

Descriptive studies of particular languages

English

88–380 Kennedy, Graeme D. (Victoria U. of Wellington, New Zealand). Expressing temporal frequency in academic English. *TESOL Quarterly* (Washington, DC), **21**, 1 (1987), 69–86.

Recent studies have shown the need for more attention to be paid to English as form and not only as communication. This article describes a methodology for discovering how the communicative notion of temporal frequency is expressed in academic English. Almost 300 different linguistic devices are identified and described, along with the

number of times they each occur in two large corpora of written academic English which can be used for computer analysis. The article also highlights the potential of computer-assisted analysis of authentic texts to help improve the basis for the development of language teaching materials.

German

88–381 Buhofer, Annelies Häcki. Die Kasus des Deutschen – Wissenschaftsgeschichtliche und methodologische Überlegungen. [Cases in German: historical and methodological considerations.] *Deutsche Sprache* (Berlin, FRG), **15**, 2 (1987), 137–50.

Anyone who has never paid particular attention to the problem will immediately suppose that it is easy to determine the number of cases in a language and will not doubt that four cases can be distinguished in German. A closer examination, both of the linguistic facts and of the arguments used in the discussion of

cases, reveals that there is no single criterion which on its own would suffice to determine the cases, and that the field of possible arguments is small and closed. The main aim of this article is to point out that even in the old grammars of German the limit to the type of possible arguments was recognised.

88–382 Donhauser, Karin (U. of Passau, FRG). Mood and morphology. An alternative approach to the syntax and semantics of German moods. *Lingua* (Amsterdam), **73**, 1/2 (1987), 53–77.

This paper deals with the category ‘mood’ in German, that is with a certain parameter of verbal inflection which, according to the common view of German grammar, is said to include three values: the indicative (*er gibt, er gab, er hat gegeben, er hatte gegeben*), the subjunctive, normally divided into subjunctive I (*er gebe, er habe gegeben*) and the subjunctive II (*er gäbe, er hätte gegeben*), and the imperative (*gib, gebt, habe/habt gegeben*). The central aim of this paper is to present an alternative approach to the syntax and semantics of German moods, arguing against a particular position in German mood research, according to which ‘mood’ is presumed to be a syntactically and semantically heterogeneous phenomenon which does not allow

for a unified grammatical description. The paper starts by sketching the main arguments in favour of this position, which in a certain sense might be seen as the natural consequence of two hundred years of mood research in German, and then goes on to develop an alternative view which follows a much older tradition taking mood to be a category not only of finite verbal forms but also of non-finite ones. As will be shown in detail, this is an interpretation which is apt to give the category ‘mood’ a coherent grammatical description in terms of morphological markings and thus provides a background which allows for a systematic account of most of the syntactic as well as the semantic properties of German moods.

88–383 Iluk, Jan. Sind privative Adjektive graduierbar? Einige Beobachtungen und deren syntaktische Konsequenzen. [The gradability of privative adjectives and its syntactic consequences.] *Deutsche Sprache* (Berlin, FRG), **15**, 2 (1987), 97–109.

This article examines the gradability of privative derivatives and its syntactic consequences. The results show that only certain subclasses of the privative derivatives are gradable and that these can be used in a wider range of syntactic contexts than the non-gradable ones. The differences between the various subclasses are that the gradable derivatives

have syntagmatic relationships with intensifying, grading, quantifying and relativising adjuncts. Other subclasses are compatible either with none of these classes of adjuncts or only with quantifying adjuncts. In addition, only the gradable derivatives can be used in negative intensifying sentences and imperative sentences with a copula.

Translation/interpreting

88–384 Dollerup, Cay. Control of interlingual mediation in practice: Denmark as a case study. *Multilingua* (Amsterdam), **6**, 2 (1987), 169–90.

Every day numerous messages are mediated between languages and cultures by means of translations, interpreting, summaries, etc. In addition to being important linguistic and social acts, all messages mediated by linguistic middlemen also become communication in a cross-cultural framework. Accordingly, we might justifiably expect extensive use of some kind of 'control' of the 'correctness' of interlingually mediated messages.

The study investigates and describes the types of 'control' – in the widest sense of the word – of interlingual mediation which are undertaken by

senders, by mediators, and by receptors. It is concluded that apart from the European Community translation services, such control is usually sporadic and confined to special cases in the major social framework of international and cross-cultural communication.

In practice, control is the exception rather than the rule. Therefore the most efficient control society can undertake *vis-à-vis* the individual mediator is found at the final exams for interlingual mediators (translation and interpreting schools).