

Descriptive studies of particular languages French

88-112 Ancombre, J.-C. (CNRS, EHESS). L'article zéro en français: un imparfait du substantif? [Zero article in French: a case of the imperfect substantive?] *Langue française* (Paris), **72** (1986), 4-39.

It is claimed that in productive verbal locutions of the type $V\emptyset N$ (*prendre connaissance*, for example) which are semantically transparent and which support the insertion of a determiner, there is an underlying zero article which is responsible for the semantic and syntactic properties of the locution; furthermore a similar article is discerned in further types of non-verbal expressions. Principal evidence for such an analysis is taken from $V\emptyset N$ structures containing an N which can be taken to refer either to the result of an action or to the action itself (*nom*

cyclique resultatif = N_{cr}). Parallels are drawn between the aspectual role of clauses containing a verb in the imperfect and $V\emptyset N_{cr}$ structures. The analysis is then extended to $\emptyset N$ structures in general and to the role of various contextual accompaniments such as the adjectives *même*, *semblable*, etc., *pur*, *sacrifié*, etc., prepositions *à*, *sous*, etc., verbs such as *valoir* and *devenir*, the presentative *il y a* and to enumerations and nominal reprises. In all these the zero article is seen as playing a positive aspectual role.

88-113 Muller, Charles. Données quantitatives en morpho-syntaxe: l'imparfait du subjonctif dans quelques romans contemporains. [Quantitative data in morpho-syntactic analysis: the imperfect subjunctive in some contemporary novels.] *Français Moderne* (Paris), **54**, 3/4 (1986), 220-30.

Computer counts reveal that imperfect subjunctive forms are much less frequent in the French novels of the 60s than in those of the inter-war period. The percentage of 3rd person singular forms remains constant, however, and of these, forms of the verbs *être* and *avoir* predominate. Frequency varies considerably according to author. Many examples are of the optional 'conditional' use of auxiliaries in past perfect constructions and of more or less fixed locutions (eg *fût-ce*, *dussé-je*). Obligatory uses

depend for the most part on contextual constraints: past subjunctives colligate with historic past narratives; present subjunctives with historic present narratives. Novels in which dialogue predominates naturally have fewer subjunctive forms. [Some reflections are appended on the advantages and disadvantages of computer-assisted analysis of morpho-syntactic data and the problems of homography and contextual indication which it raises].

88-114 Riegel, Martin (U. of Strasbourg II). Définition directe et indirecte dans le langage ordinaire: les énoncés définitoires copulatifs. [Direct and indirect definition in everyday speech: copulative defining utterances.] *Langue Française* (Paris), **73** (1987), 29-53.

Giving, seeking, interpreting and evaluating definitions are familiar speech acts demanding the integration of linguistic, metalinguistic and cognitive abilities. Such competence contributes to the self-regulation of everyday language. The copulative type of defining utterance (*le/les/un-N₀-(ce)-être-un/des N₁-X*), in which both a lexeme and its referent is defined, is basic. 'Definition' itself refers at one and the same time to the locutionary act, various utterance forms used in defining and the

definiens. Two illocutionary types may be distinguished: stipulatory (e.g. *Par X nous entendrons désormais Y*) and descriptive (*X signifie Y*). Various constraints are imposed on well-formed defining utterances, which may be explicitly or implicitly metalinguistic in nature according to the referential status of the terms involved. Their relationship determines the form and evaluation of particular acts of definition. [Detailed analysis of types.]

German

88-115 Hartmann, Dietrich (Ruhr U., Bochum, FRG). Context analysis or analysis of sentence meaning? On modal particles in German. *Journal of Pragmatics* (Amsterdam) **10**, 5 (1986), 543–57.

During the past 10 years there has been growing linguistic interest in investigating the semantic and pragmatic functions of German (modal) particles like *ja*, *doch*, *denn* etc., along with intensive discussion of other expressions with comparable functions (conjunctions, adverbs). Some basic problems, however, remain unsolved. Do modal particles have only one core meaning, or are there several, depending on conditions of (verbal) context? The paper sums up some results of a broader discussion

and reviews new proposals concerning these questions presented by Doherty (1985). Analyses of the meaning of modal particles in Doherty (1985) and in previous research are discussed with regard to 'richer' or 'poorer' semantic descriptions of particles. Finally, it is argued that the semantic analysis of modal particles in relative clauses supports Doherty's assumption that modal particles have only one basic meaning.

88-116 Wunderlich, Dieter (U. of Düsseldorf). Echofragen. [Echo questions.] *Studium Linguistik* (Kronberg T/S, FRG), **20** (1986), 44–62.

This article addresses itself to the following issues: What sort of utterances allow the use of echo questions (EQs)? What special syntactic constraints or new syntactic possibilities are connected with EQs? How can EQs be integrated within a general grammar model (including intonation)? What theoretical problems of interest are brought out?

A pragmatic typology of EQs in German is sketched out. It includes sentence questions (with *ob*), W-questions, multiple W-questions and imperatives. The pragmatic use condition common to all is the fact that the focused element entails not merely a query but a complaint. The special syntactic features of EQs are analysed. One point brought out by the examples is that if several W-words occur in an EQ (e.g. as a reaction to a W-question), the focused echo-W-word must be the last in a sequence of W-words (hence the following is excluded as an EQ: **Wer wem das Buch gegeben hat?*). The syntactic facts for German demonstrate that EQs with W-

words allow two types of syntactic structure which are not possible in the case of normal W-questions: (1) if the W-phrase is focused it need not be in initial position, and (2) co-ordinated sentence elements, attributed nouns and post-modifying attributes can be questioned. [Many constructed examples.] The intonation of EQs is quite specific with the curve divisible into four sections: an introduction, the stressed syllable of the focused element, a subsequent plateau and, optionally, a further rise on the last syllable of the utterance; these are analysed in more detail. It is claimed that EQs are by no means grammatical epiphenomena and have been wrongly neglected in linguistic research. In particular they underline the necessary interaction between syntax, intonation and prosody, semantics and pragmatics. An appendix briefly discusses EQs in Japanese and demonstrates that they are accompanied by a lexical marker and do not appear to have a specific intonation curve as in German.

Italian

88-117 Venier, Federica. Gli avverbi modali. [The modal adverbs.] *Lingua e Stile* (Bologna), **21**, 4 (1986), 459–83.

Various attempts have been made to define modal adverbs. They have been described as 'performative' adverbs, 'assertive' adverbs (Borillo) and 'propositional' adverbs (Conte). They have been contrasted with adverbs of utterance and with evaluative adverbs. None of these explanations, however, takes into account all the characteristics of modal adverbs. A close study of Hare's (1972) division of the sentence into three parts led to the conclusion that modal adverbs, or at least epistemic modal adverbs,

have the same role as Hare's 'neustic', i.e. they indicate the degree of commitment with which the speaker makes a statement. To test this hypothesis, the behaviour of modal adverbs in imperative, interrogative and two types of declarative (negative and performative) utterances was examined, and in each case the hypothesis was confirmed. (In the case of interrogative utterances, the 'neustic' is supplied by the reply.) The relationship between modal adverbs and assertions and the way in which they

may be considered signals from the speaker to the listener is taken further by Hübler (1983), who indicates that the less the force with which a speaker

subscribes to a statement, the more space the listener has to intervene.

Lexicology

88–118 Casas Gómez, M. (U. of Cadiz). L'euphémisme et la théorie du champ morpho-sémantique. [Euphemism and the 'morpho-semantic field' theory.] *Cahiers de Lexicologie* (Paris), **49**, 2 (1986), 35–51.

This article considers the way in which a phenomenon of such a peculiar nature as euphemism can be systematised. As this is a psycho-associative process whose most relevant characteristics are its relativity and discourse function, it would seem that the only possible linguistic grouping would be based upon the associative field. Furthermore, of all the prevailing models of associative configuration, the 'morpho-semantic field' of Guiraud is particularly interesting. This method permits the interdictive word to be compared with the different terms with which it is able to maintain associations of form and meaning. These associations, in turn,

can be based upon a relationship of similitude or contiguity.

Following this same semantic theory, linguists such as Widlak and Montero support the structural functioning of euphemism. The author holds a diametrically opposite theory, namely that euphemism is systematisable, but not structurable. As Guiraud himself clearly states, his model, although of great linguistic value, does not constitute a structural system. Therefore, we cannot speak of the structuration of euphemism, but only perhaps of a linguistic configuration or systematisation.

88–119 Sansome, R. (U. of Leeds). Connotation and lexical field analysis. *Cahiers de Lexicologie* (Paris), **49**, 2 (1986), 13–33.

This paper is based on the work of the Lexical Research Unit of Leeds University, which has been dealing with the componential analysis of present-day English verbs grouped in lexical fields; and it is particularly concerned with the system evolved for describing non-cognitive aspects of lexical meaning, within the wider framework of contrastive analysis in lexical fields. The aim is to show that description of this kind is possible if lexical meaning is approached in terms of denotation and connotation (the distinction between them being one of semantic function), and if connotation is restricted to properties of the lexical unit itself. This article examines the

theoretical basis for the use of the terms 'denotation' and 'connotation' and describes the different categories of connotative meaning which the description allows for. Results of some tests applied to a small number of informants are given. They show that the system is workable and that intuitions about the connotative meanings of words are more often than not as institutionalised as intuitions about their denotative meaning. Relationships between denotation and connotation are discussed from the point of view of an analysis of a large number of English verbs.

Interpreting

88–120 Schweda-Nicholson, Nancy (U. of Delaware). Linguistic and extralinguistic aspects of simultaneous interpretation. *Applied Linguistics* (Oxford), **8**, 2 (1987), 194–205.

Simultaneous interpreters are under constant pressure to perform quickly and accurately, identify meaning, and resolve ambiguities, by processing given and new data from both linguistic and contextual sources. Ideally, prior to a conference, the interpreter should obtain conference materials and gather information relevant to the subject, identify those who will be attending (experts, laymen, etc.), and make every effort to ensure that

the message is understood by all participants whatever their level of expertise.

Despite thorough preparation however, certain problems occur, such as missed information and faulty anticipation of information. In order to make progress in the field of interpretation research, it is quite clear that there is a need for closer integration of the disciplines of psychology, linguistics, and information processing.