

Studies of particular languages

ENGLISH

68–179 Bolinger, Dwight. Adjectives in English: attribution and predication. *Lingua* (Amsterdam), **18**, 1 (1967), 1–34.

The traditional relative-clause transformation fails to account for most instances of attributive adjectives. Instead of clearing up ambiguity the traditional predicative–attributive transformation creates it. [Examples of *be* predications, of the restrictions of perfect participles, of reference and referent modification, agentive nouns and lexical derivation, attribution and compounding.] There is a clear functional difference between predicative modification and attributive modification. Two solutions are offered to account for the restrictions.

68–180 Lejnieks, Valdis. The system of English suffixes. *Linguistics* (The Hague), 29 (1967), 80–104.

The study has a threefold purpose. First, to demonstrate that the morphemic level is a fully independent level possessing its own element classes, elements and cyclical selection rules different from those of the phonemic and sememic levels; secondly, to establish a method for deciding exactly how many morphemes are present in a given word; thirdly, to draw up the list of element classes and elements of English suffixal morphemes and establish the order in which successive selections are made from them. [Detailed illustrations and charts.]

68–181 Monsen, Thomas. The basic meaning of the progressive form. *Språk og Språkundervisning* (Oslo), **3**, 1 (1967), 16–19.

Commenting on Martin Joos's statement that the meaning of the progressive is that of 'limited duration', the author says that the

simple form is neutral and the progressive form marked. He refers, with full quotations, to Bengt Jacobsson's criticisms of Joos's theory, and says that Jacobsson's examples and comments do not refute Joos.

Contextual as well as co-textual circumscription must be recognized. The basic meaning of the progressive may be too subtle to be expressed by a simple formula.

FRENCH

68-182 Delattre, Pierre. La nuance de sens par l'intonation. [Shades of meaning conveyed by intonation.] *French Review* (Baltimore), **41**, 3 (1967), 326-39.

There are many modifications of intonation patterns which express more subtleties in the language than can be conveniently classified. There is, however, a category of shades of meaning which are expressed by an exchange of known curves, and this category can be delimited and described. Ten elementary and unambiguous intonation curves in French are illustrated with the meaning they convey. The substitution of other curves for each of these ten is then considered and the resulting change in meaning analysed (principally adding an implication not conveyed by the original intonation pattern). It is also possible to repeat a statement changing the intonation pattern to a question which will imply doubt and indignation.

Stylistics teaches that what may be semantically unsuitable in prose is acceptable in poetry. This is also true of intonation. 'Unsuitable' intonation can enrich expression.

68-183 Grobe, Edwin P. 'Passé simple' versus 'imparfait'. *French Review* (Baltimore), **41**, 3 (1967), 344-56.

The customary explanation of differences between the passé simple and the imperfect indicative in terms of a perfective-imperfective opposition only accounts for a portion of the broad range of relationships holding the two tenses in aspectual antithesis. A more unified

STUDIES OF PARTICULAR LANGUAGES

and comprehensive analysis of the problem becomes possible when one emphasizes the restrictive aspect of the *passé simple* and the non-restrictive aspect of the imperfect. [Full examples are given of the definite time span expressed by the *passé simple* and the indefinite time span expressed by the imperfect.]

While not all the contemporary uses of the *passé simple* and the imperfect are covered in this study, the recognition of the restrictive/non-restrictive opposition of the two tenses will enable an appreciation of stylistic subtleties and psychological nuances in French prose.

68–184 Klare, Johannes. Das Inversionsproblem im Aussage- und Fragesatz des modernen Französisch: (2). [The problem of inversion in affirmative and interrogative sentences in modern French: (2).] *Fremdsprachenunterricht* (Berlin), **11**, 4 (1967), 148–53.

Having studied inversion in the affirmative sentence (abstract 68–100) Klare here considers inversion in the interrogative. The tendency to evade inversion in everyday speech appears again with the interrogative. Often intonation alone denotes a question and in uneducated speech since the fifteenth century the addition of the particle *-ti* to an uninverted sentence has indicated the interrogative form. The question form with *est-ce que* and no inversion also appears more frequently in the spoken language and this form was selected by the Saint-Cloud commission working on basic French as the one question form.

The simple verb–pronoun inversion and inversion with interrogative pronouns is still fairly common, though increasingly in uneducated and even in normal colloquial speech absence of inversion with the interrogative pronouns can be noticed. Speech economy is not the only reason as dialects can produce questions with interrogative pronoun, the particle *-ti* and intonation in order to convey a question.

Absolute inversion in educated speech is part-obligatory, part-voluntary. If a direct object is involved, complete inversion is essential and also if *pourquoi* is used, but in these cases and with interrogative pronouns the use of *est-ce que* without inversion is acceptable even in literature. The uneducated condensed variant *ousque* is noted and well

illustrated with another development *où que* and the unattached use of *que* in loose speech. An extreme form avoiding inversion is the changing of *est-ce que* to *c'est que* which also goes back to the fifteenth century. In colloquial speech interrogative adverbs can be found at the end of the sentence instead of the beginning, giving a construction which anticipates the form of the reply.

Interrogative sentences are of considerable import in French syntax as colloquial speech has developed its own system. Modern French shows the result of a tendency which began over 200 years ago. Both inversion and its absence are reflected in modern literature.

68-185 Levitt, Jesse. The subjunctive in modern French: conflicts between theory and usage. *Linguistics* (The Hague), 31 (1967), 50-60.

Commonly held views of the subjunctive are examined to determine to what extent they reflect or conflict with standard usage. The definition of the eighteenth-century grammarian Dumarsais is repeated in Littré's dictionary in the nineteenth-century showing the subordinating effect of the subjunctive and also its expression of indecision, doubt or desire. In the twentieth century, French linguists prefer to regard the subjunctive as expressing some idea of feeling. [Definitions by Dauzat, Gougenheim and De Boer.]

In the light of these definitions, the author examines some uses of the subjunctive that seem to contradict the basic notions of its meaning and function: independent use, as in *vive le roi*; following verbs of doubt or denial used with the negative; following verbs of feeling, even when the dependent clause refers to something real; the indicative after *croire* (contrary to Italian usage); subjunctive after a superlative, or the adjectives *seul*, *unique*, and *dernier*. Although in the present day the subjunctive is used in concessive clauses, seventeenth-century usage allowed the indicative. The temporal conjunctions require a subjunctive but modern French has developed the alternative forms *jusqu'au moment où*, etc., followed by the indicative. Similar anomalies are found in conditional forms. Thus if the subjunctive is regarded as expressing doubt, fear, desire, uncertainty, potentiality or an action

STUDIES OF PARTICULAR LANGUAGES

simply envisaged in the mind, many of the commonest constructions of the language seem to find little logical basis. There is no rigid historical tradition for the use of the subjunctive and form rather than meaning often determines the choice of mood in a subordinate clause. For many linguists the subjunctive has become the mood of 'psychological subordination' or 'non-judgement'. The student of French syntax cannot rely on any fully embracing principle to distinguish the indicative from the subjunctive. Yet the search for meaning and consistency has been useful in clarifying many apparent contradictions and interpreting the trends of current usage.

68–186 Rohrer, Christian. Definition of 'locutions verbales'.
French Review (Baltimore), 41, 3 (1967), 357–67.

There are a great number of combinations in French which are traditionally referred to as *locutions verbales*. [Lists of three categories are appended to the article.]

Substantives of *locutions verbales* cannot be replaced by a pronoun, nor modified by an adjective. When such an expression is negated the negative expression stands without the preposition *de*. If an object can be joined to a combination, such as *faire cadeau*, and if the combination functions as a simple transitive verb then the formal union is clearly demonstrated. The verb can only be followed by a single direct object in modern French. The number of the substantive cannot be altered. Transformation into the passive is impossible. No modification is possible by relative clauses. There are *locutions verbales* with and without an article and the author suggests the hypothesis that *locutions verbales* without an article can contain only abstract substantives. The few *locutions* which have concrete substantives not used in a figurative sense belong to an older stage of the language.

In this analysis only examples in which the relationship 'verb-direct object' is present are considered. The restriction is arbitrary to narrow the field. The separation of *locutions verbales* into those with and without an article may be further broken down according to whether the nominal part has one or more members.

To obtain smaller groups, classification could be made according to content and in German there is already a classification of the paraphrases according to content specification but the necessary preliminary work in the semantic field has not yet been done for French.

68-187 Valdman, Albert. Norme pédagogique: les structures interrogatives en français. [A pedagogical norm for French interrogative structures.] *IRAL* (Heidelberg), 5, 1 (1967), 3-10.

French interrogative structures are affected by polymorphism, the availability of apparently synonymous structures to express the same range of meaning. There are two equivalent constructions to formulate a question requiring a yes/no reply and two other forms expressing style, such as surprise and emotion. Transformational grammar has shown convincingly that a more coherent description of the language is obtained if it is limited to a number of kernel sentences. Question forms would be identical with declarative sentences replacing the sentence category to be questioned with a pronominal element. For teaching purposes three criteria of selection are proposed: (1) frequency, (2) complexity, and (3) extensivity. Of the two most frequent French interrogative structures the prefixation of *est-ce que* appears to be the simpler. But inversion of noun and verb represents a more generalized transformation in French, even though it introduces syntactic and morphophonemic complications. Only because it can be applied without exception to all types of kernel sentences, the prefixation of *est-ce que* is chosen as the pedagogically primary interrogative structure. However, questions involving inversion and other less extensive syntactic processes should not be neglected; they should be introduced gradually, at first for passive recognition only and later for active drill when the most extensive structure has been internalized by the learner.

GERMAN

- 68–188 Friederich, Wolf.** 'With' + Partizip: ein Grammatik- und Übersetzungsproblem: (2). ['With' + participle: a grammatical and translation problem: (2).] *Idioma* (Munich), **4**, 6 (1967), 249–53.

Illustrations are given of various possibilities for translating into German clauses introduced by 'with', sometimes by other introductory words and constructions, and sometimes by using punctuation—a new sentence, a colon, a semi-colon, or dash.

Experience has shown that English sentences of this type are particularly difficult to translate and sometimes cause difficulties in comprehension. From the many examples given, it can be seen that the various constructions are not dependent on style. They can be found in both literary and conversational texts and anyone learning English would need to be able to use them as well as understand them.

- 68–189 Nerius, Deter.** Sprachnorm und Sprachveränderung im heutigen Deutsch: (1). [Linguistic norm and the process of change in present-day German: (1).] *Źęzyki obce w szkole* (Warsaw), **56**, 4 (1967), 212–21.

After defining the synchronic and diachronic methods of approaching language the author adopts the latter to analyse the three levels of present-day German: dialect, colloquial language, and standard educated German.

While dialects form the basis from which the other two forms have developed, they are limited geographically, and other limitations, which the author enumerates, have led to their recent decline.

Colloquial German is seen as the product of a synthesis between dialects and standard educated German. It is strongly influenced by the former and as a result varies from region to region. Examples illustrate the regional variations. Essentially a spoken language, it is the daily language of the majority and its use is centred chiefly in towns and cities.

The most highly developed level of the language with a uniform

system of rules and the widest range of expression is standard educated German of which literary German is part. For various historical and social reasons this level did not fully develop until the end of the eighteenth century.

Each of the three levels has its own particular linguistic norm. The norm is seen by the author as a statistical quantity based on the frequency and incidence of use. It is not fixed by an elaborate set of rules, but rather the rules are derived to explain the norm. Language is in a constant state of flux and linguists are warned against dismissing variants and new forms as 'mistakes'. It is more important to understand the way in which these new elements have developed. Because it is the most important of all, it is the norm of standard educated German to which the author devotes most attention.

68-190 Stepanova, M. D. Die Zusammensetzung und die 'innere Valenz' des Wortes. [Formation of compounds and inner valency of words.] *Deutsch als Fremdsprache* (Leipzig), 4, 6 (1967), 335-9.

Valency appears in modern linguistics as a principle of syntactic analysis, and as a developing linguistic theory, has received considerable attention. 'Outer valency' expresses the way in which words (chiefly verbs) are related to others in a sentence and 'inner valency' expresses the combination of elements within compound words.

Inner valency is here examined with reference to German compound words. Phonetic laws which doubtless play a considerable part in the compounding of such words have not been well studied. The compound words are divided into three groups: (1) idiomatic compounds, (2) *ad hoc* compounds which could easily be divided into groups of separate words, (3) the commonest group in which the compound word represents more than the sum of its parts. Compounds of the third group lend themselves to transformation by syntactic construction but, in contrast to the second group, differ semantically from their component parts. It is shown that the inner semantic valency of such compounds differs considerably from the

STUDIES OF PARTICULAR LANGUAGES

outward (syntactic/semantic) valency as they reflect not occasional situations but categorical relations which can only be expressed by semantic unity. Through this study, the general theory of valency may be seen to acquire a new meaning, that of a close relationship of syntax with lexis. Further points for research are indicated.

ITALIAN

68-191 Klajn, Ivan. I nessi consonantici dell'italiano. [Consonant clusters in Italian.] *Lingua Nostra* (Florence), **28**, 3 (1967), 74-81.

Consonant clusters may be considered as forming a regular system. Italian consonant clusters have been listed by many linguisticians; Hall and Muljačić have also examined the compatibility of single phonemes in clusters. Many writers have compiled incomplete lists and care is needed when reading their classifications. The consonant clusters are better considered as autonomous units to be compared, contrasted, to have their groups, categories, and basic structures defined. Differing ways of doing so yield different but equally valid systems of classification. In this account the consonant clusters are arranged in patterns graded from the most generalized to the finest discrimination.

The broadest definition (Hill) of Italian consonant clusters would be: sonant or /s/ + consonant + liquid. Two-member clusters are then incomplete realizations of this global scheme. A fine discrimination yields: (1) occlusive or /f, v/+liquid; (2) intense occlusive or /ff/ + liquid; (3) liquid + consonant; (4) nasal + consonant (except liquid); (5) /s/ + consonant (except affricates); (6) sonant + cluster from class 1; (7) /s/ + cluster from class 1.

Other combinations may occur between two words (*il re, non lui*), in borrowings or regional forms (*Etna*). The final list is that drawn up by Camilli but regrouped and with amplifications and comments.

The enumeration and classification of consonant clusters completed, the next step must be to examine their inter-relationships and to explain why only three fundamental combinations of consonants are

basic to Italian, to assess the influence of anomalous clusters imported with foreign words, parts of technical jargon, and to map the extent to which liquids, nasals and /s/ present special sonant features.

RUSSIAN

68–192 Hyart, Charles. Quelques secrets du vocabulaire russe. [Some secrets of Russian vocabulary.] *Revue des Langues Vivantes* (Brussels), 33, 6 (1967), 628–40.

Those who have not undertaken the study of Russian expect the unfamiliar alphabet and complicated declensions to prove the chief difficulties but it is in fact the vocabulary which is most difficult. The author divides the vocabulary into three categories: words borrowed from other West European languages which are understandable at once, words having prefixes and suffixes which rapidly become familiar and assist in understanding, and words which bear no relationship to anything met before. [Detailed illustration.] The Russian language is extremely rich in its vocabulary and its writers have a finely developed sense of the many shades of meaning to be conveyed through this richness which places some of them amongst the world's greatest writers.

68–193 Skvortsov, L. I. Культура речи и лексическая идиосинкразия. [Standard Russian usage and 'lexical idiosyncrasy'.] *Русская речь* (Moscow), 1 (1967), 53–9.

Discussion of 'lexical idiosyncrasy' with reference to the terms прилуниться, прилунение and голевой момент, голевая ситуация, and their acceptance as part of standard Russian.

- 68-194 Veyrenc, J.** Russe 'idti' et 'xodit': mouvement de déplacement et mouvement de fonction. ['Idti' and 'xodit' in Russian, verbs of motion and function.] *Bulletin de la Société de Linguistique de Paris* (Paris), **61**, 1 (1966), 21-41.

The opposition between the verbs 'idti' and 'xodit' is not that of a determinate opposed to an indeterminate verb but displacement as against function. This opposition is then expressed in the terms exocentric and endocentric processes.

By considering the syntagmatic relations, an attempt is made to account for the phenomena of composition and government which are peculiar to verbs of motion. Allowing for other factors also, a fresh classification of all the combinations with Russian preverbs should be possible and could be compared with the classification of preverbs already obtained by the semantic method.

- 68-195 Vishnyakova, T. A.** Некоторые статистические характеристики имен существительных и прилагательных из анализа живой разговорной речи. [Some statistical characteristics of nouns and adjectives from an analysis of contemporary colloquial speech.] *Русский язык за рубежом* (Moscow), **2** (1967), 78-81.

Statistical analysis of the contemporary colloquial language is valuable since it provides data which inform the choice of material for inclusion in textbooks, etc. Nouns and adjectives are chosen here because of the difficulty they present to learners of Russian at elementary stages in view of their inflexions. The data are derived from an analysis of speech recorded on tape by the author and Yu. A. Markov. [Information is given about the level of education, social standing, etc., of informants.] On the basis of 100,000 words, a list of the 1,200 most frequently used words and an analysis of adjectives contained in the sample was made. 50,000 words were used as a basis for a similar analysis of nouns.

The results, which include information on the relative frequency of

nouns and adjectives in different cases, are presented in tables. The author discusses the sharp divergence between the figures provided by this and H. H. Josselson's analysis.

SPANISH

68–196 **García, Manuel Moral.** Dichos españoles a grandes y pequeñas dosis. [Spanish expressions in large and small quantities.] *Idioma* (Munich), 4, 6 (1967), 263–6.

The author studies in detail two specific points of Spanish usage: those synonyms and expressions (formal and colloquial) meaning 'a large quantity' of something, and those meaning 'a small quantity' of something (a host, pile, to cost a fortune, a jot, an inkling, etc.). Examples are given which illustrate the *nuances* of the particular noun, adjective or adverbial phrase in question.