



Newsletter: January 2008

Welcome to the LSSA newsletter, we hope you find the information useful.

If you would like to add information to the LSSA newsletter please send the information to: newsletter@lssa.za.org.

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- Books: [Laboratory Phonology 9](#)
- Books: [The Cognitive Linguistics Reader](#)
- Call for Papers: [5th Annual Duke-UNC Graduate Islamic Studies Conference](#)
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- Books: [Handbook of Pragmatics](#)
- New Journal: [English Text Construction](#)
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- Call for Papers: [Second Language Research Forum](#)
- Call for Papers: [Language and Sexuality: Anthrolinguistic Perspectives](#)
- Review: [The Handbook of English Linguistics](#)
- Books: [Cognitive Grammar \(Langacker\)](#)

Books: Online Communication in Language Learning and Teaching

TITLE: Online Communication in Language Learning and Teaching

PUBLICATION YEAR: 2007

PUBLISHER: Palgrave Macmillan

AUTHOR(S): Marie-Noëlle Lamy & Regine Hampel

PAPERBACK: ISBN: 9780230001275

Pages: 280

Price: U.K.: £ 18.99

Abstract:

Online Communication in Language Learning and Teaching offers theoretical and practical as well as research perspectives for approaching technologies that support online communication for language learning. Examining tools such as forums, chats, audio and visual real-time platforms as well as virtual worlds and mobile devices, and reviewing the literature that deals with such tools in use in educational settings, the authors identify key theoretical issues (e.g. pedagogic developments in online language learning, learning theories, teacher and student experience, assessment) and offer a thorough appraisal of the potential benefits and challenges of learning and teaching a language via these technologies. The authors talk directly and practically to teachers about research issues of relevance to them and suggest do-able small-scale projects, as well as providing an extensive annotated collection of online resources.

Linguistic Field(s): Applied Linguistics

Written In: English(eng)

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Request: Wikipedia update, Morphology

Dear Subscribers and Readers,

Since our last appeal of 13 November, we would like to express our appreciation to the following readers for their generous responses:

-an offer from Kilu von Prince, Technical University Berlin, to update the entry on Fijian language;

-notification from Jo-Anne Ferreira of University of West Indies, Mona, of a comprehensive project at the Caribbean Indigenous and Endangered Languages (CIEL) center to update more than 45 (!) current articles on Caribbean languages and to create biographies of the major figures working with these languages;

-an offer from Malgorzata Deron, Adam Mickiewicz University, to update the following articles: origin of language, analytic language, fusional language, semantic change (specifically, amelioration), code-switching, calque, and certain affixes;

-an offer from Dennis Preston, Michigan State University, to distribute the previous appeal to other interested sociolinguists and to update the article on the Linguistic Society of America.

You are welcome to track the overall progress of our collective efforts at:
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Linguistlist>

Today's appeal focuses on morphology: what linguist has not appreciated the beauty and variety of morphological structures found in the languages of the world? Please consider sharing your interest and expertise for the benefit of linguistics in Wikipedia: click on the links appended below to see whether you can improve any of the 40 selected articles. Some just need a bit more content or specific references to make them complete, while others might benefit from being merged with related articles.

Regarding morphosyntax, you might be interested in looking at a resource that LINGUIST is involved in developing. This is the GOLD ontology (General Ontology of Linguistic Description, <http://www.linguistics-ontology.org/>), which was begun as part of the E-MELD project (<http://emeld.org>). GOLD includes a hierarchy of concepts related to morphosyntax, along with definitions, some usage notes, and bibliography. It can best be viewed at: <http://linguistics-ontology.org/ns/gold/0.45/treeview/treeview.html>

You might find some of the GOLD terms and definitions useful in updating Wikipedia morphology stubs. But if you disagree or have suggestions for GOLD's improvement, do let the LINGUIST crew know! GOLD is an ongoing project, and we appreciate your suggestions, just as we appreciate your help in updating Wikipedia.

Remember that our standing offer still holds: if you don't wish to edit directly in Wikipedia yourself, then just send your suggestions, edits, or articles to us here at LINGUIST, and we will upload them for you!

As always, The LINGUIST List is grateful for your contribution to this effort, and looks forward to hearing from you. Thank you and Happy Holidays!

The Wikipedia Update team: roxana@linguistlist.org, hannah@linguistlist.org, and luiza@linguistlist.org

MORPHOLOGY STUBS

Absolute case (references missing): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Absolute_case

Agentive ending (incomplete; references missing): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agentive_ending

Allative case (incomplete; references missing):
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allative_case

Assumptive mood (incomplete; references missing):
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assumptive_mood

Augment (linguistics) (references missing):
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augment_%28linguistics%29

Benefactive case (incomplete; references missing):

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benefactive_case

Bound morpheme (references missing): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bound_morpheme

Causal case (incomplete): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Causal_case

Causal-final case (incomplete; references missing): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Causal-final_casei

Commissive moods (references missing):

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commissive_moods

Delative case (incomplete; references missing):

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delative_case

Deliberative mood (references missing): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deliberative_mood

Deontic moods (references missing): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deontic_moods

Distributed morphology (incomplete):

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Distributed_morphology

Elative (gradation) (references missing):

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elative_%28gradation%29

Ending (linguistics) (references missing):

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ending_%28linguistics%29

Endocentric (references missing): <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endocentric>

Essive-formal case (references missing; merge with Essive case?):

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Essive-formal_case

Essive-modal case (incomplete; references missing; merge with Essive case?):

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Essive-modal_case

Exocentric (incomplete; references missing): <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exocentric>

Free morpheme (references missing): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_morpheme

Holonymy (references missing): <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holonymy>

Interrogative mood (incomplete; references missing):

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interrogative_mood

Intransitive case (references missing): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intransitive_case

Irrealis moods (references missing): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irrealis_moods

Mirative (incomplete): <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mirative>

Nunation (references missing): <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nunation>

Partitive (references missing): <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partitive>

Partitive plural (empty link: comprehensive plural; references missing):

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partitive_plural

Past continuous (incomplete): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Past_continuous

Past historical (incomplete): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Past_historical

Privative (references missing): <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Privative>

Privative a (references missing; suggest merge with privative?):
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Privative_a

Proximative case (incomplete): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proximative_case

Reciprocal pronoun (incomplete): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reciprocal_pronoun

Relativizer (incomplete, examples missing): <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Relativizer>

Resultative (references missing): <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resultative>

Spatial tense (references missing): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spatial_tense

Superlative case (references missing): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superlative_case

Verb applicative (references missing): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verb_applicative

Was-leveling; Were-leveling (incomplete): <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Was-leveling> &
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Were-leveling>

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Books: Syntax and Semantics of Prepositions

EDITOR: Patrick Saint-Dizier

TITLE: Syntax and Semantics of Prepositions

SERIES TITLE: Text, Speech and Language Technology

PUBLISHER: Springer

PUBLICATION YEAR: 2007

PAPERBACK: ISBN: 9781402038990

Pages: 332

Price: U.K.: £ 37.50

Abstract:

Note: This is the paperback edition of a previously announced book.

This book is the first to provide an integrated view of preposition from morphology to reasoning, via syntax and semantics. It offers new insights in applied and formal linguistics, and cognitive science. It underlines the importance of prepositions in a number of computational linguistics applications, such as information retrieval and machine translation. The reader will benefit from a wide range of views and applications to various linguistic frameworks, among which, most notably, HPSG. The book is for

researchers working in the fields of computational linguistics, linguistics, and artificial intelligence.

Linguistic Field(s): Computational Linguistics, Morphology, Semantics and Syntax

Written In: English(eng)

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Review: Syntactic Gradience

AUTHOR: Aarts, Bas

TITLE: Syntactic Gradience

SubTITLE: The Nature of Grammatical Indeterminacy

PUBLISHER: Oxford University Press

PUBLICATION YEAR: 2007

REVIEWER: Oliver Schallert, Department of Linguistics, Philipps-Universität Marburg

Summary:

This book deals with syntactic gradience in the sense of categorical gradience, which has a rather disputed status in modern linguistic theorizing: Whereas scholars working in a formalist framework tend to even deny the existence of such a phenomenon by assigning it an epiphenomenal status, within the functionalist school, categorical fuzziness plays a prominent role not only as a phenomenon but more importantly as a theoretical concept. An interesting parallel to this debate can be found in the disputed status of grammaticalization in both frameworks, which has drawn some attention to itself recently, see e.g. Newmeyer (1998, 2001), Campbell (2001), Hawkins (2004), Bisang et al. (2004). Against this background, the author's motivation for writing this book "grew out of a feeling of discomfort with not only the views of (...) most linguists working in formal syntactic frameworks, but also with those of eclectic linguists for whom anything goes, with a 'gradience-is-everywhere' perspective" (p. 4). Thus, the aim of this book lies in studying the phenomenon of syntactic gradience, conceived of as "categorical indeterminacy", in close detail and on the empirical basis of English. To avoid confusion, the author states that gradience in the sense of "indeterminacy in the area of acceptability/grammaticality judgements", as explored at length by Fanselow et al. (2006) lies outside the scope of this book. Among the problems investigated are: What exactly is gradience? Are there "diagnostics" for establishing the existence of gradience? Is gradience a grammatical phenomenon, or merely a by-product of performance, as has recently been argued?

Put most generally, the author's concern is to show that "some sort of compromise between the two positions is possible" (ibid.), i.e. between "analogists" (nomothetically inclined linguists) and "anomalists" (who view languages as inherently flexibly entities). However, while acknowledging the status of gradience as "an undeniable property of grammar" it is nonetheless "incumbent on linguists to eliminate gradience where it comes about as a result of sloppy description" (ibid.). Thus, the author's stance is to argue for a weak form of gradience which might be called "constrained indeterminacy". The reason for this lies in the fact that "the well-motivated setting-up of discrete categories of form classes is logically prior to claiming that gradience obtains between them" (p. 201).

The book is divided into three parts and comprises eight chapters: The first part, consisting of the chapters 2-4, lays out the theoretical background by discussing gradience in a broader linguistic and philosophical background. Chapters 2 and 3 give an overview of the historical background of concepts such as categorization or gradience in linguistics and philosophy. The two types of gradience pursued in this book are presented. Chapter 4 is devoted to setting apart gradience as laid out in the present context (i.e. as categorical indeterminacy) from related concepts of fuzziness in linguistics, i.e. serial relationship or markedness. The second part, consisting of chapters 5-7, assesses the two types of gradience, "subsective gradience" (SG) and "intersective gradience" (IG), which can apply to different types of grammatical form classes: word classes, phrases, clauses, and constructions. The third part, which solely includes chapter 8, presents a formal model of categorical gradience as conceived of by Aarts as well as some of its applications.

Chapter 1 (pp. 1-5) sets the stage by giving a short overview on the philosophical and linguistic dimensions of categorization and laying out the aims of the book. The classical problem in this respect is Eubulides of Megara's Paradox of the Sorites (or Heap), which basically deals with the question at which point we can call a collection of grains a heap. Whereas the Aristotelian view holds that the categories which we use to class the phenomena in the world around us are hard and inviolable, other opinions emphasize that we have to recognize fluidity between taxonomic constructs. Within linguistics, this debate can be translated as follows: On the one hand there are nomothetically inclined linguists (= formalists), who feel that languages are orderly, rule-based systems, on the other hand we can find those who think languages are inherently flexible entities that are not (exclusively) susceptible to an indiscriminate application of rules (= functionalists). By studying the phenomenon of gradience, this book tries to find some sort of compromise between the two positions. While the author shares with formal syntacticians "a belief that syntax is autonomous" (p. 2), he is "unhappy with their unyielding views about categorization" (ibid.). At the same time, he notes, the views of linguists who regard continuous phenomena in language as given are often equally unsatisfactory. The position to be argued for, then, is the following: Even if some alleged cases of gradience can be dispensed with since they are merely the result of sloppy description, gradience in the weak form, i.e. as "constrained indeterminacy", is an undeniable property of grammar. Generally, two types of category fluidity need to be distinguished: (1) SG, an intra-categorical phenomenon which allows members of a class to display the properties of that class to varying degrees; (2) IG, an inter-categorical phenomenon which comes about when two form classes "converge" on each other. Although IG is not as widespread as often claimed (e.g. in the literature about grammaticalization), both types are "grammatically real" (p. 5).

Chapter 2 (pp. 9-33) deals with the problem of categorization in linguistics and some of its philosophical underpinnings. In its most general sense, categorization can be seen as a process of systematization of acquired knowledge. "To a considerable degree categorization is the imposition of a meta-reality on the world which involves a good deal

of idealization" (p. 10). As far as contemporary linguistics is concerned, no grammatical framework can do without categories - in the sense of, e.g. one set or other of word classes and relational categories - however they may be conceived. From antiquity onwards, categorization in the sense of setting up an adequate system of parts of speech, has been a central concern of grammar writing. Basically, the notion "category" (Gr. *κᾰτᾰγορία*) derives from Aristotle and originally meant nothing more than 'statement'; according to Aristotle, a particular entity can be defined by listing a number of necessary and sufficient conditions that apply to it (Gr. *συμβεβᾰκότα*). Associated with this view is the all-or-none principle or the Law of the Excluded Middle, i.e. that something must be either inside or outside a category. This is what can be called the classical, scholastic or Aristotelian theory of categorization, which has been of eminent influence to linguistics. Within the realm of classical philosophy (linguistics as a part of it) Aristotle's position falls within the realm of the analogists, which stresses the regularities in language and its propensity for order and systematicity. The other position is that of the anomalists, which points to the "messiness" of language. It was also the Greek grammarians who coined the notion of "part of speech" (*μέρος λόγου*). Through the intermediation of the Greek and Roman grammarians (e.g. Thrax, Dyscolus, Donatus, Priscian) as well as Renaissance scholars like Petrus Ramus, the problem of categorization was taken up by the emerging language sciences, where it soon took on different shapes, like e.g. the 18th century grammarians' uncertainties of how to delineate word classes or the 19th century Junggrammarians' conception of sound laws as being exceptionless without exception. In the 20th century, the debate between analogists and anomalists was rekindled: On the one hand, there are various Generative grammars (including unification-based modes such as Head-driven Phrase Structure Grammar or Generalized Phrase Structure Grammar) and its predecessor, American structuralism, advocating a rather strict or "all-or-none" view of category membership, while on the other hand, varying degrees of categorical fuzziness are admitted by a rather divergent anomalist party. The latter group, divergent as it is, comprises e.g. Generative Semantics, Cognitive Linguistics, functional-typological and discourse typological linguistics.

Chapter 3 (pp. 34-79) deals with the history of concepts such as "vagueness", "indeterminacy", and "imprecision" in the philosophical literature, ranging from Aristotle and the stoics to the nineteenth and twentieth century (Frege, Wittgenstein, Popper) and even to contemporary philosophical thought. This is followed by a broad discussion of linguistic (mainly syntactic) approaches to gradience, ranging from American and European Structuralism (post-Bloomfieldians, Prague School) to the positions of Transformational Grammar and Generative Semantics, Descriptive grammar, functional-typological and discourse-typological linguistics, Optimality Theory, and Probability Theory. The chapter is concluded by a preliminary definition of the two types of gradience, i.e. SG and IG.

Chapter 4 (pp. 80-94) deals with setting apart gradience in the sense of categorical indeterminacy from other phenomena or concepts associated with them. The most important ones are serial relationship, syntactic mixing (mergers), multiple analysis and reanalysis, gradience and prototype theory, gradience and markedness theory. Serial relationship, a term coined by Quirk (1965), refers to constructional frames in which grammatical categories (e.g. verbs) may appear. Its relationship to gradience, however, is at best superficial, despite the fact that in the mentioned paper, Quirk talks about "overlapping gradience" with respect to the different constructions a lexical element can enter.

Syntactic mixing (mergers) can be seen as the process of amalgamation of phrases, constructions, and clauses, e.g. in (1a), which seems to be a mixture of (1b) and (1c).

(1) a. It's not the actual story, or even the people, that attract me to write about

something.

b. It's not the actual story, or even the people, that attract me.

c. It's not the actual story, or even the people, that persuade me to write about something.

Structures like (1) are referred to by Aarts as "syntactic mergers" (p. 85), which are defined as "more or less spontaneous mixing of two different constructions" (p. 85f.) and set apart from blends and fusions, which are said to involve conventionalized mixings. The differences between these types are discussed in more detail in chapter 7 under the heading "constructional gradience". Suffice it to say that mergers are part of a "cline of syntactic integration, with fusions positioned at the highly integrated end of the gradient (...), and anakoluta at the least integrated end (...). Blends and mergers are positioned roughly half-way along the gradient" (p. 192). Although they clearly bear some resemblances to constructional gradience, by having "the potential to become 'recognized constructions' of the language" (p. 192), mergers are regarded by Aarts as "a distinct phenomenon from gradience" (ibid.).

Multiple analysis is a case of what might also be called syntactic ambiguity, i.e. structures that can be analyzed in more than one way. One example would be the lexical item "into" in the sentence "The board looked into the recent complaints", which can either be analyzed as part of a so-called "phrasal verb" ("look into") or as head of the Prepositional Phrase (PP) "into the recent complaints". Reanalysis is used as a concept in diachronic linguistics, most notably as one of the main mechanisms of grammaticalization. The similarities between these notions and gradience are only superficial, since the former apply to different structures for a certain syntactic string without implying that these structures shade into each other.

Prototype theory and gradience have obvious affinities, yet at the same time there are some important differences between the two approaches: (1) Gradience is predominantly a grammatical phenomenon, prototype theory, by contrast, has applications beyond linguistics; (2) whereas prototype theory crucially uses "real-world categories" to characterize prototypes, "the attributes of grammatical categories are by their very nature abstract" (p. 88); (3) "the extra-linguistic context plays no role in the assignment of elements to linguistic classes" (p. 89). Linguists who advocate prototypes often employ semantic criteria (in a very broad sense) in their definitions. In the model of Aarts, by contrast, "the emphasis is on the purely syntactic characteristics of linguistic formatives (ibid.)."

Markedness, as conceived of in the Chomskyan sense, can be seen as a "categorical asymmetry" and refers to the distinction between default exemplars, displaying some expected property, and special exemplars, e.g. by means of (structural) complexity or formal marking. Whereas overt case in German is the unmarked situation, it constitutes a marked phenomenon in English, where only pronouns carry case. In the Principles and Parameters framework, this distinction is associated with the terms "core" and "periphery". For Chomsky & Lasnik (1977: 430), Universal Grammar incorporates something like a "theory of markedness", with systems that fall within core grammar being "the unmarked case", by virtue of being "optimal in terms of the evaluation metric." As Battistella (1996: 85) points out, for many generative Grammarians working in the Principles and Parameters framework, "markedness" refers to three related concepts: (1) "a distinction between unmarked core and marked periphery"; (2) "a preference structure imputed to the parameters and parameter values of core grammar"; (3) "a preference structure among the rules of the periphery". Aarts sees this as a hint that the Generativists, while envisaging a radical split between core and periphery, still allowed for some kind of gradience within the core and the periphery, i.e. by allowing "degrees of markedness". "In this framework, a particular phenomenon radically belongs either to the core or to the periphery, but it may be a marked core

phenomenon, or a marked peripheral phenomenon." In the present context the question arises whether markedness (in the sense of categorical asymmetry) is the same as subjective gradience. For Aarts, the answer is clearly "no": "Markedness divides categories into two, a core and a periphery, whereas subjective gradience recognizes a gradient amongst elements within categories. (...) In a markedness-theoretical approach it is often assumed - or perhaps we should say pretended - that the distinction between 'marked' and 'unmarked' is an obvious one" (p. 93).

Chapters 5, 6 (pp. 97-163) deal with a broad discussion of examples of Subjective and Interjective Gradience in English. Interesting examples for the first type are modals as a subtype of verbs rather than a word class on their own. Adjectives also show evidence for grades of prototypicality, as evidenced by the differences between *_happy_* or *_utter_*, the first of which displaying much more adjective-like criteria than the latter (e.g. intensification: "very happy", "*very utter"; predicative use: "he is happy", "*he is utter"). At the end of the chapter, it is also discussed whether gradience applies within phrases or even within clauses. "If we establish SG for a particular word class by establishing that the class contains prototypical and less prototypical exemplars, does it then follow that we also have SG for the phrases or clauses that these elements head" (p. 122)? While claiming there are clear cases of higher projection SG that are the result of word-level SG (e.g. the gradient from verbless clauses to main clauses), this question is left open. IG is in a parallel fashion, i.e. firstly between word classes and then up to the phrasal level. Interesting examples include gradience between determinatives and adjectives (e.g. the use of *_many_* and *_such_* in some constructions), adjectives and nouns, adjectives and adverbs, verbs and adjectives (overlaps between -ing adjectives and gerunds), etc.

Chapter 7 (pp. 164-198) is devoted to gradience on the level of whole constructions. Of course, the twofold distinction between Subjective and Interjective Gradience also applies to this domain, hence obtaining either within a particular construction-type (Subjective Constructional Gradience) or between two different syntactic constructions (Interjective Constructional Gradience), including clauses. After a short discussion of the history of the notion "construction" in linguistics and the role it plays in different models its use for a theory of grammar is evaluated. Whereas in most formalist models, constructions are viewed as an epiphenomenon, it plays a key role in cognitivist as well as in constructionist frameworks. Aarts argues for a dialectic concept of construction which solely relies on syntactic criteria, so as to bypass the bulk of problems a semantic definition, popular in cognitivist models, is confronted with. The only way of doing so is "by making reference to the distributional potential of particular constructions. The most typical exemplar of a construction will be the one that is distributionally the most versatile" (p. 196). Among the examples of SCG discussed are pseudoclefts in the sense of Ross (1987) or the passive gradient; ICG is exemplified by genitival constructions, or by the transitivity gradient as well as the one between complements and adjuncts. While admitting that some instances of constructional gradience are merely a by-product of other phenomena or processes, even the more convincing cases rely on a more precise definition of the term "construction". In this respect, Aarts only gets as clear as to an approximate definition as "a string of elements (words, phrases, etc.) that has a distinctive patterning which plays a role in different parts of the grammar" (p. 170).

Chapter 8 (pp. 201-242) deals with the formalization of the concepts of SG and IG, respectively. The central point is, counter-intuitively perhaps, that a useful model of gradience always presupposes rigid discreteness, even if only as an analytical point of departure: "(...) the well-motivated setting-up of discrete categories of form classes is logically prior to claiming that gradience obtains between them" (p. 201). As mentioned above, SG allows for degrees of prototypicality within grammatical categories. Prototypicality is measured by the morphosyntactic properties of a formative, i.e. "the potential and actual distributional characteristics it displays in a particular configuration" (p. 206). IG, on the other hand, is characterized by a certain element partaking of the

categories a and b "by displaying characteristics of both classes" (p. 207). Crucially, this type of gradience refers to sets of properties and not to the intersection of categories themselves. "I thus exclude the possibility of a formative in particular configuration belonging to two form classes at the same time" (ibid.). Of importance is also the notion of convergence which can be measured according to this scale of syntactic properties.

Subsequently, some applications of this formal model are discussed: SG in the adjective class, IG between verbs and nouns as exemplified by the English gerund, IG between adjectives and prepositions in the case of *_near_* and *_like_* etc. Towards the end of the chapter Aarts addresses some questions concerning the syntactic properties of the formalism he makes use of: What are the relevant properties of a category? How are they inter-related? Does every form class have its unique properties? Can an element belonging to a particular class converge on at most one other word class in any one syntactic configuration? Another important question raised by Aarts' model is what to do with examples of "true" hybridity, i.e. cases of IG where a certain element shows an equal amount of properties from class a and b. Even if there are some few examples, this type of gradience is rather the exception than the rule, the reason for this being that "cases where the categorical scales are perfectly balanced are presumably hard to process mentally, and hence, disfavored by language users" (p. 233). The remainder of the chapter is devoted to the contiguity of grammatical categories, i.e. to discussing the question between which categories gradience can apply (e.g. between adjectives, adverbs and determinatives, but not between verbs and coordinators). It is important to recognize that the hypothesis that IG can only apply between certain categories resembles the discussion of grammaticalization clines.

Evaluation:

"Syntactical Gradience" is a very interesting and well-balanced book, which tries to bridge the growing gap between formal and functional approaches to linguistics and, as such, will surely attract readers from both communities: For formalists, it offers many new directions for resolving the schizophrenic way of dealing with vagueness, e.g. denying the existence of this phenomenon by many Generativists, while at the same time talking of "prepositional complementizers" (one of the well-taken examples of Aart's book) or postulating a massive array of functional categories, whose existence is often motivated only on theory-internal grounds. For functionalists, and among them especially adherents to fuzziness, it offers the important insight that the concept of fuzzy boundaries presupposes borders, i.e. it makes no sense to talk about categorical overlaps without taking some time in defining the necessary and sufficient conditions for defining such entities. To put it in a nutshell: For a formalist, the book is formally explicit enough, for a functionalist, it offers a large body of empirical evidence as well as it highlights some problematic aspects of their theory design.

Although one need not agree with every detail of the analyses offered in chapters 5-7, the evidence presented in favor of categorical gradience is undeniable. What remains unclear, however, is the status of the concept of "constructional gradience" discussed in chapter 7, but this might be a matter of the reviewer's background in formal linguistics. The formal model developed in chapter 8 is a good example of theory-building based on sound empirical evidence. Not only are all assumptions laid out in a straightforward way, but also it is clear to see which data would feature as evidence against this model, i.e. it satisfies the criterion of falsifiability, which is, to my mind, the best mark of quality. Far from pretending to have an answer to all questions, the author gives the discussion of problematic data and observations that go against his model more than enough space, all of which adds to the impression of a carefully written, compact but nonetheless thoroughgoing study on the subject of syntactic gradience.

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About the reviewer:

Oliver Schallert has a M.A. in General and Historical Linguistics. Currently he is working as scientific assistant at the department of Germanic linguistics at the University of Marburg. Apart from that, he is at the department of Linguistics at the University of Salzburg writing his PhD, which aims at getting a finer-grained picture of Germanic OV and VO languages by taking a closer look at less clear-cut cases like Yiddish, Cimbrian, and Old/Middle High German. His research interests include the morphosyntax of verb constructions, syntactic change, and the syntax pragmatics interface (information structure).

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Books: Pragmatic Impairment

TITLE: Pragmatic Impairment

PUBLICATION YEAR: 2007

PUBLISHER: Cambridge University Press, <http://us.cambridge.org>

AUTHOR: Michael R. Perkins

HARDBACK: ISBN: 9780521790703

Price: U.S.: \$ 105.00 & U.K.: £ 55.00

Abstract:

Pragmatics - the way we communicate using more than just language - is particularly problematic for people with speech disorders. Through an extensive analysis of how pragmatics can go wrong, this book not only provides a novel and clinically useful account of pragmatic impairment, but it also throws new light on how pragmatics functions in healthy individuals. Michael Perkins brings mainstream and clinical pragmatics together by showing that not only can our understanding of pragmatics be aided by the study of pragmatic impairment, but that clinical and theoretical pragmatics are better served by treating pragmatic ability and disability within a single framework. It is the first book on this topic to be aimed primarily at linguists and psycholinguists rather than clinicians, and includes illustrative material on conditions such as autism and aphasia and a wide range of other communication disorders in both children and adults.

Content of Book:

1. Introduction;
2. Pragmatic theory and pragmatic impairment;
3. Pragmatics and modularity: components, dissociations and associations;
4. Pragmatic ability and disability: an emergentist model;
5. Cognition and pragmatics;
6. Language and pragmatics;
7. Sensorimotor systems and pragmatics;
8. Compensatory adaptation; and
9. Conclusions

Linguistic Field(s): Applied Linguistics, Pragmatics and Psycholinguistics

Written In: English(eng)

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Lincom GmbH: <http://www.lincom.eu>

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Books: English as a Lingua Franca

TITLE: English as a Lingua Franca

SUBTITLE: A Corpus-based Analysis
PUBLICATION YEAR: 2008
PUBLISHER: Continuum International Publishing Group Ltd,
<http://www.continuumbooks.com>
AUTHOR: Luke Prodromou

HARDBACK: ISBN: 0826497756 9780826497758
Pages: 312
Price: U.K.: £ 75.00

Abstract:

Using a corpus of data drawn from naturally-occurring second language conversations, this book explores the role of idiomaticity in English as a native language, and its comparative role in English as a lingua franca. Through examining how idiomaticity enables first language learners to achieve a greater degree of fluency, the book explores why idiomatic language poses such a challenge for users of English as a lingua franca. The book puts forward a new definition of competence and fluency within the context of English as a lingua franca, concluding with an analysis of practical implications for the lingua franca classroom.

This in-depth study of English language learning using corpus data will be of interest to researchers in applied linguistics and corpus linguistics and to teachers of English as an international lingua franca.

'Luke Prodromou's book is deeply felt and beautifully written account of what it can mean to speak a language. It is a fascinating read: probing, incisively argued and consistently raising questions and data that compel fundamental re-thinking. After reading the book terms common in the field of English language and applied linguistics such as 'native', 'idiom', 'first' and 'second' language, 'international English', 'lingua franca' and 'fluency' are seen in an entirely new light. A major contribution.'
- Professor Ronald Carter, University of Nottingham, UK

Linguistic Field(s): Sociolinguistics, Text/Corpus Linguistics

Subject Language(s): English(eng)

Written In: English(eng)

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Historical Linguistics is a series of advanced textbooks in Historical Linguistics, where individual volumes cover key subfields within Historical Linguistics in depth. As a whole, the series will provide a comprehensive introduction to this broad and increasingly complex field. The series is aimed at advanced undergraduates in Linguistics and students in language departments, as well as beginning postgraduates who are looking for an entry point. Volumes in the series are serious and scholarly university textbooks, theoretically informed and substantive in content. Every volume will contain pedagogical features such as recommendations for further reading, but the tone of each volume is discursive, explanatory and critically engaged, rather than 'activity-based'. Notes should be incorporated into the text.

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Length: the typical all-inclusive length of a volume is 60,000-70,000 words.

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Linguistic Field(s): Historical Linguistics

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Edinburgh Advanced Textbooks in Linguistics is a series of advanced textbooks covering various linguistic subdisciplines. Individual volumes cover core topics that form substantial and identifiable parts of Linguistics degree courses as taught in the later years of undergraduate study. Each volume provides an in-depth introduction to a particular linguistic subdiscipline, while also engaging with recent research on the subject.

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3. Syntactic Theories
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5. Morphology
6. Phonology
7. Linguistic Methodology

Second wave:

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9. The Syntax-Morphology Interface
10. The Phonetics-Phonology Interface
11. Diachronic Syntax
12. Diachronic Phonology
13. Prosody
14. The Prosody-Syntax Interface

Length: the typical all-inclusive length of a volume is 70,000-90,000 words.

For more information on the series or to submit a book proposal, please contact the Series Editors, Peter Ackema (packema@ling.ed.ac.uk) and Mitsuhiro Ota (mits@ling.ed.ac.uk) or the EUP Commissioning Editor, Sarah Edwards (sarah.edwards@eup.ed.ac.uk).

Linguistic Field(s): General Linguistics

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Books: Laboratory Phonology 9

TITLE: Laboratory Phonology 9

SERIES TITLE: Phonology and Phonetics

PUBLICATION YEAR: 2007

PUBLISHER: Mouton de Gruyter, <http://www.mouton-publishers.com>

EDITOR: Jennifer S. Cole & José Ignacio Hualde

Book URL: <http://www.degruyter.de/cont/fb/sp/detailEn.cfm?id=IS-9783110186833-1>

HARDBACK: ISBN:9783110186833

Pages: 698

Abstract:

This book contains a selection of papers presented at the 9th Conference on Laboratory Phonology, which was held in June 2004 at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology on the campus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The theme of the conference was Change in Phonology, broadly conceived as to include both language evolution at the level of the speech community and development within the individual speaker/hearer. The chapters in this book are organized in five sections: phonological variation and change within the speech community, mechanisms of change in sound systems, phonological acquisition from different experimental perspectives, second language phonology, modeling of language variation, and segmental and suprasegmental phenomena related to the timing of speech gestures. These topics are explored from a number of perspectives, both within and outside of traditional linguistics. We believe that the papers included in this volume demonstrate that the Laboratory Phonology approach has reached maturity and has succeeded in its aim not only to bridge the gap between phonetics and phonology but also to establish a fruitful and mutually beneficial dialog between linguists and other scientists and scholars concerned with the study of the sound patterns of human language from different perspectives.

Keywords: Phonetics; phonology; laboratory phonology

Readership: Libraries, Professors, Researchers and Students of Phonetics and Phonology

Linguistic Field(s): Phonology

Written In: English(eng)

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Books: The Cognitive Linguistics Reader

TITLE: The Cognitive Linguistics Reader

SERIES TITLE: Advances in Cognitive Linguistics

PUBLICATION YEAR: 2008

PUBLISHER: Equinox Publishing Ltd, <http://www.equinoxpub.com/>

EDITOR(S): Vyvyan Evans, Benjamin K. Bergen & Jörg Zinken

Hardback: ISBN: 9781845531096

Pages: 992

Price: U.S.: \$ 235.00 & U.K.: £ 120.00

Paperback: ISBN: 9781845531102

Pages: 992

Price: U.S.: \$ 85.00 & U.K.: £ 50.00

Abstract:

Cognitive Linguistics is the most rapidly expanding school in modern Linguistics. It aims to create a scientific approach to the study of language, incorporating the tools of philosophy, neuroscience and computer science. Cognitive approaches to language were initially based on philosophical thinking about the mind, but more recent work emphasizes the importance of convergent evidence from a broad empirical and methodological base.

The Cognitive Linguistics Reader brings together the key writings of the last two decades, both the classic foundational pieces and contemporary work. The essays and articles - selected to represent the full range, scope and diversity of the Cognitive Linguistics enterprise - are grouped by theme into sections with each section separately introduced. The book opens with a broad overview of Cognitive Linguistics designed for the introductory reader and closes with detailed further reading to guide the reader through the proliferating literature.

The Cognitive Linguistics Reader is both an ideal introduction to the full breadth and depth of Cognitive Linguistics and a single work of reference bringing together the most significant work in the field.

Linguistic Field(s): Cognitive Science

Written In: English(eng)

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Call for Papers: 5th Annual Duke-UNC Graduate Islamic Studies Conference

The Departments of Religion at Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill are now accepting papers for inclusion in their Fifth Annual Graduate Islamic Studies Conference:

Embodying Islam: Religious Practice and Muslim Constructions of Self

Date: 5 to 6 April 2008

Place: Duke University

Keynote Speaker

Shahzad Bashir, Department of Religious Studies, Stanford University

Respondents

Lorraine Aragon, Department of Anthropology, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill;
Anna Bigelow, Department of Philosophy and Religion, North Carolina State University;
Carl W. Ernst, Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill;
and

Katherine Ewing, Department of Anthropology, Duke University

Embodiment

Embodiment has played a pivotal role throughout the history of Islam and Muslim societies. Islamic discourses not only shape how Muslims perform Islam, but also structure practices and rituals. In many instances, such a religious enterprise not only shapes the understanding of the body and subject-formation, but also of agency and autonomy.

We see 'embodiment' as encompassing issues of:

- bodies as sites of the performance of local Islam(s);
- performativity of gender and otherness;
- practices of ritual in sacred space and time;

- (de)constructions of agency; and
- communal or individual praxis in Islamicate texts,

The 5th Annual Duke-UNC Graduate Islamic Studies Conference aims to discuss embodiment in conjunction with the study of Islamicate texts and contexts. We welcome a variety of approaches theoretical, methodological, ethnographic and historical, among others. We invite graduate student papers from multiple disciplines including, but not limited to, Islamic studies, literature, anthropology, philosophy, history, area and cultural studies that deal with the following suggested topics:

- Sociological and/or political analysis of gender in Islam;
- Regulating bodily purity and pollution;
- Embodiment of class and race in Muslim networks of power;
- Textual analysis of pertinent passages from Islamic literary and legal canons;
- Subject formation, formation of Muslim self;
- Muslim cultures, societies and histories in postcoloniality;
- Imagined personifications of the other;
- Performance/Performativity in literature, film, and media; and
- Transformations of Muslim bodies in a bio-technological age.

The conference will proceed in an interactive, workshop format. We expect that those invited to present papers will remain for the duration of the conference in order to engage the work of fellow participants. This two-day conference will take place at Duke University.

To apply, please send the following to Ali Mian ali.mian@duke.edu:

1. proposal of no more than five hundred (500) words;
2. paper title; and
3. CV

The deadline for submissions is **30 January 2008**.

Organizers

Ali Altaf Mian, Department of Religion, Duke University;
 Ilyse Morgenstein, Department of Religious Studies UNC-Chapel Hill;
 Mashal Saif, Department of Religion, Duke University; and
 Rachana Rao Umashankar, Department of Anthropology, UNC-Chapel Hill.

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Review: Introduction to English Linguistics

TITLE: Introduction to English Linguistics

PUBLICATION YEAR: 2007

PUBLISHER: Mouton de Gruyter

AUTHORS: Plag, I., M. Braun, S. Lappe and M. Schramm

REVIEWER: Jonathan White, Högskolan Dalarna, Falun, Sweden

Summary:

The aim of this book is to introduce students to basic linguistic terminology and the analysis of English data, although other languages are considered, especially German. It is intended as a textbook for an introductory course in Linguistics, as well as a sourcebook for teachers and a book for self-study. The following areas are taken up: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics. The book ends with a chapter showing how the material can be applied to historical linguistics, sociolinguistics and psycholinguistics. At the end of each chapter, there are recommendations for further reading, and basic and advanced exercises based on the material; at the end of the book there is a comprehensive glossary.

Chapter 1: Phonetics

The first chapter starts with the main problem for analyzing English phonetically, namely the mismatch between spelling and pronunciation. The IPA symbol set is gone through, and finally the classification of speech sounds is introduced.

Chapter 2: Phonology

The contrast between phoneme and allophone is covered in chapter 2. Spectrograms are used to illustrate the idea that sounds may be produced differently in different contexts. Next connected speech phenomena specific to English are dealt with, and finally the structure of the syllable.

Chapter 3: Morphology

The first issue dealt with in chapter 3 is the difference between morpheme and morph. Standard terminology is gone through like suffix/prefix/infix and derivation/inflection. Allomorphs in English are gone through in detail, including the conditions for using them. Then, word-formation processes are discussed in general, concentrating on non-affixational techniques like clipping and compounding.

Chapter 4: Syntax

The notion of constituency and basic constituency tests are dealt with in chapter 4, including cases of structural ambiguity. Phrase types and functions are covered, and form-function mismatches are discussed at the end of the chapter.

Chapter 5: Semantics

The difference between reference and denotation is dealt with at the beginning of chapter 5. Compositionality is covered, and then notions like inference and scope. Basic meaning relations are presented, and the role of register in determining where synonyms are used is covered at the end.

Chapter 6: Pragmatics

Chapter 6 begins by dealing with speech acts in terms of types and directness, with felicity conditions being a part of this discussion. The role of background knowledge in utterance interpretation is discussed and then the Cooperative Principle and associated Maxims. Politeness and the notion of face end the chapter.

Chapter 7: Extensions and Applications

The final chapter discusses how the terminology and techniques presented in the earlier chapters can be applied to historical linguistics, sociolinguistics and psycholinguistics. In historical linguistics, sound correspondences are the focus, as are sound shifts. Sociolinguistic variables like class and age are covered in terms of language variation. Finally, what psycholinguistic research tells us about the structure of the lexicon is presented.

Evaluation:

Overall, I find this to be an excellent textbook introducing the linguistic analysis of English. All the terminology and analytical techniques are presented thoroughly, and are applied to a wide range of data from English. I particularly like the fact that examples from the BNC are brought in as additional evidence. Specific issues in the analysis of English are covered, such as the wide range of allomorphs, and it is good to see that the conditioning of these morphs are dealt with as well. The exercises cover the material in each chapter, and extend it to give the student insights into further study. The glossary is comprehensive.

I have a few issues that might be considered in later editions. One is that there is no real introductory chapter dealing with issues like the competence/performance distinction, and the notion of language as a discrete system. This, I feel, would give useful background to the approach as a whole and explain the organization of linguistic knowledge presented in the remainder of the book.

Also, additional exercises could be provided for self-study. If I were to adopt the book, I would supplement this material with other exercises. The book is also presented as a source-book for teachers, so maybe some teachers' guide would be useful as well.

An additional comment I have about the exercises is that the book is intended also as a self-study book for students. However, there is no key to the exercises (I don't know if one is intended in the future, but it would be welcome).

All in all, though, I find this to be an excellent textbook, and I would certainly recommend it for introductory courses in English linguistics.

About the reviewer:

Jonathan White is a senior lecturer in linguistics at the Department of English, Högskolan Dalarna, Falun, Sweden. His research interests are English linguistics, syntax, phrase structure, morphology, and form-function mismatches.

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Books: Handbook of Pragmatics

TITLE: Handbook of Pragmatics

SUBTITLE: 2007 Installment

PUBLICATION YEAR: 2007

PUBLISHER: John Benjamins, <http://www.benjamins.com/>

Book URL: http://www.benjamins.com/cgi-bin/t_bookview.cgi?bookid=Z%20HOP%2011

Loose Leaf: ISBN: 9789027232458

Price: Europe: €125.00 & U.S.: \$169.00

EDITOR(S): Jan-Ola Östman & Jef Verschueren

Abstract:

Note: This is a new installment of a previously published "Handbook of Pragmatics."

In collaboration with Eline Versluys.

This encyclopaedia of one of the major fields of language studies is a continuously updated source of state-of-the-art information for anyone interested in language use. The IPrA Handbook now contains nearly 5,000 pages. It provides easy access for scholars with widely divergent backgrounds but with convergent interests in the use and functioning of language to the different topics, traditions and methods which together make up the field of Pragmatics, broadly conceived as "the cognitive, social and cultural study of language and communication".

The Handbook of Pragmatics is a unique reference work for researchers: the main body of the Handbook is produced in loose-leaf format in 3-ring binders and is accompanied by the bound Manual. The loose-leaf Handbook forms the basis of the Handbook proper giving an overview of the subfields, traditions, methodologies and concepts of Pragmatics.

The Handbook is used as a basis for the online version: the Handbook of Pragmatics *Online* has been expanded and revised annually since 2003. Future versions will add further records and will include updates, rewritings and extensive revisions of already existing records. The Handbook of Pragmatics *Online* is available from <http://www.benjamins.com/online> with a free 90-day trial. The Handbook is also available in combination with the Bibliography of Pragmatics *Online* at a discounted rate.

Linguistic Field(s): Pragmatics

Written In: English(eng)

See this book announcement on website: <http://linguistlist.org/get-book.html?BookID=33422>

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Equinox Publishing Ltd: <http://www.equinoxpub.com/>

European Language Resources Association - ELRA: <http://www.elra.info>

Georgetown University Press: <http://www.press.georgetown.edu>

Hodder Arnold: <http://www.hoddereducation.co.uk>

John Benjamins: <http://www.benjamins.com/>

Lawrence Erlbaum Associates: <http://www.routledge.com/>

Lincom GmbH: <http://www.lincom.eu>

MIT Press: <http://mitpress.mit.edu/>

Mouton de Gruyter: <http://www.mouton-publishers.com>

Multilingual Matters: <http://www.multilingual-matters.com/>

Oxford University Press: <http://www.oup.com/us>

Pagijong Press: <http://pjbook.com>

Palgrave Macmillan: <http://www.palgrave.com>

Peter Lang AG: <http://www.peterlang.com>

Rodopi: <http://www.rodopi.nl/>

Routledge (Taylor and Francis): <http://www.routledge.com/>

Springer: <http://www.springer.com>

Wiley-Blackwell: <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com>

OTHER SUPPORTING PUBLISHERS

Anthropological Linguistics: <http://www.indiana.edu/~anthling/>

CSLI Publications: <http://cslipublications.stanford.edu/>

International Pragmatics Assoc.: <http://www.ipra.be>

Cascadilla Press: <http://www.cascadilla.com/>

Graduate Linguistic Students' Assoc. Umass: <http://glsa.hypermart.net/>

Kingston Press Ltd: <http://www.kingstonpress.com/>

Linguistic Association of Finland: <http://www.ling.helsinki.fi/sky/>

Netherlands Graduate School of Linguistics / Landelijke -
LOT: <http://www.lotpublications.nl/>

Pacific Linguistics: <http://pacling.anu.edu.au/>

SIL International: <http://www.ethnologue.com/bookstore.asp>

St. Jerome Publishing Ltd: <http://www.stjerome.co.uk>

Utrecht institute of Linguistics: <http://www-uilots.let.uu.nl/>

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New Journal: English Text Construction

JOURNAL TITLE: English Text Construction

EDITOR(S): An Laffut, University of Leuven & Dirk Van Hulle, University of Antwerp

MANAGING EDITOR: Keith Carlon, University of Louvain

ISSN: 1874-8767

E-ISSN: 1874-8775 (Electronic edition at ingentaJournals)

English Text Construction is an internationally refereed journal of English Linguistics, Applied Linguistics and Literary Studies focusing on the communicating subject and the text constructing this intersubjective communication. The journal offers a forum for currently converging tendencies that place the text-constructing subject in centre stage. This general common denominator subsumes fundamental movements in the three disciplines of English studies, viz. literary studies, linguistics and applied linguistics. In literary studies narratological perspectives remain of abiding interest, as well as study of the psychologically and ideologically fragmented subject as it reveals itself in literary texts. The study of literature is currently also witnessing renewed interest in the gendered and sociopolitically situated subject and its moral responsibilities. In linguistics, the communicating subject is central to functional, cognitive and pragmatic approaches. Functional linguistics investigates how language is used to communicate about the world and to negotiate the social and discourse roles. Cognitive linguistics studies language usage as it constructs the perspectivized meanings of the conceptualizing subject. Pragmatic approaches focus on the whole message, both the linguistically predicated and the contextually implied one, exchanged between the interlocutors. In Applied linguistics, the subject also plays a central role. Applied linguistic interest in text and the construal of subjectivity is reflected, among others, in genre-oriented approaches to text, and in discourse-oriented and corpus-based analyses as the basis for various ELT applications. For instance, considerable attention has been devoted to issues such as stance in (research) writing and presentations, and to subjectivity in translation studies. Similarly, in language teaching methodology increased attention is given to individual learners and learning styles.

Subject classification:

- Linguistics
- Applied linguistics
- English linguistics

- Literature & Literary Studies
- English literature & literary studies
- German literature & literary studies

Subscription information:

General information about our electronic journals.

Subscription rates: Volume 1 (2008): 2 issues, 300 pp. EUR 148.00 (incl. postage/handling)

Individuals may apply for a special subscription rate of EUR 70.00. Private subscriptions are for personal use only, and must be pre-paid and ordered directly from the publisher.

Linguistic Field(s): Applied Linguistics, Linguistics & Literature

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Lectures: Linguistic Series Lectures (Language Practice)

The Programme for Language Practice at the University of the Free State invites you to two lectures in the Linguistic series:

1. Prof Luc van Doorslaer (Lessius Hogeschool, Antwerpen)
Topic: "Translation and the Media: a not so obvious research combination"
2. Prof Terrence Wiley (Arizona State University, Tempe)
Topic: "Language Rights in the USA and The Role of the Community in Language Preservation"

Venue: Flemish Interpreting Centre (Winkie Direko 41)

Date: Wednesday, 30 January 2008

Time: 14:00 – 16:00

Enquiries:

Ms Annéli Machin,

Tel: (051) 401 9316

Email: machina.hum@ufs.ac.za

Kind regards
Prof J A Naudé

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Call for Papers: 10th Annual Conference on World Wide Web Applications

WWW2008 Conference

Date: 3 - 5 September 2008

Venue: Cape Town, South Africa

More info: <http://www.zaw3.co.za> or [download pdf](#)

Contact: aecon.e@mweb.co.za

Deadline date for submission of abstracts is **31 March 2008**

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Call for Papers: Syntax of the World's Languages III

SWL3 - Financial support for young researchers

The 'Syntax of the World's Languages' conference series provides a forum for linguists working on less widely studied languages or varieties of languages, with a clear focus on the data (preferably first-hand data).

The organizers of SWL3 have funds to provide financial support (travel expenses up to 300,-) for two young researchers who have not yet completed their PhD, or who have received it within the last two years. The grant will be awarded on the basis of the abstracts submitted (quality and originality). All other things being equal, applicants from developing countries will be given preference.

Prospective participants who have sent us their abstracts already can inform us of their wish to apply for the grant in a separate e-mail.

Candidates with a doctoral degree should indicate the date their PhD was awarded.

Contact: Volker Gast

Contact email: swl3@anglistik.fu-berlin.de

URL: <http://userpage.fu-berlin.de/~gast/swl3/>

Deadline: 31 January 2008

Location: Berlin, Germany

Date: 25 September 2008 - 29 September 2008

Linguistic Field(s): Syntax & Typology

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Call for Papers: The 14th Annual Conference of IAWE

Short Title: World Englishes 2008

Date: 01 December 2008 - 05 December 2008

Location: Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Contact: Ernest Shue Fung Lam

Contact email: we2008@cityu.edu.hk

Meeting URL: <http://we2008ctl.cityu.edu.hk>

Meeting Description:

The 14th Annual Conference of the International Association for World Englishes (IAWE) will be held at the City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, China, from 3 Dec to 5 Dec 2008. Pre-Conference workshops will be organized two days prior on 1 and 2 Dec 2008. Members of the Association, scholars and researchers in World Englishes and those who are interested in the field are invited to propose papers for presentation or participate by attending the Conference. Please visit the official website for updates: <http://we2008ctl.cityu.edu.hk>

International Association for World Englishes (IAWE) is an international scholarly association which aims to establish links among those who are involved with any aspect of World Englishes in research and/or teaching. The association, formally established in May 1992, focuses on global issues relating to three major aspects of World Englishes, language, literature, and pedagogy. It is committed to the study of the forms and functions of varieties of Englishes in diverse cultural and sociolinguistic contexts. It also looks for a more realistic approach and a new framework for looking at English in global

contexts and proposes concepts such as appropriateness, intelligibility, comprehensibility, and interpretability as pragmatic factors that determine the uses of English as an international and intra-national language.

Iawe has held annual conferences in North America, Asia, Africa and Europe. At these conferences the questions discussed have included: the sociolinguistic and political contexts of the countries where English is used as a non-native language; the factors which determine the retention of English after the end of the colonial period; the sociolinguistic and linguistic profile of each variety, particularly with reference to their range of functions and depth of societal penetration; and the linguistic and other processes of nativization and acculturation.

The 14th Annual Conference of the International Association for World Englishes (IAWE) will be held at the City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, in 2008.

The conference theme is "World Englishes and World's Languages: Convergence, Enrichment or Death?" What follows are a number of research topics under which the Conference and the discussion on world Englishes can go forward.

1. Use of English(es) in various contexts in the 21st century
2. Diversification/ homogenization of English languages
3. History and possible prospects of the development of World Englishes Studies
4. The dialogues between English languages and social, political, cultural and gender discourses
5. Critical reflections on concepts, definitions and terminologies
6. Pedagogies of Englishes
7. The making of (g)local identities through World Englishes
8. Creativity in Englishes writing in the age of globalization
9. Hong Kong English(es): Linguistic features, literature and history

Linguistic Field(s): General Linguistics

Subject Language(s): English(eng)

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Dissertation Completion: Phase Theory and Parametric Variation

Institution: Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Program: Cognitive Science and Language

Dissertation Status: Completed

Degree Date: 2007

Author: Ángel J. Gallego

Dissertation URL: <http://seneca.uab.es/ggt/membres/gallego.htm>

Dissertation Director(s):

Juan Uriagereka

José M. Brucart

Dissertation Abstract:

The goal of this dissertation is to explore Chomsky's Phase Theory (see Chomsky 2000; 2001; 2004; 2005; 2007; to appear) and its connections with parametric variation. The

study considers the hypothesis that syntactic computation operates through small derivational leaps (the phases), paying special attention to the Case/agreement systems, and the role of overt morphology for linguistic variation.

Chapter I presents the general guidelines of the framework that shall be assumed throughout the dissertation (the so-called Minimalist Program; see Chomsky 1993a through the present), concentrating on both the core computational operations (Merge and Agree) and the cyclic nature of the system.

Chapter II is devoted to the notion of phase, whose identification criteria are considered at length. I adopt Pesetsky & Torrego's (2001) hypothesis that what is normally referred to as 'Case' is actually an uninterpretable 'aspect'/'tense' feature on D heads, and entertain the idea (present in Chomsky's system, as well as in Pesetsky & Torrego's) that uninterpretable morphology can be used for syntactic processes only within a short, phase-based, time span.

In line with Uriagereka (1999b), I further propose that Null Subject Languages (NSLs) resort to an additional process of Transfer that is responsible for a macro-parameter triggered by verb movement, which I call Phase Sliding. Plausibly, this mechanism explains the particular status of subjects in NSLs (e.g., subject extraction, that-deletion, obligatory inversion, etc.) and additional empirical facts, previously framed in terms of bounding nodes, L-marking, government, or the A/A-bar distinction.

In chapter III, attention is shifted to a micro-parameter related to the edge of phase heads (their Left Periphery). I argue for a parametric cut that concerns what Uriagereka (1995a; 1995b; 2002b) calls "FP," a projection related to discourse-oriented semantics (formerly, "surface interpretation"). I claim that the 'hot' syntactic activity of Uriagereka's F is not limited to the CP layer, but is actually found in the v*P too, in a parallel fashion (actually, as predicted by Uriagereka 2002b, the pattern extends to nominal environments): those languages with a more active CP, have a more active v*P. I relate this peripheral boost to overt morphology, a traditional idea that is sharpened and connected to tense morphology and head movement.

The second part of the chapter focuses on VOS structures in NSLs, for which I argue that there are two strategies: object scrambling and VP topicalization (see Belletti 2004, Cardinaletti 2001b, and Ordóñez 1997; 1998b). With Ordóñez (1997; 1998b), I take Spanish VOS to be derived through object scrambling, considering its consequences for nominative Case assignment and the availability of VSO.

Chapter IV is dedicated to (sub-)extraction. I argue that islandhood cannot be entirely accounted for in structural terms (see Chomsky 1986a; 2004; to appear), being better understood if related to freezing effects that emerge from the interaction between Case and agreement (see Boeckx 2003a).

Linguistic Field(s): Syntax

Language Family(ies): Romance

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Call for Papers: Second Language Research Forum

Short Title: SLRF

Date: 17 October 2008 - 19 October 2008

Location: Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

Contact Person: SLRF Executive Committee

Meeting Email: slrf2008@gmail.com

Web Site: <http://www.nflrc.hawaii.edu/slrf08>

Call Deadline: 15 April 2008

Notification of Acceptance: Mid-May

Meeting Description:

The Second Language Research Forum (SLRF) is a prestigious and internationally renowned conference which brings together researchers in second language (L2) research from all over the world. It is the premier conference on L2 research in North America providing a venue for established scholars and graduate students to present work on a wide variety of theoretical and empirical issues.

'Exploring SLA: Perspectives, Positions, and Practices':

Through this year's theme, we investigate various professional interests and practices of the field of Second Language Acquisition. The overall purpose of SLRF 2008 is to integrate an array of ideas about SLA research, ethics, and practice, from across multiple approaches. We solicit papers, posters, and colloquia that consider SLA from a range of theoretical, methodological, linguistic, practical, political, historical, and disciplinary perspectives, and encourage submissions that deepen and broaden our understandings and inform the quality and application of SLA research.

The Second Language Research Forum at the University of Hawai'i seeks proposals for paper, poster, and colloquia presentations for the 2008 conference in Hawaii.

We ask that all abstracts be submitted online at <http://www.nflrc.hawaii.edu/slrf08/>. Proposals will not be accepted via email or post. All abstracts will be submitted to blind peer review by international experts on the topic.

Papers and Posters:

Individual papers will be allotted 20 minutes (plus 10 minutes for discussion). Posters will be displayed for a full day. Posters are intended for one on one discussion or reports of work in progress. Authors must be present to respond to questions from attendees during the allocated time.

Abstracts are limited to 300 words. The title should be no longer than 12 words. Also include a 50 word summary of your presentation to be published in the conference program. Only one abstract submission per person, but you may co-author on others. See the website for details on how to prepare for your online proposal submission.

Colloquia:

The Colloquia consist of individual paper presentations that relate to a specific or related topics of interest. They are offered in 2 hour sessions, and we suggest 20 minutes for each paper (plus 5-10 minutes for discussion), depending on the number of presenters.

Each colloquia session will have an organizer and a chair (i.e. discussant). Details on the organizer and the chair should be included in the submission; the organizer and the chair can be the same person. The organizer is responsible for securing the cooperation of all the presenters before the abstract is submitted online. The chair of each colloquium is the person responsible for managing the session and the format and content of colloquia

submissions.

Proposals for colloquia will include a summary of all studies with a clearly defined common theme. The colloquium abstract as well as its individual paper abstracts should be limited to 300 words each. Sufficient detail should be provided to allow peer reviewers to judge the merit of the proposal. 50 word summaries for the colloquium as well as its individual papers should also be included. All titles should be no longer than 12 words. See the website for details on how to prepare for your online proposal submission.

For any proposal submission questions, please contact the SLRF 2008 Program Chairs at, slrf2008program@gmail.com.

Linguistic Field(s): Applied Linguistics

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Call for Papers: Language and Sexuality: AnthroLinguistic Perspectives

Short Title: L&S

Date: 07 June 2008 - 07 June 2008

Location: Mytilene, Lesvos, Greece

Contact Person: Costas Canakis

Meeting Email: c.canakis@sa.aegean.gr

Web Site: <http://www.aegean.gr/social-anthropology>

Call Deadline: 15 March 2008

Meeting Description:

This is an one-day event (7 June 2008) bringing together work on language and sexuality (with or without reference to gender) from an anthroLinguistic perspective.

Workshop:

Language and Sexuality (Through and) Beyond Gender: AnthroLinguistic Perspectives

Saturday 7 June 2008

Department of Social Anthropology and History University of The Aegean Mytilene

Information:

Costas Canakis, c.canakis@sa.aegean.gr Graduate Program Secretary, gender@sa.aegean.gr

Setting the Scene:

Given that "language plays a crucial role in shaping human sexuality and in mediating its various expressions" talking about sex "is not so much a 'displacement of sexual energies' as it is a means for giving those energies direction, shape and form" (Cameron & Kulick 2006: 1). The goal of this workshop is to examine the linguistic manifestation of sexuality and to investigate the linguistic construction of gendered "identity" through the interplay of gender and sexuality, given the multiple indexical relations holding among language, sexuality, and gender (cf. Ochs 1986, 1990, 1992, Giannakopoulos 2001, 2006, Canakis 2007 & in press, Athanasiou 2006). These issues call not only for a multi-disciplinary, but indeed for an inter-disciplinary approach, visualized as a getting

together of linguistics and the social sciences. For the purposes of this workshop, the relation between language and sexuality is understood following Cameron & Kulick (2006) as an examination of the role played by language in constituting sexuality as human experience. Moreover, while a theoretical distinction is drawn between "sexuality" and "sexual identity", both fall within the scope of this workshop. As there is no precedent in Greece, the workshop will, hopefully, cover a research gap.

More Specifically:

We invite papers dealing with:

- a. the indexical relation of language and gender vis-à-vis the indexical relation between gender and sexuality;
- b. the relation of language and sexuality as mediated, for political and other reasons, by gender (as a notion which is not explicitly tabooed);
- c. the relation of sexuality and identity;
- d. the relation of sexuality and desire, etc.

Pivotal to such an endeavour are the notions of deixis and indexicality as developed in philosophy, linguistics, and the social sciences at large: cf. the notion of symbolic mediation which is the basic--and, perhaps, the only non-negotiable--point of contact between linguistics and the social sciences. Given that linguistic communication is based on the indexical character of linguistic expressions (which tend to have numerous and only partly predictable meanings when not bound contextually), indexicality has to do with all of linguistic practice. Therefore, the analysis of linguistic practice with a focus on sexuality (and gender) is in order if we want to realize the ways in which these interact; and more specifically: a. why and how people encode sexuality or/and sexual identity linguistically (cf. Kiessling 2002) and b. how sexual discourse is constituted (cf. indicatively, van Dijk 1997, 1998, Kantsa 2000, Pavlidou 2002, Makri-Tsilipakou in press, Canakis 2007 & in press).

This meeting can also function as a step towards the research of sexuality through specific and socially positioned "masculinities" and "femininities", among other things. Therefore, papers should adhere to the well-known exhortation "think practically and look locally" (Eckert & McConnell-Ginet 1992). The ultimate goal is to show that the linguistic expression of sexuality (including selective abstinence of such expression; cf. Kantsa 2000) is a valid agenda for linguistic research.

Despite earlier voices which have urged us to dissociate gender from sexuality, in an attempt to circumvent heteronormativity and heterosexism, it becomes increasingly apparent that gendered language is, among other things, sexed language and language of desire (Kristeva 1980, Kulick 2000, Valentine 2003) and it, most often, has to do with eroticizing the same or the opposite sex (i.e., its prototypical characteristics as represented in collective social cognition). Practically, this means that while the two notions are not to be fused, the study of gendered linguistic identities is incomplete without the investigation of desires.

Indicative Thematic Units:

1. theoretical approaches to the linguistic study of sexuality:
 - a. sexuality as identity
 - b. sexuality as desire;
2. language and sexuality from the perspective of gender;
3. language and sexuality from the perspective of queer theory.

Important Dates:

Abstract submission deadline: 15 March 2008

Notification of acceptance: till 15 April 2008

Workshop date: Saturday, 7 June 2008

Submission of Abstracts:

Anonymous abstracts should be written in Greek or English using Times New Roman font point 12 and should not exceed 500 words (exclusive of references which, in turn, should not exceed one page). Abstracts are to be submitted electronically to c.canakis@sa.aegean.gr & gender@sa.aegean.gr no later than 15 March 2008 in a single message featuring two attached documents: one including the anonymous abstract (to be forwarded to the selection committee) and another featuring the abstract and your name and affiliation centered under the title (for the printed book of abstracts).

The languages of the workshop will be Greek and English.

Submission of Papers for Electronic Publication:

The papers may be submitted for electronic publication until 30 June 2008 according to the specifications listed below:

Title: Bold, centered

Name: normal, centered

Affiliation: normal, centered

Length: up to 6,000 words including notes and references

Font: Times New Roman 12 point for the main body; 10 point for references and notes

Spacing: single Margins: 3 cm left/right & 2.5 cm up/down

Towards a Collective Volume:

By September 2008 you will receive an invitation and instructions for submission of longer papers towards a collective volume 3.

Linguistic Field(s): Anthropological Linguistics; Discourse Analysis; Pragmatics & Sociolinguistics

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Review: The Handbook of English Linguistics

TITLE: The Handbook of English Linguistics

PUBLICATION YEAR: 2006

PUBLISHER: Blackwell Publishing

EDITORS: Aarts, Bas; McMahon, April

REVIEWER: Michael Moss, PhD, University of Gdansk

Summary:

Just a glance at the table of contents will tell the potential reader that this volume presents a comprehensive range of articles written by a very solid group of contributors. The volume is arranged into five parts, each dealing with a main area of research in 'English Linguistics'. The name itself is intriguing because it creates a field within a field. The volume editors define English Linguistics as "a discipline that concerns itself with the study of all aspects of Present-Day English (PDE) from a variety of different angles, both descriptive and theoretical, but with a methodological outlook firmly based on the working practices developed in modern contemporary linguistics" (p. 1).

This is the second review of this book to appear on LINGUIST List. I will not repeat the information presented by Dr. McIntyre (<http://linguistlist.org/issues/18/18-362.html>), who provides a short summary of each chapter. I will provide a detailed summary of one

chapter from each of the five Parts to give the reader an idea of what can be found in the book.

Part I Methodology

Chapter 2 Description and Theory, Kersti Börjars

This chapter takes us through a brief description of theoretical approaches to linguistic descriptions of the English language. The author reflects on the problems of prescription versus description and variation in personal judgment, which influence how grammars are written. She notes that corpus based studies have become more popular over the last few years in response to such problems. Corpus based research, however, also has problems. Since many corpora are based on written language in the standard dialect, studies which are based on such data are also limited in their ability to describe the language by the limits of the contents of the corpora.

The author also discusses the problem of trying to differentiate descriptions of linguistic phenomena from theories which aim to explain them. When describing data we also want to be able to say why certain structures and phenomena appear, or at least predict whether a structure will be acceptable in a given language. As she points out: "every description that is not just a list of actually occurring sounds or phrases involves some degree of abstraction, so that for instance as soon as we refer to a unit such as a 'phoneme' or a 'verb phrase,' we are abstracting away from the pure data" (p. 11).

Three theories of language are described in the article: Minimalism, Lexical-Functional Grammar and Optimality Theory. Each of the descriptions is concise and informative. The author discusses the main issues associated with each theory such as presence or absence of movement, the importance of lexical sub-categorization and so on. She also makes the very important observation that OT is not a theory but a meta-theory, meaning that both MP and LFG can be used with OT to create MP-OT or LFG-OT analyses.

The article covers a wide range of material in a short space and has a good bibliography to indicate where the interested student or scholar might look for more detailed and fuller descriptions and theories.

Part II Syntax

Chapter 6 English Word Classes and Phrases, Bas Aarts and Liliane Haegeman

This chapter deals with a very important issue: word class and phrase are interdependent ideas. Formal linguistics often finds it desirable to create limited numbers of strict word classes into which all words must fit. Cognitive linguists abandon this idea and propose that words are arranged in clines or gradients, along which item x is more or less prototypical of a particular class than item y. The authors of this article propose a third choice which is a compromise between the two opposing choices. The proposal is made due to the observation that while the Aristotelian system adopted by the formal linguist is appealing, it is also easy to find examples of words which have features which are shared between two different classes such as Noun and Verb. The compromise proposes to keep the boundaries between lexical categories such as noun and verb, but to say that there are 'mixed' elements in which the weight of verbal features outweighs the nominal ones and vice versa.

Because the authors adopt a 'hybrid' model which still retains the distinction noun and verb, they are able to explain how words are organized into Noun Phrases and Verb Phrases and ultimately into sentences, without losing the fact that some words are more or less like the class that they belong to.

The rest of the article focuses on the problem of how to deal with auxiliaries in a structural representation of English clauses. The text introduces the reader to the idea

that a clause is more than just a Noun Phrase and a Verb Phrase. The discussion concludes that all sentences need to have an Inflection Phrase, in order to express tense and agreement even if an auxiliary is not present

Part III Phonetics and Phonology

Chapter 17 English Phonology and Morphology, Ricardo Bermúdez-Otero and April McMahon

As the title indicates, the article investigates the interconnections between phonology and morphology in English, and tries to determine to what degree the two topics should/can be studied in isolation. The authors present a full overview of the topic including all of the main contributions from Chomsky and Halle (1968) to the currently popular Optimality Theory approaches.

The authors skillfully take the reader through an analysis of how the different theories analyze the interaction of phonology and morphology. They show how each of the approaches deals with the problems of levels or stages of word and phrase construction which seem to require the presence or absence of phonological interaction.

The article concludes that an analysis of the various approaches shows that, while we may not have the final answer progress is being made and interesting discoveries are being uncovered.

Part IV Lexis and Morphology

Chapter 20 English Words, Donka Minkova and Bob Stockwell

The authors of the article have also published an entire book on the same topic (which is not mentioned in the bibliography). It was interesting to compare the book with the article as I read it. While the book is able to go into much more detail and certainly gives the reader more data and more information about morphology in English.

The article starts out by asking how many words there are in English. This leads nicely to a discussion of 'core' and 'periphery' and layering in the lexicon.

Borrowing is, of course, a central topic when discussing English vocabulary. This article gives a very nice breakdown of English borrowings, where they come from, how they are identified and when they are likely to have entered the language.

After the introductory sections, we are provided with an overview of how these borrowings influenced the language. The final section discusses borrowings in the second half of the twentieth century.

Part V Variation, Discourse, Stylistics, and Usage

Chapter 26 Syntactic Variation in English: A Global Perspective, Bernd Kortmann

This piece represents a strong current which runs throughout the book, namely, corpus based linguistic analysis. It is an important article because the amount of information that has been analyzed about syntactic variation is quite small when compared to other fields such as phonology. Furthermore, it is an attempt to look at syntactic variation on a "global scale" and not within one of the standard varieties. As the author says, this is an exciting time because "for the first time, it will soon be possible to systematically explore syntactic variation across (regional or social) non-standard varieties in, and ultimately even across, different parts of the English-speaking world" (p. 604).

After a discussion of the methodology and the state of the field today, a large part of the article is dedicated to a presentation of the data, which is largely taken from Kortmann et al. (2004). The data include examples of variation in noun and verb phrases, negation, agreement, and subordination (sections 2-6). The sections on noun and verb phrases include information about pronouns, nominal inflection, comparative adjectives,

tense and aspect, modals, verbal morphology and adverbs. Finally we have a discussion of the patterns and tendencies that can be seen in the data.

Language change can basically be seen as today's non-standard forms changing into standard forms. For this reason, this section is exciting because it takes the data presented earlier and tries to forecast which of the current syntactic non-standard forms will become tomorrow's standard. Kortmann's data indicate that the forms that stand the greatest chance of becoming standard in the future are those which are globally present, such as 'that' as a relativizer, the non-reflexive use of 'myself', the development of the progressive into an imperfective, supraregional forms (e.g., invariant 'isn't it' and 'innit'), and marked word order in double object constructions (give me it, please). Kortman makes this claim because these forms have not been stigmatized. Whereas, such forms as: 'ain't' or copula deletion have been heavily stigmatized and are thus consciously recognized as non-standard forms.

Furthermore, the data indicate that the non-standard forms globally (across varieties) exhibit a larger degree of regularity than the standard forms of English. Examples of this kind of regularity include the leveling of irregular verb forms (using 'has' in all persons), the use of one reflexive form regardless of number (hisself, theirself), and others.

Finally, Kortmann discusses the issue of Standard vs. Non-Standard English from a typological point of view. He presents an argument whereby English should, perhaps, be treated differently than it currently is in terms of typological distinction. Typological studies, he argues, use the Standard form of English to identify and place the language, which produces inaccurate results when Non-Standard forms are taken into consideration. For instance, Kortmann points out that English is usually referred to as a language in which subject-verb agreement strictly adheres. This is true only if the Standard variety is taken to represent the language. Non-Standard varieties show a "pervasive loss of subject-verb agreement" (p. 618). If this is the case, then English would come under a different categorization depending on which variety (Standard or Non-Standard) one chose for the purpose.

Evaluation:

With so many topics to cover, each chapter is restricted in the depth that it can investigate. As a handbook, however, we should not expect that each topic be presented in full. Rather, we should hope to find the main problems and solutions being investigated and tested and references to the bodies of literature that have developed. For the most part, this is exactly what we find.

Recognizing the limitations of size and time which are always a problem when putting together a handbook, but particularly one with the ambitions mentioned above, this book does a very good job. Covering every topic that one might include under the term 'English Linguistics' is a mammoth task. Whatever topics you decide to include in such a volume, the list will always be incomplete from some point of view. However, the range of articles in the book give a well balanced feeling for the state of the field of study today.

Furthermore, all of the articles are well written and try and present a non-theory-specific point of view. Sometimes this results in an article seeming to be a bit too general or even slightly out of date. For example, it is unfortunate that in Chapter 6 (discussed above) Bas and Haegeman couldn't give a deeper discussion of Inflectional Phrases, and that they do not point out some of the major areas of research, such as Baker's (2003) detailed discussion of lexical categories or Cinque's (1999) discussion of lexical and functional categories. In defense, however, one should keep in mind that a handbook of this type does not have to present the newest cutting edge technology, but should aim to show the reader what problems are being investigated and what the trends in that

area are. All in all, I feel that the volume does a good job of balancing the 'new and exciting' with the 'well accepted' solutions to various questions being researched.

Finally, as a handbook, the volume contains much material that would be very suitable for students to read as introductory texts. The articles would be useful in Introduction to Linguistics courses, or in BA thesis seminars, to expose the students to topics that might not be covered in a standard textbook. I think the volume will also be attractive to a wide range of academic teachers. We cannot specialize in everything, but the articles in this volume will give the reader access to the main ideas being investigated in the individual sub-fields of "English Linguistics".

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About the reviewer:

Michael Moss, PhD, is an Associate Professor, at the University of Gdansk. His research interests include syntax (in the Minimalist Program) and historical linguistics. His current research is centered on Polish syntax and the historical development of various clitics in that language.

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Books: Cognitive Grammar (Langacker)

TITLE: Cognitive Grammar

SUBTITLE: A Basic Introduction

PUBLICATION YEAR: 2008

PUBLISHER: Oxford University Press, <http://www.oup.com/us>

AUTHOR: Ronald W. Langacker

HARDBACK: ISBN: 9780195331950

Pages: 608

Price: U.S.: \$99.00

PAPERBACK: ISBN: 9780195331967

Pages: 608

Price: U.S.: \$39.95

Abstract:

This book fills a long standing need for a basic introduction to Cognitive Grammar that is current, authoritative, comprehensive, and approachable. It presents a synthesis that draws together and refines the descriptive and theoretical notions developed in this framework over the course of three decades. In a unified manner, it accommodates both the conceptual and the social-interactive basis of linguistic structure, as well as the need for both functional explanation and explicit structural description. Starting with the fundamentals, essential aspects of the theory are systematically laid out with concrete

illustrations and careful discussion of their rationale. Among the topics surveyed are conceptual semantics, grammatical classes, grammatical constructions, the lexicon-grammar continuum characterized as assemblies of symbolic structures (form-meaning pairings), and the usage-based account of productivity, restrictions, and well-formedness. The theory's central claim - that grammar is inherently meaningful - is thereby shown to be viable. The framework is further elucidated through application to nominal structure, clause structure, and complex sentences.

These are examined in broad perspective, with exemplification from English and numerous other languages. In line with the theory's general principles, they are discussed not only in terms of their structural characterization, but also their conceptual value and functional motivation. Other matters explored include discourse, the temporal dimension of language structure, and what grammar reveals about cognitive processes and the construction of our mental world.

Linguistic Field(s): Cognitive Science & General Linguistics

Written In: English(eng)

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