

Descriptive studies of particular languages

English

91–514 Cruttenden, Alan (U. of Manchester) **and Faber, David**. The accentuation of prepositions. *Journal of Pragmatics* (Amsterdam), **15**, 3 (1991), 265–86.

The accenting of prepositions in contexts other than that of direct contrast has not previously been adequately explained or even described. Various explanations for various types of preposition ac-

centuation are explored. Although the contribution of semantic role is paramount, other reasons play an important supporting role in such accentuation.

91–515 Stein, Gabriele. The phrasal verb type 'to have a look' in modern English. *IRAL* (Heidelberg, Germany), **29**, 1 (1991), 1–29.

Constructions made with a 'function verb' like *have, take or give* and an abstract noun derived from a verb are very common in English, e.g. *We had a rest, Father and I will take a walk, The old woman gave a scream*. This article examines the differences in meaning between these constructions and analogous

expressions with a simple verb like *He rested, Father and I will walk, The old woman screamed*. It is concluded that each of these so-called 'function verbs' *have, take and give* retain their own meanings and are not semantically 'empty', as is often claimed.

Russian

91–516 Kitadzyo, M. Нейтрализация временных форм русских причастий. [The neutralisation of the time form of the Russian participle.] *Русский язык за рубежом* (Moscow), **6** (1990), 110–115.

The Russian participle is described; it has both verbal and adjectival characteristics. The way the participle is formed by the addition of particular suffixes is explained. The neutralisation of the time forms of the Russian participle is considered. An analysis is made of the frequency of use of the active participle of past and present time and the possibility of interchanging both these participles. The research revealed various factors which influenced the choice of participle: the position of the participle in the sentence was important; the past participle was used

more often than the present participle if many sentences followed the participial construction; fewer sentences followed the use of the present participle. The type of word described by the participle is also relevant. A past participle is more likely to be used if it is describing a word in the nominative case or is a proper name/noun, whereas a present participle is more likely if the word is in an oblique case or is a common noun. The substitution of the present participle for the past participle allows the writer to create a stronger impression.

Translation

91–517 Godman, Arthur and Veltman, Robert. Language development and the translation of scientific texts. *Babel* (Budapest, Hungary), **36**, 4 (1990) 193–212.

This two-part article treats the delicate issue of the translation of scientific texts originally composed in English, a language of 'international communication' in the scientific field, into Malay, a language which does not currently have this status. However, the act of translating scientific texts into a language

like Malay (a) presupposes the existence of a scientific register in that target language and, (b), where this is wanting, contributes to the development of such a register in that language. The decision to translate scientific texts from English to Malay will also reflect political changes and change in the relations



between the two languages as a function of the relations between the communities which speak them. Thus the notion of 'context of translation' is invoked as a valid area of investigation for the purposes of handling these issues that form the background to translation (Part I).

Because of the special characteristics and demands of scientific translation, which places a high pre-

mium on congruity of terminology in the two translation languages, various powerful conceptual tools are proposed and applied, such as focus restriction, cline, cluster, as well as congruity, to deal with the special problems of scientific language development, in which translation plays a radical part (Part II).

Lexicography

91–518 König, Werner. Welche Aussprache soll im Unterricht 'Deutsch als Fremdsprache' gelehrt werden? Ein Plädoyer für ausgangssprachenorientierte Lehrnormen. [Which pronunciation should be learnt in the teaching of German as a foreign language?] *Deutsche Sprache* (Berlin, Germany), **1** (1991), 16–32.

The pronouncing atlas of German in the Federal Republic of Germany (*Atlas zur Aussprache des Schriftdeutschen in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland*) presents a description of the geographical variation of German pronunciation within the Federal Republic. This atlas provides, for the first time, empirical data on the actual pronunciation of educated speakers. In teaching German pronunciation to foreigners, it is suggested that the standards used should reflect the way German is actually pronounced, and that they should also take into

account the phonetic features of the learners' mother tongue. Several examples are discussed in order to demonstrate how much easier the acquisition of German pronunciation would be if the (relatively) rigid standard of the existing pronouncing dictionaries were abandoned and replaced by a pronunciation standard which differs according to the learner's mother tongue, but is composed of variants which actually occur in different regional pronunciations of German.

Lexicology

91–519 Biber, Douglas (Northern Arizona U.). Methodological issues regarding corpus-based analyses of linguistic variation. *Literary and Linguistic Computing* (Oxford), **5**, 4 (1990), 257–69.

Although corpus-based analyses of linguistic variation have provided fresh insights into previously intractable issues, several methodological criticisms have been raised about the overall design of text corpora and the validity of text 'genres' as a basis for analyses of variation. Unfortunately, most of these criticisms have been based on intuitive judgements rather than empirical investigation. This study begins to correct this lack of evidence concerning these issues. It focuses on four particular methodological issues: (1) how long tests should be in order to reliably represent the distribution of linguistic features in particular text categories; (2) how many texts within each text category are required in order to reliably represent the linguistic characteristics of that category, and related questions concerning the validity of 'genre' categories; (3)

how many texts are needed in a corpus to accurately identify the salient parameters of linguistic variation among texts; and (4) how much of a cross-section is required to identify and analyse the salient parameters of variation among texts. These issues are addressed through statistical investigation of the distribution of linguistic features across various subsamples of the LOB and London-Lund corpora, in comparison to their distribution across the full corpora. The results indicate that existing corpora are adequate for many analyses of linguistic variation. In conclusion, the paper welcomes the future availability of larger and more representative corpora, but it also urges researchers to fully exploit existing corpora for ongoing investigations of linguistic variation.