

Studies of particular languages

ENGLISH See also abstracts 81–134, –146

81–158 Angogo, Rachel and Hancock, Ian. English in Africa: emerging standards or diverging regionalisms? *English World-wide* (Heidelberg), 1, 1 (1980), 67–96.

English is the official language of 15 of Africa's 46 nations (about one third), yet far less than one third of Africa's 436 million inhabitants speak it. The term 'African Vernacular English' (AVE), both West (WAVE) and East (EAVE), refers to varieties identifiable with a particular country, such as 'Nigerian English', etc. Various typologies are described. English is bound to reflect western ways of thought, but there are ways of speaking it which are readily identifiable as being African and present a surprising degree of linguistic unity across Africa, as regards the phonology, grammar and lexicosemantic components. The main difference between WAVE and EAVE is intonational, West African languages being more tonal. AVE is distinct in its penchant for high style as well as for its innovative analogies.

Attitudes to the legitimacy of AVE are conflicting: the educationalist/colonialist/élitist speakers despise basilectal speech and accept only acrolectal forms, while for literary/nationalistic/populist speakers the reverse is true. The possibility of misunderstanding or ambiguity is much greater with AVE than with RP. African writers are in the dilemma of having to use English to communicate outside their tribal confines. In order to make English reflect the African environment, they may have to adapt it.

81–159 Nehls, Dietrich. Zur Strukturierung des englischen Verbal-systems. [The structure of the English verb system.] *Die neueren Sprachen* (Frankfurt am Main), 29, 1 (1980), 43–59.

The division of the English verb system in current school and college grammars (including the Quirk grammars) into past, present and future is not in accordance with the structure of the English language. A two-group structure is proposed consisting of a past group and a present group which is descriptively and didactically advantageous in conveying tense sequences in indirect speech and conditional sentences.

81–160 Platt, John T. Varieties and functions of English in Singapore and Malaysia. *English World-wide* (Heidelberg), 1, 1 (1980), 97–121.

[History of English in Singapore and Malaysia; the development of English-medium education, and of a distinctive Singapore-Malaysian-English (SME).] The functions and characteristics of English in the two nations are diverging. In Singapore, Chinese, Malay and Tamil are

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considered as symbols of Asian culture as well as being of practical value in international communication. English is recognised for its utilitarian value and as an interethnic unifying force. In Malaysia, however, enrolment in English-medium schools has fallen with the increase in Malay-medium secondary schools, which should be completed in 1982. The national language policy is ensuring decreasing use of English and increasing use of Bahasa Malaysia in many spheres, but continued use of English, ranging from second to foreign language according to the background of the speaker, may persist. In Singapore the local norm will continue to develop. [Figures are given for the use of English for different age-groups in Singapore and Malaysia.] SME is a speech continuum; some implicational variables are discussed.

81-161 Stein, Gabriele. Nuclear English: reflections on the structure of its vocabulary. *Poetica* (Tokyo), **10** (1978), 64-76.

Using a common core of grammar and vocabulary, international communication can surmount the difficulties brought about by the inevitable diversification of English which is occurring at the intra-national level. In this article, the selection of a restricted vocabulary is contemplated, self-contained and internally structured to guarantee coverage. Technical and pre-theoretical criteria are considered for the selection of items from existing standard English. Whereas for instance the kinship vocabulary can conveniently be reduced, a general use of paraphrase in Nuclear English would be un-English. The style of the chosen vocabulary should also be consistent, and discourse aspects, such as terms of address and time expressions, should be included. Particular research is required into the selection of senses from polysemous words, as well as the role of idioms and word-formation patterns.

81-162 Wales, Kathleen. Exophora re-examined: the uses of the personal pronoun 'we' in present-day English. *UEA Papers in Linguistics* (Norwich), **12** (1980), 21-44.

The choice of certain linguistic elements is apparently determined by the attitude of the speaker rather than a classification of referents in the world. This is especially true of pronouns that ostensibly refer to speaker and/or hearer, or to a vaguer body of people out of sight. The present-day use of *we* in English is illustrated from material gathered for the Survey of English Usage at University College, London. Three features notably emerge: (i) the flexibility of personal pronouns, to express a range of reference and degrees of generalisation; (ii) the tendency to discourse-orientation, and, in particular, to speaker-orientation; (iii) the frequent conflict between ostensible reference and 'deeper' reference heavily biased towards egocentricity. Under this analysis, pronouns become devices normally associated with prosody and rhetoric. It is shown that the speaker's awareness of the immediate context and addressee influence the use of pronominal types, all of which seem to modulate the discourse.

FRENCH *See also abstracts* 81–134, –145, –149

81–163 Herschensohn, Julia. On clitic placement in French. *Linguistic Analysis* (New York), 6, 2 (1980), 187–219.

Previous treatments of French clitic placement are critically examined, especially that of Fiengo and Gitterman. A new analysis is proposed, in which clitic placement is performed by a cyclic structure-preserving movement rule that optionally places pronouns in up to two clitic slots. This process operates in a single step, and its output is subject to a filter blocking the occurrence of bare weak pronouns in non-clitic positions. The phonological form of pronouns (clitic and non-clitic) is predictable on the basis of stress-assignment.

GERMAN *See abstract* 81–146

SPANISH

81–164 De Bruyne, Jacques. Le suffixe ‘-on’ en espagnol moderne. [The suffix ‘-on’ in modern Spanish.] *Linguistica Antverpiensia* (Antwerp), 13 (1979), 7–53.

Traditional grammars, manuals and dictionaries define the suffix *-on* as augmentative and pejorative. In fact this termination has two functions: (1) adjectival, and (2) denoting an action. Closer analysis based on numerous examples drawn from modern Spanish authors and on the results of more recent research indicates that, used adjectivally, the suffix denotes not mere size, but striking by reason of size, exaggerated or excessive size; and that although it may be pejorative it is not necessarily or inherently so. It has special uses, e.g. relating to age, and may even, paradoxically, indicate small size. When *-on* refers to an action it signifies a sudden violent action, or a repeated one. Use of suffixes such as *-on* affords possibilities for stylistic variation and plays on words. [Index of words cited ending in *-on*.]

RUSSIAN

81–165 Gardiner, Duncan B. The semantics of Russian verbal suffixes: a first look. *Slavic and East European Journal* (Madison, Wis), 23, 3 (1979), 381–94.

The semantic features of Directionality and Marginality posited by Jakobson and of Restrictedness, Duplication, Extension, Dimensionality and Objectiveness as identified by Schooneveld are used in analysing the semantics of verbal suffixes. Working from the assumption that the verbal actor (*agens*) can be thought of as modified by the verbal root meaning, somewhat as the noun is modified by an adjective, the

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adopted process of analysis suggests that each suffix creates a different kind of actor. Hence verbs with the –NU+ suffix and truncated past tense form point to a transformed *agens*; the –O+ suffix conveys the idea of a transforming *agens*; the –EJ+ suffix manifests non-inherent qualities. With the major exception of –*овать* and –*авать* verbs, the principal verbal suffixes are discussed and results tabulated in relation to the characteristics attributed to the *agens* and in relation to Schooneveld's semantic features.

81–166 Waight, Terence. On the phonology of words of foreign origin. *Russian Linguistics* (Dordrecht), 5, 1 (1980), 75–90.

The literature on the phonology of foreign words is surveyed, both from the general perspective of how far it is integrated into the phonological system of native words, and from the point of view of proposed modifications to Russian phonology in this light (especially the works of Panov and Glovinskaja). The arbitrary features of this work are noted, and illustrated on the basis of characteristically 'foreign' properties such as non-reduction of unstressed vowels, failure to soften consonants before /ε/ and the occurrence of geminated consonants within the morpheme.

In all of these cases, the native phonological system of Russian remains unviolated. The phonotactic constraints on native words reflect the historical operation of phonological rules, rather than synchronic phonological rules. The variation that occurs is shown not to fit into any simple pattern of foreign phonology; these cases have therefore to be treated as variants within the phonological system of Russian.

ROMANCE LANGUAGES *See also abstract 81–147*

81–167 Budagov, R. A. К теории сходств и различий в грамматике близкородственных языков. [Towards a theory of the similarities and differences in the grammar of closely related languages.] *Вопросы языкознания* (Moscow), 4 (1980), 3–20.

Appealing for a functional, rather than a formal, approach to language, the author illustrates his point with the example of the grammatical categories of the Romance languages which, although formally similar to those of other Indo-European languages, fulfil different functions. The task of linguistics, on this view, is to relate form and meaning in language, rather than simply describing either of these.

These points are illustrated on three constructions characteristic of some or all of the Romance languages: the expression of the direct object with or without a preposition, the use of determiners (articles, possessive pronouns, etc.) on nouns, and the opposition of case and prepositional constructions. In all these areas general tendencies exist for the Romance languages, in spite of the individual differences between them.

81–168 Radford, Andrew. Clitics under causative in Romance. *Journal of Italian Linguistics* (Dordrecht, Holland), 4, 1 (1979), 137–81.

One of the most compelling arguments in support of the Verb Raising analysis of causative constructions is the empirically substantiated prediction that all subordinate clitics will cliticise the superordinate (causative) verb. The phenomenon whereby clitic complements of the subordinative infinitive attach to the superordinate causative verb is a Romance phenomenon (*Paolo fece piangere Maria* in Italian, *Je le lui ferai porter* in French, *Se lo hice comer* in Spanish, and *Fizemo-lo carregar pelo criado* in Portuguese). However, irregularities in this phenomenon can be found, cases in which subordinate clitics do not attach to the causative. Although such exceptions would seem to challenge the validity of the Verb Raising analysis, many such examples are examined and explained as cases which do not involve Verb Raising, but rather seem to be instances of different sentence constructions often involving the 'accusative and infinitive'.