

## Descriptive studies of particular languages

### English

**87-543 Thomas, Andrew L.** (U. of Lancaster). The use and interpretation of verbally determinate verb group ellipsis in English. *IRAL* (Heidelberg), **25**, 1 (1987), 1-14.

In an elliptical verb group, the main verb is always unmanifested, e.g. A. *Has he eaten yet?* B. *I think he has*  $\emptyset$ . All other verb group items except the first word of the particular verb group may be unmanifested. A distinction is made between 'verb group echoing' ellipsis, e.g. A. *Has anyone been eating?* B. *Jane has*  $\emptyset$ . and 'auxiliary contrasting' ellipsis, e.g. A. *Has he visited India?* B. *No, but he might*  $\emptyset$  *soon*. Non-modal auxiliaries seem to be slightly less susceptible to auxiliary contrasting elliptical uses preferring a repetition of the main verb or use of the pro-verb *do*. The passive auxiliary *be* is similar to *have* and progressive *be* in that it is mutually value-dependent on affix *-ed/-en*. A maximal verb group echoing will be assigned wherever possible, in preference to a shorter auxiliary contrasting interpretation which may be possible, e.g. A. *I don't know anyone who might have been working for ICI*. B. *Sally has*  $\emptyset$ . (rather

than B. *Sally has worked for ICI*. An auxiliary contrasting modal and main verb interpretation will not be assigned where modal + perfect + main verb is possible. Auxiliary contrasting ellipsis will be assigned as auxiliary + main verb interpretation whatever the nature of the verb group construction in the preceding sentence. Auxiliary +  $\emptyset$  constructions receive auxiliary + main verb interpretations in their auxiliary contrasting uses, e.g. A. *Will you be eating lunch soon?* B. *I just have*  $\emptyset$  (*-en*). A verb group echoing auxiliary is only stressed when either the tense or the polarity that it carries is new: A. *Is he studying?* B. *Well, he has*  $\emptyset$ . A contrasting auxiliary will typically be stressed.

The choice between the several elliptical variants is ultimately to be explained in terms of social factors such as dialectal differences and degree of familiarity between speaker and listener.

### German

**87-544 Mikame, Hirofumi** (U. of Kobe). Die Einstellung des Sprechers zur Komplementsatzproposition und diesbezügliche syntaktische Phänomene bei Komplementsätzen mit 'daß'. [Speaker's attitude towards complement clause propositions and corresponding syntactic phenomena in complement clauses with 'daß'.] *Deutsche Sprache* (Berlin, FRG), **14**, 4 (1986), 323-37.

The author analyses the behaviour of verbs such as *Freuen*, *wundern* and *bereuen* when followed either by a *daß*-clause or a zero clause. The following hypothesis is formulated: a strong mental attitude towards the complement accompanies the choice of a *daß*-clause, while a weak attitude may lead to either zero or *daß* complements. The hypothesis is then illustrated by example sentences which are subjected to transformations such as complement-raising, thematisation and the addition of modal words: empirically verified examples from contemporary German sources are used.

In a second section the author shows that five further sets of syntactic phenomena manifest this variation according to speaker attitude (further examples are adduced). The use of the patterns of complement clauses in subject position, thematisation of complement clauses, interrogative postponement, the appearance and non-appearance of pro-forms or appositional phrases and the movement of the negative particle *nicht* can thus also be explained by recourse to epistemological and semantic factors.



## Lexicology

**87–545 Galeazzi, G.** (U. of Paris-Nord). Les dénominations des femmes dans deux corpus de presse féminine (1974 et 1984). [Terms for women in two corpuses taken from the feminine press (1974 and 1984).] *Cahiers de Lexicologie* (Paris), **49**, 2 (1986), 53–94.

This study gives an account of the uses of the term *femme(s)* and of its semantic substitutes in discourse. It focuses on two corpuses taken from the widely distributed French feminine press. One dates from April 1974 and the other from April 1984. The same linguistic analysis has been made of the two corpuses. The object was to establish clearly what had or had not changed in the denominations of women offered by the French feminine press to its women readers, over a ten-year period. The aim was to try to determine to what extent the linguistic analysis of the paradigmatic relationships in the semantic field of the term *femme(s)* would be able to describe the images of women and what light it could throw on the underlying ideology of the writers.

The great number of terms *femme(s)* and their various, unexpected and often excessive semantic partial substitutes prove how much women form the centre of the writers' preoccupations. Two types of images are in fact offered to the women readers: stereotyped images of women whom they should

resemble or of whom they can dream and images of women whom they should not imitate at any price. In both cases, writers have a strong tendency to use semantic substitutes of *femme(s)* whose choice supposes extreme value judgements. This tendency has become more pronounced in 1984 than in 1974. The writers' imaginations have freed themselves, and all sorts of fantasies are expressed in 1984.

As far as physical features are concerned, the stereotypes and norms are even more rigid in 1984 than in 1974. On the other hand, moral standards and behaviour have considerably varied and have become more flexible. In 1984, the paradigmatic relationships in the semantic field of the term *femme(s)* acknowledge the liberation of moral standards and the explosion of the traditional nuclear family. It also acknowledges the growing importance of working women but never doubts the traditional roles of the male and the female within the couple and in society.

**87–546 McAllister, Jan and Shockey, Linda** (U. of Edinburgh). Text-to-speech system. *Work in Progress* (Edinburgh), **19** (1986), 36–45.

The Centre for Speech Technology Research at Edinburgh University is developing a highly sophisticated, English language specific text-to-speech system. The intention is to design and implement a 'dictionary' system, composed of sounds and morphs, or components of words. In order to replicate natural speech as accurately as possible the system will have the ability to carry out the

following tasks: reproduce accurately the acoustic structure of speech sounds, select voice types, recognise spelling, assign correct pronunciation, stress and intonation, and take into account many features of spoken English, such as nasal assimilation e.g. *ten* [ten] which in *ten boys* may become [tem''boiz].

**87–547 Mitton, R.** (Birkbeck Coll, U. of London). A partial dictionary of English in computer-usable form. *Literary and Linguistic Computing* (Oxford), **1**, 4 (1986), 214–15.

A computer-usable dictionary is now available for research from the Oxford Text Archive. It is derived from the machine-readable version of the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English* and contains nearly 38,000 entries. Each entry has spelling, pronunciation, word-class(es)

and inflexion code(s); verbs also have verb patterns. The entries are in a standard form, making it easy for a computer to process them. A second version of the dictionary, running to over 68,000 entries, includes all the inflected forms explicitly.

**87–548 Van Eibergen, Joëlle** (Inst. de Phonétique de Grenoble). Corpus d'un français vernaculaire à caractère spontané et impératif. [A corpus of vernacular spontaneous French.] *Bulletin de l'Institut de Phonétique de Grenoble* (Grenoble), **15** (1986), 35–74.

A 30-minute corpus of spoken French is presented here. It was recorded by 16 speakers and consists of 18462 phone types.

Emphasis was put on the homogeneity of the type of language used: a current, conversational or so-called 'vernacular' one, adopted in informal situations and for which the communication contexts had previously been stipulated.

Particular attention was given to the transcription of the unstable *e*. It was transcribed differently from its normal realisation, from the hesitational *eu*h and from those cases where it does not occur at all. As far as computer processing for this corpus was concerned, a phonetic alphabet was used which permits printing and diffusion in a standard Qwerty code cadre.