

# *Studies of particular languages*

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## ENGLISH

- 78-341** **Dungworth, David.** The future of English as a world language. *Lebende Sprachen* (Berlin), 23, 1 (1978), 1-3.

The three main reasons which combine to create the status of English as the world's most widely used language are (1) it is second in the world rankings as a first language (320 million speakers, to Mandarin Chinese's estimated 500 million speakers). (2) As a second language it has no rivals; (3) it is more widely distributed than any other UNO language, and is the chief language for international communication. The evidence up to the present time suggests that English will strengthen its position still further. Influences which are briefly discussed include: modern economic imperialism, spread of pop music, demand for the teaching of English as a foreign language, communication between scientists, technical and scientific information and documentation, entry into the EEC, use by industry and commerce, negative attitude on the part of British people towards speaking foreign languages, general decline in modern language learning.

- 78-342** **Schmidt, Richard W. and McCreary, Carol F.** Standard and super-standard English: recognition and use of prescriptive rules by native and non-native speakers. *TESOL Quarterly* (Washington, DC), 11, 4 (1977), 415-29.

Standard English is often assumed to be a monolithic, non-variable system, in contrast with more highly variable non-standard varieties of English, both native and non-native. This paper investigates in some detail middle-class usage with respect to three syntactic forms. It is concluded that no one uses textbook 'standard' English all the time; everyone speaks non-standard dialects. There is considerable variation in both usage and judgements of acceptability within the scope of what might reasonably be called standard English.

## GERMAN

- 78-343** **Latzel, Sigbert.** 'Haben'+Partizip und ähnliche Verbindungen. ['Haben'+participle and similar constructions.] *Deutsche Sprache* (Munich), 4 (1977), 289-312.

Of the many constructions with *haben* 'have', the author concentrates on a discussion of *haben*+infinitive and *haben*+past participle; for example, *Die*

## SLAVONIC LANGUAGES

*Beutelratte hat die Nagezähne vorstehen* 'the opossum has its gnawing teeth sticking out' and *Das Pferd hat die Fesseln bandagiert* 'the horse has its pasterns bandaged', as distinct from *Das Pferd hat den Knecht gebissen* 'the horse has bitten the stable-lad'. These structures are compared with a number of (seemingly) similar structures and a series of new structural descriptions are proposed in an attempt to solve the syntactic problems involved. Other current views are taken into account and discussed. The series of analyses presented are tentative and their usefulness, for example in teaching German, and any advantages they may have over other current proposals, remain to be tested in practice.

**SPANISH** See also abstract 78–387

**78–344 Foster, David William.** The surface pattern 'Vb a Vb' in Spanish. *IRAL* (Heidelberg), 15, 4 (1977), 299–305.

Three varieties of *verb a verb* construction are examined, and it is shown that they behave differently with respect to syntactic transformational possibilities such as nominalisation, pronominalisation and purpose-clause reduction. There is value for the language learner in knowing the underlying different syntactic relations inherent in superficially similar constructions.

**78–345 Mondéjar, José.** Sobre la naturaleza gramatical del pronombre en español. [The grammatical nature of the pronoun in Spanish.] *Revista Española de Lingüística* (Madrid), 7, 1 (1977), 33–55.

A review of various theories of the nature of the pronoun, specifically those of the pronoun as (a) a substitute (Dionysius Thrax, the scholastic tradition, Pottier, etc.); (b) an element having grammatical meaning (Alonso-Henríquez Ureña, etc.) including discourse function; and (c) a morpheme of indeterminate meaning (Hjelmslev). A theory of the pronoun as a referring morpheme is here outlined.

**RUSSIAN** See abstract 78–340

## SLAVONIC LANGUAGES

**78–346 Press, J. Ian.** The place of the vowel 'y' in the development of the Slavonic languages. *Slavonic and East European Review* (London), 55, 4 (1977), 470–90.

The place of *jery*, the vowel *y*, in the history of the separate Slavonic languages and in the history of its rise in Common Slavonic has been examined in many brief studies. The place occupied by *jery*, when it has a place, in the modern Slavonic languages and dialects is surveyed, and an explanation is proposed for the role played by this vowel in the phonological evolution of the Slavonic languages.