

LINGUISTIC THEORY

80-1 Chomsky, Noam. Human language and other semiotic systems. *Semiotica* (The Hague), 25, 1/2 (1979), 31-44.

A distinction is made between the questions: (1) what is a human language? (2) what is language? The first is scientific in the sense that research strategies can be brought to bear just as one might study some physical organ, while the second is a question of conceptual analysis. Six directions of inquiry into the first question are considered, namely (a) structural principles, (b) physical mechanisms, (c) manner of use, (d) ontogenetic development, (e) phylogenetic development, and (f) integration into cognitive system. So far, important results yielding principles of explanatory power have only come out of work in (a) and (d), in particular with respect to 'universal grammar', which determines the essential nature of human language.

The second question, about the relationship of human language to other semiotic systems, is really about the usefulness of certain metaphors and analogies. Recent experiments with chimpanzees and other species do not demonstrate, despite what some researchers claim, that interspecific differences in language capacity are quantitative; the fact that an ape can use symbols correlated with symbols of a sign language does not necessarily mean that he is using the sign language. Even if it did, that would leave the problems concerning human language exactly where they now stand. In fact, the differences appear to be qualitative; they seem to reflect a different type of intellectual organisation.

80-2 Fodor, Janet Dean. Parsing strategies and constraints on transformations. *Linguistic Inquiry* (Cambridge, Mass), 9, 3 (1978), 427-73.

Early psycholinguistic approaches to sentence comprehension within a TG model argued about direct surface interpretation versus 'detransformation'. But in any case neither method is feasible for sentences which have undergone *Wh* movement, since there is no way of determining the role of the moved constituent from its surface position. Current hypotheses all imply that a parser replaces the question word in the 'gap' that represents its deep structure position. Details of the routines are established, according to which the human parsing mechanism finds and fills gaps in transformed sentences. It is shown that these strategies offer explanation in terms of sentence parsing for certain constraints on the application of transformations, such as the Nested Dependency Constraint. This argument gives backing to the

theory that there is no competence grammar independent of performance mechanisms for the interpretation and production of sentences.

80-3 Frawley, William. Topological linguistics. *Papers in Linguistics* (Champaign, Ill), **11**, 1/2 (1978), 185-237.

Chomsky's mentalism is criticised as metaphysically objectionable, because it seeks no reductionism. Linguistic statements are isomorphic with statements from an empirical discipline, neurophysiology. The mind is strictly identical with the brain; the competence/performance dichotomy is therefore vacuous. All types of generative grammar depend on this dualism, and are likewise absurd. Language is defined topologically, thereby capturing the global properties of language, as well as giving the desired reduction to brain processes. The primary characteristics are linearity and coupling, rather than the arbitrary units of linguistic theory. Tolerance spaces account for synonymy, and transformations are isomorphic with a tolerance embedding. Catastrophe theory, in spite of Thom's fallacious proposals, can explain language change and varieties of linguistic style.

80-4 Freidin, Robert. Cyclicity and the theory of grammar. *Linguistic Inquiry* (Cambridge, Mass), **9**, 4 (1978), 519-49.

Within transformational grammar the syntactic cycle can be derived from other independently motivated conditions. First, the general principle of the cycle is discussed in its various formulations. Secondly, the framework for the cyclic principle is elaborated, namely the extended standard theory and in particular the theory of traces. The third section analyses the evidence concerning strict cyclicity for the rules of NP and *Wh* movement. A set of five empirically motivated filters replace the Strict Cycle Condition - these are (a) Tensed-S condition, (b) Specified Subject condition, (c) Obligatory control, (d) Functional relationship and (e) Functional uniqueness. These become axioms of the theory and are independent of any particular form of grammatical rules.

80-5 Lucas, Michael A. The nominal group in systemic grammar. *Linguistics* (The Hague), **204** (1978), 25-41.

The traditional systemic analysis of the nominal group, as adopted by recent textbooks, is criticised. Taking position rather than function as the criterion of class-membership leads to certain inadequacies of description, such as the positing of different class-membership of elements functioning in the same way in configurationally distinct structures. Similarly, functional similarities are obscured by the use of a rigid Rank Scale, and a flexible, relativistic approach to Rank, based on a 'few-ICs' constituent structure description is proposed. The three

subgroups constituting the nominal group (Determiner, Head, and Epithet) may all be simple or complex, and the functional definition of each group [discussion, examples] allows for different constituents to stand in the same class. A class-system diagram, conflating progressions both of Rank and Delicacy scales is given.

PRAGMATICS

80-6 Kiefer, Ferenc. Zur Rolle der Pragmatik in der linguistischen Beschreibung. [On the role of pragmatics in linguistic descriptions.] *Die Neuren Sprachen* (Frankfurt am Main), 77, 3/4 (1978), 254-68.

Form and content (syntax and semantics) do not exhaust the possibilities of linguistic description: linguistic phenomena can also be interpreted from the point of view of their dependence upon context. The article attempts to demonstrate that this is the main concern of linguistic pragmatics and that a pragmatic description presupposes the syntactic and semantic description.

80-7 Kress, G. R. and Trew, A. A. Ideological transformation of discourse: or how the *Sunday Times* got its message across. *Journal of Pragmatics* (Amsterdam), 2 (1978), 311-29.

The paper demonstrates how linguistic theory can be used as a means of reliably grasping the ideological characteristics of discourse. Recent developments in linguistics have shown that many aspects of discourse are ideologically significant, and not only what is usually isolated as 'content'. This is most easily seen in transformations of texts of the kinds that occur in paraphrase, rewriting, summary, translation and so on. The many syntactic transformations that occur are related in an organised way. The existence of ideologically distinct options in each syntactic transformation and in the overall structure of such changes, makes the occurrence of specific structures ideologically significant – and it means that a complete description of the structured set of syntactic transformations reveals the ideological determination of the transformation of the text. This is demonstrated with a detailed analysis of the way in which a journalist rewrote a letter from the British Leyland Personnel Department. The ideologies expressed in the letters are shown to be ones familiar in Industrial Relations Theory. A final section very briefly indicates the wider applications of the concept of ideological transformations of discourse in historical and sociological studies and in the study of the media.

- 80-8** Schoorl, Sjef. Pragmatic observations on the active passive controversy. *Journal of Pragmatics* (Amsterdam), 2 (1978), 331-59.

This paper re-examines two arguments that have been advanced by Katz and his associates in support of their contention that semantic interpretation rules for actives and passives need only refer to their deep syntactic representations. It is shown that both arguments fail to do justice to certain essential properties of linguistic expressions that are inherent to their status as instruments in the communicative interaction between speakers and their hearers. In this respect, the arguments in question lend support to the general plea that is being made for an approach to linguistic semantics in which linguists base their theories on 'pragmatic occurrences' of linguistic expressions as they can be observed in the actual use of language by a speaker and his audience rather than on 'exhibitory occurrences', the type of illustrative occurrence that can only be observed in publications about language and that comes close to being totally devoid of meaning.

SEMANTICS See abstracts 80-8, -14, -29, -31/2

LINGUISTIC DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS See also abstracts 80-25, -30/3

- 80-9** Edmondson, J. A. On how to get 'both' in categorial grammar. *Studies in Language* (Amsterdam), 2, 3 (1978), 295-312.

An attempt to demonstrate that an elegant and uncomplicated system of translation rules exists between some conjunctions of natural language and those of classical propositional logic. Furthermore, the usual kind of interpretation rules for the sentential connectives plus some restrictions due to presupposition can be employed to account for the near synonymy among natural conjunctions and yet also predict their lack of total identity.

Above and beyond that, it is noted that some curious gaps in the distribution of the things connected by 'both...and...' are not unexpected at all, but are the simple result of the oddity of comparing alternative and syntactically independent propositions. The author tries to make a case for the statement that quantification is only one of three kinds of encodings of sets joined with 'both...and...'. The other two kinds can be viewed as resting on concomitant but different set theoretical properties of the underlying forms.

- 80-10 Fernando, Chitra.** Towards a definition of idiom: its nature and function. *Studies in Language* (Amsterdam), 2, 3 (1978), 313-48.

Idiom in its broadest sense is the figurative, non-literal use of language. According to the criteria which are enumerated and discussed in this article, idiomaticity is a scalar phenomenon. A pure idiom, such as *to keep one's fingers crossed* or *to blow one's own trumpet*, and a semi-idiom, such as *a red herring* or *a clothes horse*, share the semantic property of idiom that the meaning of the whole is not the result of the compositional function of its constituent parts, but the two kinds are distinguished by the potential for pure idiom to be interpreted in the manner of its homophonous literal counterpart. On the latter grounds, idiom is distinguished from set phrases (*to come a cropper*), metaphor ('Sleep that knits up the ravell'd sleeve of care'), or similes (*like a ton of bricks*). The final defining property of idiom is that it is institutionalised, acting as a binding, exclusive property in a community. Idioms are nevertheless atomistic in their allusions, whereas proverbs (aphorisms or proverbial similes), characteristic of close-knit agrarian communities, reflect a shared moral ethos. Separate partial categorisations of idiomaticity are given for English and Sinhala.

Man's capacity for the creation of idiom is an example of Huarte's notion of Wit, and sets man apart from communicating animals or automata.

SOCIOLINGUISTICS *See also abstract 80-7*

- 80-11 Carayol, M. and Chaudenson, R.** A study in the implicational analysis of a linguistic continuum: French-Creole. *Journal of Creole Studies* (Kappellen, Belgium), 1, 2 (1977) [published 1979], 179-218.

A tentative analysis of a linguistic continuum (Reunion Creole) is presented, using implicational analysis of two different approaches: a corpus of conversations with monolingual adult creolophones, and a survey of the auditive discrimination capacity of young Reunionese schoolchildren. It is suggested that the juxtaposed results provide more interesting conclusions. Delicate analyses of the data are given. General conclusions are that the children's system is unstable and undergoing modification for sociocultural influences, and that younger generation Reunionese of Tamil extraction tend to integrate linguistically more rapidly than their parents.

- 80-12 Clyne, Michael.** Communicative competences in contact. *ITL* (Louvain), 43 (1979), 17-37.

A survey [details] among German, Greek and Italian migrant groups in Australia shows that the general rules of communicative competence in the host culture are less readily acquired or accepted than the specific rules for individual speech-act types. Conflict can arise on the general level where the dignity of the individual is felt to be threatened, or where at the individual level the norms are unclear, even to native Australians.

- 80-13 Washabaugh, William.** Complexities in Creole continua. *Lingua* (Amsterdam), 46 (1978), 245-61.

Linguistic variation in Caribbean English post-Creole continua is not simply a product of decreolisation, nor are all differences between post-Creole continua products of differential decreolisation. There are at least two additional processes which create complexities in post-Creole continua. First, social pressure to avoid the creole (basilect) stimulates variation within a continuum which is unrelated to the acquisition of standard forms, but which still permits speakers to avoid the use of basilectal forms. The denasalisation of the vowel in the past tense marker MEN is one such process. Second, different paths taken in creolisation account for some differences between continua. An example of a widespread, but not universal, creolisation process is the development of a mood marker from the infinitivising complementiser. In some communities this development has not occurred at all; in others infinitiviser-mood marker appears in matrix clauses and even in embedded clauses.

PSYCHOLINGUISTICS *See also abstracts* 80-3, -26, -38

- 80-14 Eson, Morris E.** Cognitive function and interpretive semantics: psychological components of psycholinguistics. *International Journal of Psycholinguistics* (The Hague), 4, 1 (1977), 67-76.

The field of psycholinguistics has generally neglected the study of the various psychological components involved in the interpretation of utterances. This article describes the psychological processes that must be understood in order to achieve an adequate explanation of interpretive semantics. The following relevant categories of cognitive function are discussed and their ontogenesis briefly considered: (1) the process of generalisation involving the understanding of analogy, metaphor, and synonymy; (2) rule-governed behaviour; (3) the dialectic process as expressed in opposition, antinomy and negation; (4) the use of language for instrumental purposes as in ritual and in phatic communication; (5) the resolution of linguistic ambiguity. This approach to the task of

interpretive semantics leads to an independent examination of the task of the listener as opposed to that of the speaker.

80-15 Giles, Howard. Social psychology and applied linguistics: towards an integrative approach. *ITL* (Louvain), **35** (1977), 27-42.

A conceptual framework called 'accommodation theory' is presented which relies on four social psychological theories – similarity attraction, social exchange, causal attribution, and inter-group distinctiveness. The speech shift called 'accommodation' is examined in the light of these theories. Accommodation theory is concerned with explaining some of the processes underlying convergence and divergence (processes whereby individuals adapt, or refuse to adapt, to each other's speech on various linguistic levels). Since social psychologists lack the methods or expertise to describe linguistic behaviour like convergence, and applied linguists lack the skills to analyse the social dynamics behind language behaviour, an integrative approach should be the most fruitful for applied linguistics.

80-16 Kurcz, Ida. Cultural and linguistic determinants of phonetic symbolism. *International Journal of Psycholinguistics* (The Hague), **4** (1977), 5-12.

A report on a study of phonetic symbolism based on 'guessing' the meaning of words of a language unknown to the subjects (Polish high-school and university students). Languages were Chinese, Japanese, Swahili and Hungarian (all outside the Indo-European language family, to which Polish belongs).

Subjects were differentiated for age, sex, education and perceptual ability (auditory – music-school students; visual – students of painting; tactual-kinesthetic – students of sculpture). Words of a foreign language were presented in pairs, one element of which was to be judged as corresponding to a Polish word displayed simultaneously. Words were selected from abstract and sensory categories, the latter subcategorised as auditory, visual, tactual and kinesthetic. Factors affecting the results were language type, word category and experimental method used. The study confirmed a general tendency to symbolise, but showed the influences upon this tendency of subjects' cultural and linguistic experience.

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN *See**also abstract 80-11*

- 80-17 Cohen-Bacri, Jean.** Langage et processus cognitifs: interprétations de phrases complexes avec proposition relative chez l'enfant. [Language and cognitive development: children's interpretations of complex sentences with relative clauses.] *Linguistique* (Paris), 14, 1 (1978), 89-109.

In order to test children's understanding of complex sentences with relative clauses and discover the strategies adopted to decode them, 100 children aged between 6 and 11 in the first five years of primary school were shown five pictures and asked to select the picture corresponding to a given sentence; six sentences with either *qui* or *que*, illustrating four situations were used.

The children's answers, their justifications for them and the types of errors made were analysed for each age group. Although the results obtained seem at first sight to conflict with those of other researchers (Freedle, Keeney and Smith) they are not in fact strictly comparable.

- 80-18 Müller, F.** Erstspracherwerb: Theoretische Ansätze, Methoden, Untersuchungen. [First-language acquisition: theoretical approaches, methods, studies.] *Studium Linguistik* (Kronberg), 4 (1977), 1-24.

In recent research the emphasis in first-language acquisition studies has moved towards studying the child's communicative competence. The linguist has to rely on what the child says, as he cannot find out what the child cannot say. The speech of children also shows considerable linguistic variation. The best method of research is longitudinal observation. In grammar it is necessary to describe the context since utterances alone may be ambiguous. The child's grammar shows no constituent structure or transformational relations between sentences but semantic relations are present. These latter are learnt by early interactions. The socialisation of the child is very important in the acquisition of grammatical relations. Three approaches are current in the study of the acquisition of vocabulary: (a) the cognitive-empirical approach, whereby the child learns the meaning of words from the immediate context; (b) the cognitive-semantic approach, whereby the child's meaning of the word differs only in the number and combination of semantic features from the adult's, and (c) the neurophysiological approach, whereby the child learns gradually to differentiate between meanings, both in grammar and vocabulary. Language acquisition is, most importantly, a cooperative process. Mother and child learn to interpret signals in each other's pre-speech behaviour and the use of linguistic reference develops from earlier non-verbal interactions. The language used by adults to children is different from that used among themselves. Language acquisition is a dynamic and cooperative process which occurs together with the socialisation of the child.

PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY *See also abstracts*

80-16, -64

- 80-19 Ladefoged, Peter.** What are linguistic sounds made of? *Working Papers in Phonetics* (Los Angeles, Cal), **45** (1979), 1-23.

The fundamental linguistic phonetic constraints are set of articulatory or acoustic parameters. Each set is a necessary and sufficient set of parameters that will account for all possible linguistic phonetic properties. Descriptions in terms of one set can be converted into descriptions in terms of the other. Descriptions of phonological patterns in languages involve features which are quite distinct from the phonetic parameters. Moreover they cannot account for many of the phonetic differences between languages. At some abstract levels languages may be organised partly in terms of phonological features. But it must be remembered that languages are complex properties of human societies, not of individual brains.

- 80-20 Levitt, Jesse.** The influence of orthography on phonology: a comparative study (English, French, Spanish, Italian, German). *Linguistics* (The Hague), **208** (1978), 43-67.

Evidence is presented in support of the claim that the influence of orthography has been a significant factor in the phonological development of western European languages. This influence has made itself felt in a variety of ways [numerous illustrations of various types], some of which are quite beneficial.

- 80-21 Mines, M. Ardussi and others.** Frequency of occurrence of phonemes in conversational English. *Language and Speech* (Hampton Hill, Mddx), **21**, 3 (1978), 221-41.

The phoneme identification process of an automatic speech recognition system may be aided through the use of statistics of phoneme occurrence in conversational English. These statistics are also applicable to the fields of linguistics and speech, to teaching English as a foreign language and to speech pathology. In this study a data base containing 103,887 phoneme occurrences taken from casual conversational American English was obtained through interviews of 16 adult males and 10 adult females. The speech was transcribed using a quasi-phonemic system, known as ARPAbet, plus selected phoneme alternates and was analysed with computer assistance to obtain the rank order of phonemes according to frequency of occurrence. Also, the radius of the confidence interval for the observed frequency of occurrence was calculated at the 95 per cent level for each phoneme. The top ten phonemes (in order, /ə, n, t, ɪ, s, r, i, l, d, ɛ /) account for 47 per cent of all the data. As expected, the results of the present study correlate highly with those of one other major study of natural speech.

- 80-22 Roberts, E. Wyn.** Perspectives in prosodic phonology: I – J. R. Firth. *Linguistics* (The Hague), 206 (1978), 5–40.

The article forms part of a series attempting to isolate the theoretical foundations of prosodic-polysystemic phonology and assessing the contributions of its main adherents. The theoretical work of J. R. Firth is reviewed with the aim of establishing its contribution to prosodic phonology in particular and to phonological theory in general. The period covered extends from 1930 to 1957.

- 80-23 Wenk, B. J.** A methodological contribution to the phonetic study of foreigner talk. *Working Papers on Bilingualism* (Toronto), 16 (1978), 43–54.

Published studies on 'foreigner talk' have dealt with phonetic variation sparingly and impressionistically. This may be due to the difficulty of imposing experimental constraints on natural linguistic events without introducing excessive artificiality. A method is described permitting systematic analysis of a selected phonetic variable (voice onset time in English plosives) in the context of naturalistic conversations between native speakers and foreigners of varying levels of competence in the language of communication.

CONVERSATIONAL ANALYSIS

- 80-24 James, Deborah.** The use of 'oh', 'ah', 'say' and 'well' in relation to a number of grammatical phenomena. *Papers in Linguistics* (Champaign, Ill), 11, 3/4 (1978), 517–35.

Interjections are discussed not as simple hesitation phenomena, but as items with syntactic and semantic constraints on their occurrence. It is shown that they occur inside sentences only where there is a semantic alternative to the elements which follow them. It is argued that *oh* and *ah* have less stringent conditions attached to them than *say* and *well*, and that there are many grammatical phenomena with which either all or some of these interjections are incompatible: certain pronoun types; idioms; final sentential adverbs; negative polarity items; presupposition-suspending *if*-clauses; picture-noun clauses; preposed adverbials; and topicalised words.

- 80-25 Klockow, R.** Anführungszeichen, Norm und Abweichung. [Quotation marks, norm and deviation.] *Linguistische Berichte* (Brunswick), 57 (1978), 14–24.

An interesting phenomenon for the study of linguistic norms is the parenthetical interjection, such as *wenn ich so sagen darf*. It allows us to see what individuals think belongs to the norm. In the written

language quotation marks fulfil this role; their use and function is discussed here. Their use can be divided into conventional, i.e. for names, titles, and modalising, i.e. when the speaker uses quotation marks to show that he disagrees with what is being said or feels that the word used is in some way unusual, e.g. *Ein 'schönes' Testspiel* – it was not at all nice – or, for example, *Zwei Großstädte 'heiraten'*. The author uses Grice's conversational maxims to see how far they fit in with his usage. The use of quotation marks can be a sign of cooperation between speakers. The speaker shows he knows the rules of the language and their use can help the hearer to understand the message better, particularly technical terms. Grice is primarily concerned with truth, evidence and implications of sentences, but very often quotation marks are used for expressions which do not correspond to the general style of the passage or for dialect words, e.g. *Nochmals ein 'Schmankerl' gibt es für die Münchner Fans*. The wish to help the communication partner may go too far and quotation marks come to be used where they are not necessary.

80–26 Kraft, E. and others. Die Konstitution der konversationellen Erzählung. [The constitution of 'conversational narrative'.] *Folia Linguistica* (The Hague), 11, 3/4 (1977), 287–337.

It is argued that an adequate model of the macrostructure of spontaneously produced narrative texts in conversation must take into account not only linguistic but also cognitive and psychological considerations. Present models which present the macrostructure in the form of a summary of the narrative are misleading. They imply that the text already possesses a linear organisation at the level of its semantic macrostructure, thus avoiding the question of how the structure is generated and what cognitive processes are involved in selecting the information content of the narrative.

The cognitive bases of conversational narrative are described in terms of a tripartite distinction between the original event or action (*Geschehen*), the event as perceived and remembered by the speaker (*Geschichte*), and the final form of the narrative (*Erzählung*). The production of the text is seen as a planning process in which individual elements of the *Geschichte* are selected in accordance with the goals and constraints relating to the particular conversation in which the narrative is embedded. These elements, rather than the macropropositions of a summary, are arranged to form the linear structure of the text. The number of pieces of information connected with an event which can be recalled on any one occasion will vary, and it is possible to make the theoretical assumption that there is not simply one macrostructure, an 'ideal summary', but a whole hierarchy of macrostructures, characterised by decreasing length and information content. For every narrative, there is a class of possible narratives with varying degrees of detail.