Language and linguistics

LINGUISTIC DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

72–91 **Bonhoff, Lee E.** Esquisse du modèle tagmémique. [An outline of the tagmemic model.] *CAMELANG* (Yaoundé), 3 (1971), 5–18.

A book shortly to be published on the phonology and grammar of Duru (North Cameroon) uses the tagmemic model described by the American linguists Kenneth Pike and Robert Longacre. This model is in the structuralist tradition, illuminated by Martinet's functional analysis of language. It is little known in the francophone world, and although a complete analysis is not possible in the article the following points are studied: (1) the distinction between 'emic' and 'etic'; (2) the three levels of phonology, grammar and lexis; (3) the construction of the tagmeme, its position and content; (4) nuclear and peripheral tagmemes; (5) how to distinguish 'emic' constructions; (6) examples of the levels of word, syntagm and utterance. [Examples from Duru and French.]

(496) ADN

72–92 **Morris, I.** Transformational analysis. *English Language Teaching* (London), **26**, 1 (1971), 14–19.

Transformational analysis is a method for dealing with particular types of utterances. Certain types of sentence should be looked upon as derived structures needing initially to be traced to their underlying structures rather than analysed into subject and predicate or noun phrase and verb phrase. [The author quotes and analyses numerous examples.] The generation of certain utterances is best accounted for by the speaker's or writer's initial choice of topic as subject and the consequent need to complete the utterance by conscious or intuitive reference to the underlying sentence.

ADN

72–93 **Hermanns, Fritz.** Die generative Grammatik als Deskriptions-grammatik. [Generative grammar as descriptive grammar.] *Lingua* (Amsterdam), **27**, 4 (1971), 301–29.

Two interpretations of Chomsky's generative grammar as 'operative' and 'descriptive' grammar are compared. According to the 'operative' interpretation generative grammar is a calculus whose rules indicate how the sentences of a language are put together. According to the second interpretation it is a descriptive system in the usual descriptive tradition of linguistics. Although the two definitions are contradictory both are to be found interwoven in the literature, with the result that generative grammar oscillates in a peculiar way between its operative and descriptive aspects. As a formal system it is essential for generative grammar to have an interpretation, and even Chomsky's own interpretation has to be separated from the grammar itself. Chomsky described his grammar as a system of rules whereas traditional grammar is concerned to examine and describe how the sentences of a language are put together. [The working of the Chomsky calculus is examined more closely.] The question remaining with an operative grammar is how far it is translatable into a descriptive grammar. The special quality of Chomsky's generative grammar is that its rules not only permit a description of sentence and utterance but go beyond this and represent such a description directly. Instead of a translation only a fresh interpretation of Chomsky's symbols is needed and one no longer has an operative but a descriptive grammar. [After careful consideration of detail the question of the reality of deep structure is raised, making possible two further interpretations of generative grammar as 'objective' or 'sceptical'.] Deep structure may be considered in fact to exist or may be considered as if it existed because this is a convenient position to hold. Chomsky's own position seems to have changed over the years, moving from the sceptical to the objective and from the generative to the descriptive. **ADN**

TRANSLATION

72–94 **Gould, C. J. and B. T. Stern.** Foreign technical literature: a problem of costs, coverage and comprehension. *Aslib Proceedings* (London), **23**, 11 (1971), 571–6.

A central translation office of the Wellcome science research foundation handles company requests for translations of published and unpublished technical material into English. Scientists also scan foreign journals and alert interested users to suitable articles. It is possible that a group of companies with a common problem may be able to find means of obtaining more translations of published literature at reduced costs. Many people seem still to be unaware of the existing services. Meanwhile technical literature appears at an estimated one to two million reports, patents and books per year, 50 per cent of which are in languages other than English. About half the requests are for translations from German to English. Scientists cannot wait for publications such as *Chemical Abstracts* to reveal papers of interest. They need to browse through journals, but unless the language barrier is reduced this activity is costly. German classes on site have been started to give scientists the limited ability of being able to comprehend a text. To relieve borrowing from the library, translated contents pages are circulated. To avoid duplication the indexes and translation collections of ASLIB (Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux) and NLL (The National Lending Library for Science and Technology) should be used.

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