

Studies of particular languages

ENGLISH

72-7 **Brengelman, F. H.** English spelling as a marker of register and style. *English Studies* (Amsterdam), 52, 3 (1971), 201-9.

In recent years English spelling has been shown to be more regular than had been supposed. Chomsky and Halle have shown that it is a fairly regular representation of underlying or abstract phonological structures of words. Some spellings, however, cannot be explained in terms of the phonology and grammar of English. Most such words are of classical origin. Irregular spellings of this type are not inefficient; they give information which a more phonetic spelling would not provide. The preservation in spelling of forms suggesting classical origin is a means of signalling that the text is written, is technical or academic in content, and is formal in style. Irregular spellings may be markers which are largely obligatory, given the situation. Spelling provides a means of enhancing the non-spoken quality of certain kinds of writing.

'Eye dialect', by eliminating phonologically unpredictable spellings, attempts to suggest speech directly. It is based on the assumption that some of English spelling does not represent speech but functions on a level which calls attention to the written form of discourse and contrasts it with the spoken form. The use of archaic and innovative spelling in poetry demonstrates awareness that spelling provides a means of identifying a register and style independent of pronunciation.

Words borrowed from Latin and Greek through Latin before the Norman Conquest were respelled to conform with their pronunciation in Old English; but words occurring in academic or religious contexts were later respelled to approximate to their spelling in Latin. From about 1500 onwards, words borrowed from Latin retained the traditional spelling with few modifications.

There is a high correlation between the traditional spelling of words of Greek origin and their use in academic and technical contexts.

Contractions such as *'ll* and *'ve* are informal and used in contexts that approximate speech.

Like other markers, English spelling informs the reader of the attitude he is to adopt to the message and what sort of response is expected of him.

420 ASL

72-8 Pierce, J. E. Words vs morpheme levels of analysis in English grammar. *Linguistics* (Mouton), 68 (1971), 29-34.

Little has been said recently about levels of linguistic analysis. During the 1930-50s the structuralists worked on the phonological and morphological levels; since then the transformationalists have worked with distinctive features and syntax. Both schools oversimplify the problems by dealing with one or two levels. Language structures exist on a series of interlocking levels. Keeping together the morphological and word levels of analysis for English obscures much that is significant in English structure. Hence the confusion among students as to what, for example, a noun is and what a verb is. An interlocking level analysis with the correct statement of combinatorial rules should eliminate the necessity for describing *slow* as an adjective sometimes functioning as an adverb. This should clear up a great deal of confusion in English grammar and make it possible to create sensible materials for teaching English grammar to foreign (as well as native) students.

420 ADN

72-9 Potter, Simeon. New words and meanings in current English. *Praxis des neusprachlichen Unterrichts* (Dortmund), 18, 2 (1971), 143-7.

A number of new words which have moved from scientific or technical into everyday language are noted. Compounds with the Greek prefixes *macro-*, *micro-* and *para-* are frequently to be found, and even more productive at present is the Latin-based prefix *mini-*. For nominal derivatives the Greek *-ist* (audiotypist), Latin *-ant* (pollutant)

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and French *-eer* (sloganeer) are in frequent use. New derivatives in *-manship* and *-ness* have produced 'gamesmanship' and 'permissiveness'. There is a recent tendency to use phrasal verbs rather than their classical counterparts. When these are substantivized they are frequently printed as one word, 'breakthrough'. The suffix *-y* forming adjectives appears in informal language and slang, 'edgy'. The additive of *-wise* to nouns is still unacceptable to many. Discriminatory suffixes are being used to convey subtle differences in the meanings of adjectives and nouns. New expressions arise from the desire to upgrade titles and make occupations sound more attractive and many isolated examples are given of semantic twists in government and public affairs and other specialized fields. **420 ADF**

72-10 Sissan, Ralph R. The description and comparison of stress in southern British English and Hindi. *Linguistics* (The Hague) 68 (1971), 35-60.

As the English spoken in India becomes more culture bound, the distance between English spoken in India and other varieties throughout the world widens. The results are changes and additions to vocabulary, usage and phonology. Until a standard dialect of spoken Indian English is recognized, southern British English is acceptable as the norm for everyday English speech and it is this form which is chosen for comparison with Hindi. Word stress and stress in sentences in connected speech are studied and illustrated. **420 AJP 491.43**

FRENCH

72-11 Debyser, Francis and Bernard Pottier; L. J. Calvet, Janine Capelle, Emmanuel Companys, Madeleine Csécsy, Jean Darbelnet, Jean-Gérard Janitza, André Reboullet, Colette Rojas, Albert Valdman. *Comparaison des langues et enseignement du français.* [Comparison of languages and the teaching of French.] *Français dans le Monde* (Paris), 81 (1971), 1-75.

The whole of this issue is devoted to questions of language comparison beginning with an introduction by the editor on contrastive research today and looking in greater detail at linguistic typology, semantics, phonology, cultural background, teaching methodology. There are also detailed studies of particular points of French in comparison with Bambara, English, German, Italian and Hungarian.

440 ADF ADN AJ EPQ ELD EFG

- 72-12** **Rothenberg, Mira.** Quelques remarques sur les relations syntaxiques de l'adjectif qualificatif en français contemporain. *Folia Linguistica* (The Hague), **4**, 3/4 (1971), 229-68.

The French adjective can be juxtaposed to the noun from which it takes its gender or it can be separated by a pause, marked by a comma, or linked by the preposition *de*. The article studies the relationships between these different constructions and also considers the agreement of the past participle in the constructions and particularly in the construction with 'de'.

440 AKN

- 72-13** **Zwanenburg, W.** La coordination en français moderne. [Coordination in modern French.] *Lingua* (Amsterdam), **27**, 1 (1971), 20-31.

Ruwet has described coordination with the aid of a transformational rule. Dik has attempted a generative, non-transformational description of coordination. The article considers whether transformational rules should be used at all in such a description. The problems of homonymy and ambiguity have also to be considered in relation to coordinate structures. Ambiguity is divided into functional, hierarchical, and relational ambiguity [illustrations from English and French]. Although it might appear at first that transformational rules are not necessary in this case and that an adequate description of coordination can be given for French using schematic rules, nevertheless this would only be true for coordinations where the parts succeeded one another immediately in the surface structure, separated

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at most by a coordinating conjunction. Beyond these cases rules of suppression of transformational grammar can be helpful. [Several cases are examined where the surface structure components are separated by something other than a coordinating conjunction.] The conclusions reached are of interest for linguistic description in general and particularly for French, as it is believed that certain peculiarities of coordination in French have been revealed which have not previously been clarified.

440 ADN

GERMAN

72-14 Eggers, Hans. Der deutsche Satzbau. [German sentence construction.] *Treffpunkt* (Manchester), 3, 4/5 (1971), 7-13.

The examination of 100,000 German sentences from popular science and formalistic texts shows that sentences are shorter by some thirteen to sixteen words than in the eighteenth or nineteenth century; about half are simple sentences, and the construction of periods is rare. Of the subordinate clauses used, 75 per cent are relative, 15 per cent 'daß' clauses, only about 2 per cent causal and very few concessive clauses.

Characteristics of modern written German are: parataxis is preferred to hypotaxis; *Ausklammerung* (the positioning of separable elements at the end of their own clause unit rather than at the end of the sentence) is making the sentence framework smaller; a similar tendency is seen in the positioning of separable elements in double expressions when one is negative: e.g. *Ich habe nicht meinen Freund gesehen, sondern seine Schwester.*

The avoidance of subordinate clauses leads to economical usages of language but makes quick comprehension more difficult, especially for the foreigner. Such are the attributive participial construction before nouns, the use of infinitives, adjectives and participles as nouns, the building up of complicated noun structures with dependent genitives or prepositional attributes, and the creation of *ad hoc* compound nouns. The tendency to create new words by adding suffixes to adjectives or nouns, whilst intelligible and economical,

calls for a greater passive understanding from the foreigner, e.g. adjectives + 'bar'–*beobachtbar* and thence *Beobachtbarkeit*; noun + 'mäßig'–*wettermäßig*; adjective 'heit' or 'keit' (*Freiheit*). This may produce ambiguity, e.g. *Störungsfreiheit* = freedom to disturb or freedom from disturbance.

These changes will have their effect on the points of emphasis in the teaching of German.

430 AKN

72–15 Helbig, Gerhard. Zum Problem der Stellung des Negationswortes 'nicht'. [The problem of positioning the negative 'nicht'.] *Deutsch als Fremdsprache* (Dresden), **8**, 2 (1971), 66–76.

A distinction is often drawn in teaching-manuals between sentence and word negation but this distinction cannot easily be maintained. No firm rule has been laid down in grammatical descriptions of the German language for the positioning of *nicht*. A possible explanation is to see the positioning of *nicht* in conjunction with the valency of the verb and with intonation. Exponents of content-oriented and transformational-generative grammar have noted many intermediate stages between sentence negation and more restricted word negation. [Illustration.] On the basis of these theories some rules are suggested for the special positioning of the negative particle in conjunction with adverbs, prepositional objects, adverbial phrases, temporal adverbs and in subordinate clauses.

430 AKN

ITALIAN

72–16 Rando, Gaetano. The semantic influence of English on Italian. *Italica* (New York), **48**, 2 (1971), 246–51.

An enormous number of loan-words have passed from English into Italian. 'Calques' and loan-translations, though less numerous, follow the same pattern of entry and transmission into the language. These latter often contain vowel and consonant groups which are difficult to assimilate into the phonological and morphological systems

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of Italian. Moreover the meaning of loan-words is not evident in many cases, whereas the meaning of 'calques' and loan-translations may be determined from the context. There is a tendency to substitute loan-words by 'calques' as the knowledge and use of a particular term spreads. Various methods are used: subreption, translation or the construction of a word along the lines of the original English. Verbs, nouns and adjectives tend to entail the transfer of the meaning of the English word to an already existing Italian one. Political and economic terms, scientific and technical terms frequently show examples of semantic 'calques'. The process of borrowing by translation also extends to phrases and expressions which occurred originally in English. On the border-line between semantic transfer and semantic evolution are words used to substitute anglicisms but which have no intrinsic connection with them. The choice of substitute is governed by its ability to render the concept involved intelligible in Italian. The semantic influence of English on Italian vocabulary reflects the pattern of cultural, commercial and political links between Italy and the English-speaking countries. 450 ADF AYL 420

SPANISH

72-17 **Gooch, Anthony.** Spanish and the onslaught of the Anglicism. *New Vida Hispánica* (Newcastle-upon-Tyne), 19, 2 (1971), 17-21.

Spanish is affected considerably by the influence of English both in Spain and in Hispano-America. The well educated will use anglicized words and expressions for their snob value. The less well educated are subjected to a flood of poorly translated material in journalism and advertising and on the radio. [Examples.] A similar influx of gallicisms flooded the language earlier in its history but eventually left only a small residue of useful elements and it is possible that the same will happen with today's anglicisms. Meanwhile the *Real Academia* takes a fairly lenient attitude to foreign loan-words. The foreign learner cannot risk the same linguistic laxity as the native

speaker. To spurn established standards one must know what the standards are.

460 ALD

72-18 Mason, K. L. J. 'Deber' versus 'deber de'. *New Vida Hispánica* (Newcastle-upon-Tyne), 19, 2 (1971), 11-16.

The *Real Academia* grammar states that '*deber* + infinitive' is used to express legal or moral obligations and that '*deber de* + infinitive' is used to express probability. However, common literary and popular usage are at variance with this. Examples are given of confusion and even complete reversal of the stated rules. M. Seco in his *Diccionario de dudas de la lengua española* quotes many examples of *deber* being used to indicate probability and fewer examples of *deber de* being used to indicate obligation.

In order to investigate the possibility that choice of tense might be an important factor, the author studied twenty-four Nadal prize-winning novels between 1944 and 1967 and could come to no conclusion, though some interesting facts emerged. *Deber* was used more than *deber de* for both obligation and probability – much more in the first case – regardless of tense used. The imperfect and the present tenses were the two more commonly used, followed by the preterite and the conditional. Other tenses were far down the list and the future perfect and pluperfect were not used at all.

If one accepts the statement by William E. Bull that only the present, the infinitive, the preterite and the imperfect have a frequency of more than 10 per cent of all verbal occurrences, it is surprising that with *deber* the imperfect occurs more frequently than the preterite and that the conditional has a high incidence of occurrences. In the preterite both expressions were used to indicate assumption five times more frequently than to indicate obligation. The same was observed with the perfect.

The relationship between *deber* and *tener que* is also confused in a similar fashion, the latter sometimes being used for moral obligation in the place of the former.

The differentiation of meaning between the two uses of *deber* is achieved by words or phrases such as *sin duda* or *seguramente*; by

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the content of adjacent sentences; by a cause and effect relationship between clauses; or by use of a special tense, such as the future.

460 AKN

72-19 **Wonder, John P.** Complementos de adjetivo del genitivo. [Adjectival complements in the genitive.] *Hispania* (Wisconsin), 54, 1 (1971), 114-20.

A study of phrases of the following type is made: (*a*) un hombre de estatura mediana, (*b*) un hombre mediano de estatura. The first type is of frequent occurrence in Spanish but the second is far more restricted. A detailed transformational analysis of this kind of genitive expression reveals a wide semantic range extending from the partitive to the possessive. [Many examples and a diagram are given.]

460 ADF AKN