

Studies of particular languages

ENGLISH *See also abstract 77-72*

- 77-17** Allerton, D. J. and Cruttenden, A. The intonation of medial and final sentence adverbials in British English. *Achivum Linguisticum* (Ilkley, Yorks), 7, 1 (1976), 29-59.

Sentence adverbials are isolated as a group from other adverbials, and divided into four groups: interpretation, presentation, contingency, conjunctional. Three intonation structures are distinguished: nuclear (single intonation group, nucleus on adverbial), non-nuclear (single group, nucleus elsewhere), and separate group intonation. Medial and final positions are defined. The groups are further subclassified and the intonation possibilities in medial and final positions, broadly the same, are described.

The attitudinal message, viewpoint and validity classes form the core of sentence adverbs, and show very similar possibilities: a rising pattern, as sole nucleus or separate group, and a non-nuclear pattern. Contingency adverbs may use sole falling nucleus in final position. Conjunctionals prefer rising intonation. Likelihood dubitatives occur only as non-nucleus or with rising pattern; likelihood indubitatives prefer a falling pattern. Members of small classes tend to behave idiosyncratically. Any non-nuclear intonation makes the adverb very much less prominent; separate group intonation means that at least part of the sentence is new, as well as the adverb.

- 77-18** Cruse, D. A. Three classes of antonym in English. *Lingua* (Amsterdam), 38, 3/4 (1976), 281-92.

Recent articles on antonymy have contained relatively little discussion of the range of variation among antonyms. In this paper, a broad view of what constitutes antonymy is taken, and the differences among antonyms are investigated. The major finding is that antonyms fall into three subclasses, whose chief distinguishing characteristics involve certain semantic properties of comparatives, and questions of the form *How X is it?* A way of accounting for the differences between the subclasses is suggested.

- 77-19** Nehls, D. The system of tense and aspect in English: a structural-functional approach. *IRAL* (Heidelberg), 13, 4 (1975), 275-92.

A structural-functional basis is proposed for the teaching of English tense usage. Tense is a verb form for the expression of experienced time. On the basis of

the occurrence of tenses in English texts, we can distinguish two tense *groups*, present and past. A basic tense system is derived with present, present perfect, past (with reference to a definite point or period before the present), expressions of future time, and future perfect in the present tense group, and past, past perfect, expressions of future time in the past, and future perfect in the past in the past tense group.

The historical present can be substituted for the past tense in certain passages: this use of the present tense is metaphorical, bringing the feature 'immediateness' into the 'remote' past tense context. The past tense of a modal is seen as a tense metaphor when in a present tense context, carrying remoteness into the present tense context, conveying politeness.

FRENCH See also abstracts 77-14, -16, -74/5

77-20 Dessaux, Anne-Marie. Déterminants nominaux et paraphrases prépositionnelles: problèmes de description syntaxique et sémantique du lexique. [Nominal determiners and prepositional paraphrases: problems in the syntactic and semantic description of the lexicon.] *Langue Française* (Paris), **30** (1976), 44-62.

A determiner is defined as the means of permitting a subject noun to participate in a grammatical sentence. Noun phrases incorporating an item which is in some sense definable as a noun of quantity may act as determiners. Such nouns may also occur in a prepositional phrase with a similar meaning, as *masse* in *Une masse d'électeurs ont voté le 18 juillet* and *Les électeurs ont voté en masse le 1er juillet*. The structure of the subject noun phrase of this type is that of modifier plus noun and not the reverse [examples].

Some definition can be given of the nouns which may act as nouns of quantity participating in the determiner group [examples and discussion; list as appendix]. The available lists can be extended by metaphor [examples]. There are difficulties in relating the determiner noun phrase to prepositional phrase occurrences in a consistent manner [discussion and examples]. [References.]

77-21 George, K. E. M. Anglicisms in contemporary French: II - linguistic aspects. *Modern Languages* (London), **57**, 2 (1976), 63-8.

The absorption of anglicisms by the French linguistic system, and the consequences, are briefly discussed. The material is divided into five sections: phonetics, orthography, lexical morphology, grammar and semantics. The influence of English is, it is stressed, different at different levels of the language. English has contributed the velar nasal phoneme and the suffixes *-er*, *-ing* and *-man*; it is responsible for a number of semantic 'calques'; lexically, the

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contribution has been considerable, especially in certain specialist fields. Nevertheless, the grammar of French remains virtually untouched. Anglicisms are absorbed by the system with no real difficulty; most words are used as masculines, while verbs are assimilated into the first conjugation. [Examples throughout; notes.] [For Part I, see abstract 76–245].

77–22 Tranel, Bernard. A note on final consonant deletion in modern French. *Lingua* (Amsterdam), **39**, 1/2 (1976), 53–68.

Standard generative treatments of modern French phonology and morphology have posited the existence of a major phonological rule of final consonant deletion. The purpose of this paper is to provide an argument which should throw doubt on the psychological reality of such a rule. Data on the pronunciation of cardinal numbers (e.g. *cinq* 'five') are used to demonstrate that the standard analyses are inconsistent with the directionality of in-progress or recent changes which such words have undergone regarding their final consonant (e.g. *cinq femmes* 'five women' [sɛfam] → [sɛkfam]). The implications of a rejection of the major phonological rule of final consonant deletion usually posited are briefly investigated; it is suggested that the facts customarily accounted for by such a rule (e.g. alternations of the types *petit* [pɛti]/*petite* [pɛtit] 'small' (masc./fem.); *il sort* [ilsɔʁ]/*il sorte* [ilsɔʁt] 'he leaves' (indicative/subjunctive present); *vie* [vi]/*vital* [vital] 'life'/'vital') can be satisfactorily handled in other ways (e.g. morphophonological rules, via-rules), which are in some cases required independently of the postulation of the rule challenged.

77–23 Wilmet, Marc. 'Oui', 'si' et 'non' en français moderne. ['Oui', 'si' and 'non' in modern French.] *Français Moderne* (Paris), **44**, 3 (1976), 229–53.

French, like Arabic, Hungarian and the Scandinavian languages, has a three-element assertive system: *oui*, *si* and *non*. *Oui* expresses approbation, acknowledgement or agreement while *si* contradicts, refutes and contrasts. It is the intention of the phrase (indicated in the spoken language by the speaker's intonation) which elicits the appropriate response, not the form; a phrase may be positive in form but negative in meaning, or vice versa. Analysis of numerous examples taken from modern French authors and also from classical writers reveals the basic symmetry and coherence of the structures underlying the apparent inconsistencies and irregularities. [Examples; references.]

GERMAN

- 77-24 **Harweg, R.** Passiv-Transforme im Deutschen. [Passive transforms in German.] *Zeitschrift für Phonetik, Sprachwissenschaft und Kommunikationsforschung* (Berlin), 29, 1 (1976), 13-33.

Active and passive sentences have the same morpheme structure and the same distribution of stress on the different words. The aim of this article is to show the semantic and grammatical relationship of the passive to active sentences in German. This is done with the help of three questions: (1) is the passive transform grammatically acceptable? (2) Is it synonymous with the corresponding active sentence? (3) If it is grammatically acceptable but not synonymous with the corresponding active sentence, wherein lies the semantic difference? Only those passive sentences were considered which were unreduced, i.e. contained both actor and object. A typology of nine sentences was set up on the basis of the determiners of the actor and object. Most differentiation was shown by those categories where the determiner was the indefinite article, with or without *so*, or a numeral. In those cases the subcategorisation was almost a matter for the lexicon. This merely shows how complex a description of the difference between active and passive sentences is, if it is to be exhaustive.

- 77-25 **Wichter, S.** Bemerkungen zur Kategorie des Modus. [Remarks on the category of mood.] *Zeitschrift für Germanistische Linguistik* (Berlin), 3, 3 (1975), 280-97.

The presuppositions for a satisfactory treatment of mood are an analysis of what mood is and the working-out of which criteria are relevant for the recognition of a group of signs as a category. Subjunctive II (*Konjunktiv II*) in conditional clauses is synonymous with general statements and sometimes with the negative. The following sentences are all paraphrases of each other: (a) *Wenn du auf dem Balkon gewesen wärest, hättest du die Universität gesehen*; (b) *Wenn man auf dem Balkon ist, dann sieht man die Universität*; (c) *Du bist nicht auf dem Balkon gewesen. Du hast die Universität nicht gesehen*. Subjunctive II should not be described as 'irrealis' but as a negative sign which is used as a pseudo operator (*operatortranszendentes Negationszeichen*). In indirect speech Subjunctive II has only the function of reporting. The indicative, too, cannot simply be described as 'real', and its meaning must be investigated with that of the infinitive. Traditional grammars assumed a certain amount of common meaning which binds the signs of one category together. The common meaning usually ascribed to the subjunctive has been rejected, but the solution lies not merely in the misinterpretation of individual signs for mood but in how to interpret the concept of 'category of mood' itself.

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SPANISH

- 77-26 **Schroten, Jan.** Sobre unidades gramaticales en una gramática transformacional del español. [Grammatical elements in a transformational grammar of Spanish.] *Revista española de lingüística* (Madrid), 5, 2 (1975), 383-400.

The traditional notion of the grammatical morpheme is explored within the lexicalist (interpretivist) framework of transformational generative grammar. The hypothesis is tested that a grammatical morpheme is one which is absent in deep structure; *de*, *a* and *se* are all appropriately inserted by rules which follow others in application order, these earlier rules presupposing the absence of the element in question. The two *ques* (subordinator and relative pronoun) may, however, not be absent in deep structure. A grammatical morpheme is consequently not by definition absent in deep structure; indeed it may be present there, or inserted in the readjustment component, or inserted by grammatical transformation. [Bibliography.]

RUSSIAN

- 77-27 **Beard, Robert.** A semantically based model of a generative lexical word-formation rule for Russian adjectives. *Language* (Baltimore, Md), 52, 1 (1976), 108-20.

The major drawbacks of the transformationalist approach to word formation are briefly re-examined, and those aspects of word formation which are most problematic are analysed: semantic-syntactic asymmetry, metaphoric usage and restricted rule productivity. Emphasis is given to asymmetrical word derivation as opposed to symmetrical and asemantic derivations. A context-sensitive, generative lexical rule model is presented in one example, which assumes the availability of semantic features and a lexical alpha feature. It is claimed that this model overcomes the shortcomings of both the transformationalist and the lexicalist approaches to word formation, and should be useful in further solutions.

- 77-28 **Corbett, Greville.** Address in Russian. *Journal of Russian Studies* (Lancaster), 31 (1976), 3-15.

Forms of address in present-day Russian are analysed and compared with the usage of the last century. The use of second person pronouns is considered [flow chart], as are other options in person or number. The complex system of titles of address is described [flow chart] along with the many changes in the system since the last century. It is argued that imperatives and alternatives for

imperatives must be analysed in terms of address and that honorifics have a place in Russian grammar. [Examples.] It is suggested that address systems affect four main areas of Russian grammar and that rather than fitting into the grammar they interfere with and complicate it.