

Studies of particular languages

ENGLISH See also abstract 80–311

80–321 Lodge, Ken R. A three-dimensional analysis of non-standard English. *Journal of Pragmatics* (Amsterdam), 3, 2 (1979), 169–95.

Halliday's programme, treating surface structures as intersections of distinct linguistic dimensions, is applied to the analysis of the 'non-standard' form *There's a man comes every day* and related surface forms. The three dimensions employed here are the ideational, the thematic, and the given-new division, each of which is represented in a separate underlying structure assigned to sentences of the given form and deals with a distinct aspect of communication. Interrelation between the dimensions occurs by way of constraints: the theme of the sentence is a referential item which is being existentially presented by means of the sentence, that is, it is conversationally new. Ideational structure must include elements both of existence and location. The derivation proceeds by transformational operations. Stress and intonation rules are based on the given-new structure of the sentence, but in a more complex fashion than in Halliday's (1967) proposals, since both underlying and surface structures play a role. Constraints on tense, modality, and surface reduplication in the construction are discussed. The related *have*-construction with deictic personal subject, *We've a bloke at work speaks Yap*, involves a benefactive relationship between the subject and the (human) objective nominal.

Although a 'non-standard' form has been deliberately chosen, and data drawn exclusively from the dialect of Stockport, it is maintained that the multi-dimensional approach is applicable to all forms and registers. Transformations are viewed here not simply as structure-relating operations, but as functionally motivated.

80–322 Schane, Sanford A. Rhythm, accent, and stress in English words. *Linguistic Inquiry* (Cambridge, Mass), 10, 3 (1979), 483–502.

Rhythm – the alternation of prominent and less prominent syllables – is the key to an understanding of the principles of stress assignment in English. The surface stress pattern of a word is the product of two sets of rules. One set assigns underlying accentual patterns in a way largely determined by rhythmic factors (e.g. two accented syllables may never be contiguous, but must always be separated by unaccented syllables; English words may not begin with two unaccented syllables). These rules both assign initial accent patterns and modify existing patterns. The accentual patterns of morphologically complex words are derived from those of their base forms. The second set of rules specify the

phonetic realisations of the accentual patterns generated by the first set, and bring about further prominence relations, such as distinctions between primary and secondary accents, and between syllables with reduced and non-reduced vowels. The analysis of English stress based on rhythmical principles is claimed to be superior to other, non-rhythm-based analyses that have been so far proposed.

FRENCH

80-323 Gaatone, D. *Forme sous-jacente unique ou liste d'allomorphes? (A propos des consonnes de liaison en français). [Unique underlying forms or lists of allomorphs? (On linking consonants in French).]* *Linguistics* (The Hague), **214** (1978), 33-54.

The standard generative treatment of allomorphic variation consists in positing a single underlying form for each morpheme and relating this to the various allomorphs of the morpheme by a set of phonologically and/or morphologically conditioned rules. This approach has been applied to the problem of liaison in French. In early work, the short (consonantless) allomorph is derived from the long one by a rule deleting morpheme-final consonant not followed by a vowel. More recently, the opposite course has been proposed, with a long form being derived from the short.

These two proposals are reviewed in detail. It is shown in both cases that their apparent simplicity and descriptive adequacy are spurious, since the predictability of liaison phenomena is in fact much smaller than they assume. An alternative account is presented according to which liaisons where the nature of the linking consonant is predictable are handled by means of epenthesis rules (/z/ is inserted in plurals, /t/ in inversion forms (*va-t-il*), /z/ in imperatives (*vas-y*), etc.). Where the nature of the linking consonant is not predictable, recourse must be had to lists of allomorphs in lexical entries.

80-324 Rivenc, Paul. *Le français fondamental vingt-cinq ans après. [Basic French 25 years on.]* *Français dans le Monde* (Paris), **148** (1979), 15-22.

The difficulties involved in the definition of any given language level are outlined, although these terms are often freely and loosely used in many contexts. From this basis, *le français fondamental* is examined 'free of historical and cultural accretions'. While many consider the original vocabulary frequency lists to provide a minimal basic scheme of reference which has barely dated in 25 years, in reality, their statistical bases are suspect and unsystematic, the choice of vocabulary over-conservative and dated, and the whole selection over-empirical, ignoring whole areas of language usage.

Possible alternatives are examined, such as the use of threshold levels

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or vocabulary groupings around centres of interest. A revision of the original frequency lists should be carried out, and the whole modified in the light of some of the alternatives discussed.

RUSSIAN

80–325 Gurevich, V. V. О варьировании видовых форм в инфинитиве. [The interchangeability of aspectival forms in the infinitive.] *Русский язык в национальной школе* (Moscow), 5 (1979), 86–7.

Situations in which the aspect used is not that which would normally be expected are identified and some general principles are elaborated. For example, where a single completed action is involved, indication of the way in which it is to be carried out will call for the imperfective aspect; so also may emphasis on the need for immediate action. Whereas the inclusion of new information calls for the use of the perfective infinitive, the imperfective will be used where a known result is anticipated. Necessity or desirability call for the perfective infinitive, but intention, as after *согласен* and *пора*, requires the imperfective. After *чтобы* the perfective may be used, but the imperfective will be used to express intention after verbs of motion. On the other hand, in negative constructions expressing, for example, forbidding or warning, the use of the perfective instead of the imperfective is seen to carry the implication of an accidental or undesired outcome. This also applies when an action other than the expected is involved. The use of the imperfective infinitive, as also the future perfective, can carry the meaning of ‘if the need arises’.

80–326 Lehfeldt, Werner. К структуре русской парадигмы настоящего времени. [On the structure of the Russian present tense paradigm.] *Russian Linguistics* (Dordrecht) 4, 1 (1978), 41–56.

In this analysis of present tense forms of the verb in Russian, three parameters of variation are noted: there are two inflexional paradigms, five classes of morphological alternation of stems, and three types of accentuation. A set of heuristic principles is formulated for establishing which type of morphological alternations occur for particular stems, and exceptions to this are listed.

The main part of this study is concerned with the degree of irregularity and unpredictability of verb forms. Random combinations of the above three parameters would be expected to yield 30 classes, but only twelve are attested. An algorithm is presented (although still with some indeterminacy) which will establish the present tense forms of a verb given its basic form. It is further noted that the indeterminacy in this algorithm is all of the type where one solution is productive, and the others involve classes of verbs which may be enumerated.

80–327 Tsarenko, E. I. Принципах разграничения флексий и аффиксов. [On principles for distinguishing inflection and affixes.] *Серия литературы и языка* (Moscow), **38**, 5 (1979), 425–35.

An attempt is made to differentiate inflectional endings from affixes, first in relation to Russian, and then with reference to other languages, where inflection may not simply involve postposed elements. It is claimed that semantic or functional approaches to differentiating these concepts are to a large extent arbitrary; only inflection, however, has the two formal features of being obligatory, and involving a set of interchangeable forms. A typology is presented of the possible positional variants of both affixes and inflections.

An application of this typology is made to a number of languages of widely differing structures, and a method is described for computing the degree to which a language is inflectional or affixal.