological Linguistics* (Bloomington, Ind), 21, 2 (1979), 61-9.

An analysis of the selection process involved in address in Swedish, in which greater avoidance of second person singular pronouns has traditionally been practised than in any other European language, including the closely related languages of Danish and Norwegian. The history and current state of flux of the Swedish address system provide speakers with an unusually large number of choices. Decision-making in choosing address forms (*tilltalsord*) is unique in Swedish because while the informal pronoun *du* has long been the standard among friends and certain family members, the formal pronoun *ni*, which is also the second person plural pronoun, has never been fully accepted as a proper form of address to an individual. For many years, 'polite' address consisted of three possibilities: (1) using *du* in intimate relationships, (2) using the title of a non-intimate individual or superior, or (3) using passive constructions and thus avoiding making a choice. [Brief historical sketch.]

The systems which underline the decision-making of four speakers of Swedish are discussed. Address decisions are based on the speaker's assessment of how the addressee would like to be addressed; there are as many systems as there are native speakers.