Language description and use

Descriptive studies of particular languages
English

92–341 Lindstromberg, Seth. 'Get': not many meanings. *IRAL* (Heidelberg, Germany), **29**, 4 (1991), 285–301.

Although the information given in different English dictionaries indicates that the verb *get* is radically polysemic, arguments are put forward here in favour of the view that all the meanings of *get* go back to the fundamental meaning of 'take hold of something'. It is certainly from this meaning that the second fundamental meaning of *get* (as a result of the action of retaining) is derived: *obtain something*.

And it is with the help of different metaphorical processes that almost all the other meanings of get derive from these two main meanings, modified further, according to the need, by various contextual factors. The article ends with a discussion of the implications for language teaching and for lexicography.

92–342 Nehls, Dietrich. English 'do/make' compared with German 'tun/machen' and Dutch 'doen/maken': a synchronic-diachronic approach. *IRAL* (Heidelberg, Germany), **29**, 4 (1991), 303–16.

The correct use of *do* and *make* is a problem area for teaching which is well known to anyone learning English as a foreign language. What the English dictionaries have to say on this point is somewhat disconcerting. The *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*, for example cites 25 uses of *make* and 15 of *do* as a full verb. (Phrases such as *do for* or *make out* or other idiomatic uses are not even included in these figures.) Differences between *do* and *make* are described with the aid of five syntactical and semantic characteristics.

Romance languages like French or Italian only have one lexeme to translate the *do/make* pair – *faire* (French) or *fare* (Italian). Although German and Dutch have two words, etymologically closely related to *do/make* (*tun/machen* and *doen/maken*), these three western European languages show considerable differences in their use of these lexical points. Possible historical explanations are discussed.

French

92–343 Mareschal, Geneviève (U. of Ottawa). Le français face à l'invasion de l'anglais. [French faced with the invasion of English.] *Bulletin of the CAAL* (Montreal), **11**, 2 (1989, publ. 1992), 85–95.

Since the end of the nineteenth century, the Western world has been dominated by the English-speaking civilisation and English has become the great international language in almost all spheres of human activity. This cultural and linguistic hegemony of English has left its traces on the civilisations and languages with which it has come into contact. French has not escaped this influence. Intercultural and interlinguistic contacts between

English and French have had certain effects on the French language, which has used various means of assimilation and defence to deal with the often massive introduction of English elements into its linguistic system. The goal of this article is to analyse these means and to highlight the surprising ability of French to make adaptations. The article also draws some interesting conclusions about the real morphological impact of English on French.