Language and linguistics

LINGUISTIC DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

74-1   **Cook, Walter A.** Covert case roles. *Languages and Linguistics: Working Papers* (Washington DC), **7** (1973), 52–81.

The work of Fillmore on case grammar (in *Universals in Linguistic Theory*, edited by Bach and Harms (Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1968)) is within the tradition which takes as central the verb, from which springs a set of dependency relations expressed in terms of underlying case roles. One of the problems for most theories of case grammar is that, while some roles are always overt, other roles are sometimes covert and not always reflected in surface structure. Roles may be characterized in three ways: propositional roles implied by the verb, (1) obligatory or (2) optional in surface structure; and (3) modal roles, not implied by the verb, always optional in surface structure.

The analytic procedures for both overt and covert case roles are described and the part played by intuitive judgement in determining covert case roles is demonstrated [examples]. A general set of norms is laid down for making these judgements within the framework of a case grammar matrix, constituted by axes including basic verb types, experiencer verbs, benefactive verbs and locative verbs, on one hand, and state verbs, process verbs, action verbs and action-process verbs, on the other. The sixteen resulting case frames are expressed in terms of five propositional cases: Agent, Object, Experiencer, Benefactive, and Locative. [Examples and discussion.] As a result of the discussion further characteristics of case roles can be adduced, together with rules for handling propositional cases. [References.]

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74–2   Huttar, George L. On distinguishing clause and sentence. *Linguistics* (The Hague), **105** (1973), 69–82.

Is it useful to distinguish clause and sentence as separate levels in a hierarchical model of grammatical structure? After a consideration of customary approaches to hierarchical structure, a modification is proposed to represent the pairing of levels. [Examples and discussion.] Although no conclusion can be drawn about the relevance of sentence structure to the structure of higher level units, the description of sentences in terms of constituent clauses captures a generalisation overlooked by a description in terms of constituent phrases. The distinction of levels for clause and sentence is supported by parallels with the level pairing of word and phrase. [References.]

74–3   Karttunen, Lauri. Presuppositions of compound sentences. *Linguistic Inquiry* (Cambridge, Mass.) **4**, 2 (1973), 169–93.

There are two basic types of definitions of presupposition: semantic and pragmatic. There is no conflict between these concepts: they are related but different notions. The author is concerned with the way in which the presuppositions of a complex sentence are determined by the presuppositions of the clauses it contains (regardless of the distinction between the definitions of presupposition discussed). The limitations of the 'cumulative hypothesis' for determining the presupposition of a compound sentence are discussed [examples]. There is a need to distinguish three groups of predicates: plugs, which block all the presuppositions of the complement sentence; holes, which allow all the presuppositions of the complement sentence to become presuppositions of the matrix sentence, and filters, which, under certain conditions, cancel some of the presuppositions of the complement [examples]. Modifications to the operation of the filters are discussed, and considered in relation to pragmatic definitions of presupposition [examples]. [References.]

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LINGUISTIC SOCIOLOGY

74–4   Lakoff, Robin. Language and woman's place. *Language in Society* (Cambridge), **2**, 1 (1973), 45–80.

Women experience linguistic discrimination both in their own use of language and in the way general language use treats them [examples from American middle-class speech and from the media]. A girl's upbringing leads to the exclusion from her speech of strong expletives, which makes her appear less powerful than her male counterpart. In addition the use by a woman of certain 'feminine' adjectives and tag-questions, which are recognisably not part of a man's vocabulary, cause her opinions to be regarded as trivial or tentative. An extensive examination is made of the euphemism 'lady', which is made necessary by a desire to be polite, since so many of the terms for women contain sexual implications. [Detailed analyses of pair words, e.g. *master/mistress*, and words having a differential use when applied to the different sexes.]

Pronominal neutralisation is seen as both less in need of change and less open to change than other disparities. The linguist has an important role to play in helping to pinpoint such linguistic disparities, and unless the linguist involves himself with sociology, relevant generalisations will be impossible. [Numerous references.]

PSYCHOLINGUISTICS

74–5   Chafe, Wallace L. Language and memory. *Language* (Baltimore, Md), **49**, 2 (1973), 261–81.

Linguistics and psychology are sufficiently coterminous to justify 'psychosemantic' studies as a sub-area of a larger interdisciplinary field. Psycholinguistics could show how the contents and processes of people's minds affect what they say and how their use of language leads us to understand what is going on in their heads.

There is linguistic evidence for memory of three kinds: surface, shallow and deep. Linguistic evidence also shows that material from deep memory must be reported with a strong adverb, from shallow

memory with a strong or weak adverb, and from surface memory with a strong or weak or no adverb at all [examples]. Evidence from psychology suggests memory of three kinds: sensory, primary and secondary. Sensory has no correspondence with any of the three kinds from linguistic evidence; primary seems to correspond with surface, whereas secondary comprises both shallow and deep. Research is needed on the cognitive basis for choosing between weak and strong temporal adverbs, i.e. the existence of shallow memory. The use of the future tense with and without temporal adverbs reflects the linguistic organisation of memory into three kinds [examples]. Languages other than English might give additional evidence for surface memory because of the possibility of their having special 'aspects'. [References.]

PHONETICS

74-6   **Lehfeldt, W.** Distributionelle Phonemähnlichkeit. [Distributional similarity between phonemes.] *Phonetica* (Basle), **27**, 2 (1973), 82–99.

The aim is to develop a procedure for measuring the distributional similarity of the phonemes of a language. With the measure thus developed, a classification of the phonemes becomes possible according to distributional similarity. A procedure is presented by the aid of which it is possible to compare languages and to classify them according to their distributional similarity. [Examples and tables for Romanian. References.]

TRANSLATION

74-7   **Faiss, Klaus.** Übersetzung und Sprachwissenschaft – eine Orientierung. [Translation and linguistics – the present position.] *Babel* (Gerlingen), **19**, 2 (1973), 75–86.

Whether translation is a literary or linguistic discipline, it lacks a theoretical basis. Before this can be laid down, linguistics will have to

settle its own fundamental problems such as the definition of 'word' and 'meaning'. What has linguistics done for translators? Hartmann thinks that it has not yet the necessary theoretical and analytical aids. Descriptions of source language (SL) and target language (TL) are inadequate. Machine translation requires more refined forms of analysis but the need for context sensitivity is not yet satisfied. Wandruszka's work on the confrontative grammar of contrastive linguistics is a helpful move. Transformational grammer (TG) has not yet determined whether the deep structures correspond in SL and TL. TG's 'back transformation' can help the inexperienced translator but is not indispensable. The translator needs a thorough knowledge of structures in SL and TL on semantic and syntactical levels. The aim should be Nida's 'dynamic equivalence – the closest natural equivalent to the SL message'.

Research is needed on the discovery and description of syntactic structures in several languages and on the semantic, anthropological, sociological and psychological properties, i.e. on 'situation analysis'. Linguistics needs a new orientation if it is to help translators, possibly through text linguistics on Koch's or Pike's lines. Even so, something will still be left to the translator's discrimination. [Extensive references.]