

Jean Rothary

news,
views

NETWORK no. 1

and reviews in systemic linguistics and related areas

Editor: Robin P. Fawcett, Department of Behavioural and Communication Studies, Polytechnic of Wales, Treforest, Cardiff, CF37 1DL, Great Britain.

Assistant Editors: Margaret Berry (Nottingham University), Bill Downes (U.E.A., Norwich) and David Young (U.W.I.S.T., Cardiff).

Note: we hope to add an assistant editor for each major area outside Britain where systemic linguists are active in the next issue.

EDITORIAL

April, 1981.

This is the first issue of a new newsletter. The aim is to provide a fairly informal forum for a number of different types of people with interests in systemic linguistics. We hope it will enable us to keep in touch, both with each other and with current activities that are relevant to systemic linguistics. The work that we report will be both theoretical and applied, and we shall interpret 'relevant to systemic linguistics' in a broad sense, so as to include work in the broad Firthian tradition that is not explicitly systemic and work done in other frameworks that shows some type of parallel to systemic work.

The idea for the newsletter came out of the University of East Anglia systemic workshop a couple of years ago, and the name is the idea of Margaret Berry and Chris Butler.

Who is the newsletter for?

Those who may be interested include: (1) linguists actively involved in developing the theory and/or using it to describe languages, (2) other linguists interested in keeping in touch with developments, perhaps because they are involved in teaching in a systemic or related Firthian framework, (3) those actively involved in applying it in various areas, including mother tongue and second language teaching, stylistics, child language, speech pathology, artificial intelligence, etc., and those interested in keeping in touch with such applications and (4) those in neighbouring disciplines who find, or think they might find, the systemic approach to language to be insightful. The newsletter will therefore reflect the view that systemic theory provides both a highly insightful approach at the theoretical level and a good basis for an applicable linguistics.

How often will it appear?

We intend to produce the newsletter whenever the amount of material received justifies it. But since we can save postage by using it to carry information about the next workshop, this will mean a minimum of two issues a year.

What will it contain - and who will write it?

If you want to receive information such as that included here, please do your bit to supply some. Almost everyone to whom this first issue is circulated will have something to contribute - either now or later.

As you will see, grand theoretical papers are not sought: full articles should normally be submitted to the journals, such as the Journal of Linguistics. Some less expensive journals likely to be sympathetic to a systemic viewpoint include the Nottingham Linguistic Circular, MALS Journal and U.E.A. Papers in Linguistics. (This isn't intended to imply that other periodicals will be less sympathetic - or that these will necessarily take your paper!) Short notes (or 'squibs') on the other hand, will be welcome here: see VIEWS below.

Can you contribute any of the following?

- NEWS 1) details of PUBLISHED books, sections of books and articles of two types: (a) those that have been published fairly recently - say in the last 5 years, in the first instance, and (b) those that are about to appear, in which systemic topics or topics related to systemic interests are raised. So if you write something, or if you discover something, please let one of the editors know, and we will include it. (Please do NOT assume that the editors know all about it already, even if you think they should!) Details that we want are:
- Name of author and book/section of book/article.
 - Length in pages, details of where it can be obtained, and, where applicable, cost.
 - 1 - 300 word summary.
- 2) Similar details of writings that are as yet UNPUBLISHED, e.g. (a) papers given to linguistics circles, etc, past as well as future, and (b) papers for limited circulation (e.g. in a prepublication state) on which comments might perhaps be welcomed.
- 3) Brief, even informal notes of what you are doing in the way of research - even if there is no immediate prospect of publication - whether theoretical, descriptive, interdisciplinary or applied.
- 4) News of recent and future systemic workshops, etc.
- 5) News of a way of teaching that you or a colleague has tried, and that seems to be working out well, that someone else might like to try, and many other types of news too, no doubt.

VIEWS

of any relevant matter: what you thought of the last workshop; how future ones could be better, how systemic linguists go about their work, etc, AND RESPONSES to views expressed in previous newsletters, to proposals for future workshops, to reviews, etc. This is the place for systemic squibs: short notes on some small problem and/or solution, whether in theoretical, descriptive, interdisciplinary or applied linguistics. There could occasionally be room for a larger contribution.

REVIEWS

not only of books, as is customary, but also of sections of books and of articles, from the viewpoint of (a) their contribution to theory, description, application, etc and/or (b) their usefulness in teaching. I hope it may occasionally be possible to reproduce valuable reviews that have appeared elsewhere: if you know of a review of a systemic book that has appeared recently (and especially if you have written one), could you please let me know, and I will ask if the periodical concerned would allow it to be reproduced here? (Or, if you have written one yourself, you could perhaps ask directly.)

World coverage

Systemic linguists are scattered throughout the world, and at times during the last decade or more some, I know, have felt pretty cut off from things. One important purpose of the newsletter is for each of us to tell the others what we are doing - if only to show that we exist! Let me give an example. I visited Nigeria last August and found diagrams from Dick Hudson's English Complex Sentences: an Introduction to Systemic Grammar all over the board in Professor Olu Tomori's room at Ibadan University, and an ambitious undergraduate and postgraduate course centered on systemic linguistics under Professor Bisi Afolayan at the University of Ife. I hope that we may be able to include a short account of this in a future newsletter - and of similar activity in other parts of the world. Specifically, I hope in the next newsletter to be able to announce the names of assistant editors representing each major area of the world in which systemic linguistics is active.

How much will the newsletter cost?

This issue is being sent free to all those currently on the list of those who receive notices of the annual systemic workshops, and others who we think might be interested. Because printing costs at the Polytechnic of Wales are currently very low, I think we shall be able to run it for four or more issues (depending of course on length) for £1. So, if you wish to go on receiving this newsletter, please send me:

payment — [10 x 10p stamps
a £1. note
a cheque or equivalent for £1.

I hope that, where there are several interested people in one institution, EACH ONE will order his or her own copy: after all, the newsletter will probably contain some information which you want to keep rather than merely read. But we shall economise on postage by sending sets of newsletters to one individual at each institution in Britain, and I hope that one person in each continent (perhaps the regional editor referred to above?) will forward copies (presumably at a very small expense to his department) to others.

Now to the newsletter itself. Probably the most important item is the announcement about the 1981 systemic workshop, on the next page.

NEWS OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMIC WORKSHOP: BIRMINGHAM, 1981

This workshop will take place at Wyddrington Hall, University of Birmingham, 10 - 12 September, 1981. The cost will probably be about £30. The joint organisers are Margaret Berry (Dept. of English, The University, Nottingham) and Robin Fawcett (Dept. of Behavioural and Communication Studies, Polytechnic of Wales, Treforest, Cardiff), and at present two themes are planned: 'Transitivity' and 'Textual Analysis'.

We plan to consider three or four alternative system networks for transitivity: the purpose of concentrating attention on alternative proposals for a single area of grammar is to focus the discussion on the criteria for including features in a network, and so to consider what the generally accepted criteria are and should be for the evaluation of networks. This is a general topic crucial to anyone who uses system networks, whatever the area of language being described, and transitivity is merely chosen as a case-study. The second topic focusses on the ability of systemic models of language to be used for the principled analysis of natural text. We hope that participants will actually work on the analysis of a text, from the viewpoint of some or all of the following approaches: discourse, syntax and/or semantics, cohesion. The aim with both topics is to achieve more of a genuinely workshop atmosphere than has been possible recently, with far fewer formal papers and much more time for the detailed discussion of proposals for the grammar itself and the analyses of specific texts. Suggestions for a text for analysis will be welcome. Please write to Margaret Berry or Robin Fawcett, saying what you feel about these plans and what role you might play in the workshop. The next issue of this newsletter will contain more details, and this will depend on your response to these ideas. So please write straight away, so that we can take account of your views.

Margaret Berry,
Department of English,
The University,
Nottingham.

Robin Fawcett,
Department of Behavioural &
Communication Studies,
Polytechnic of Wales,
Treforest,
Pontypridd.
CF37 1DL

NINTH INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMIC WORKSHOP: TORONTO, 1982

Plans are already well advanced for the 1982 workshop. It will be in Toronto 1 - 3 September, and the organisers are Professors Jim Benson and Bill Greaves of Glendon College, York University, Toronto, Ontario, M4N 3M6, Canada. The theme will be 'Current Applications of Systemic theory', and up to 20 participants will be invited from each of Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as from other countries. (Other participants may attend too.) Michael Halliday and Ruqaiya Hasan will both be there, and both will be presenting papers at plenary sessions. Formal participation will involve agreement to undertake specific tasks in a particular workshop session, such as providing material for discussion (to be circulated in advance) in one of the following areas: language development, stylistics, cohesion, discourse and text structure, medicine, education and curriculum, theoretical description, historical linguistics, comparative grammar, social implications of language,

language for special purposes, ESL, bilingualism, translation, computer analysis and Artificial Intelligence. We in Britain are now investigating the possibility of finding funds for the transatlantic flight, on the assumption that participants and/or their home institutions will be responsible for maintenance costs in Canada, which should be no more than if the workshop was held in Britain. If any reader in Britain would like to be considered as an official delegate and thus be in the running to have the fare paid, he or she should write to Margaret Berry, Department of English, The University, Nottingham. Readers in other countries should write directly to Jim Benson and Bill Greaves at the above address. Potential participants might like to think in terms of spending a week or two in Canada in addition to the workshop: why not go with a spouse or friend, since transatlantic fares are so comparatively low these days?

ANOTHER MOVE TO AUSTRALIA

L.M. ('Paddy') O'Toole, Reader in the Department of Language and Linguistics at the University of Essex, will be moving to Perth, Western Australia in July 1981, to take up the post of Professor of Communication Studies at Murdoch University. He will be joining Dr. Robert Hodge, late of the University of East Anglia, who readers may remember as the author of a provocative article in the Times Higher Education Supplement, in the Summer of 1976, on the state of British Linguistics. A future issue of the Newsletter will include details of Bob Hodge's recent book, written in conjunction with Gunther Kress, who also edited the valuable collection of Halliday's writings entitled Halliday: system and function in language. (O.U.P. 1976). Gunther Kress too is now in Australia, as Dean of the School of Communication and Cultural Studies at Hartley College, Adelaide, having moved there from the University of East Anglia, Norwich. Gunther Kress and Bob Hodge, however, are both Australians returning home; other systemic linguists in Australia such as Michael Halliday and Jim Martin at the University of Sydney, and Ruqaiya Hasan at Macquarie University and now Paddy O'Toole at Murdoch are all new immigrants. Who will be next? Whatever the answer to that question, Paddy tells me that he will be ensuring that there is a strong course in systemic theory in the Communication Studies degree, and his own ability to blend systemic insights and those provided by other structuralist approaches to literature should make for an interesting course. I hope that we can include a description of it in a future Newsletter, in due course. RPF

PLEASE SEND IN NEWS OF OTHER MOVES, CHANGES OF ADDRESS, ETC. THAT MAY INTEREST READERS.

NEWS OF RECENT EVENTS

SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMIC WORKSHOP: SHEFFIELD 1980

The seventh annual Workshop met at Sheffield University, September 9th - 11th, 1980. For the first time the 'international' was added to the name, it having been apparent for some years that the addition was justified. At this Workshop there were about 45 participants from and/or currently working in Canada, Australia, U.S.A., Sweden, Nigeria and China - as well as England, Scotland and Wales.

A noteworthy feature of the Workshop was the presence of a number of people with a particular interest in using systemic grammar in AI (computer models of artificial intelligence).

The following papers were given:

J. Martin: Register and Metafunction.

M.A.K.Halliday: On system and structure: a report on current work on the incorporation of a systemic grammar in a computer program.

M. Berry: A discussion of motivation (or the lack of it) in systemic linguistics.

M. Cummings: Motivating systemic descriptions of phoricity in Old English and Modern English nominal groups.

R.P.Fawcett: The place of functional components in the structure of the semantics.

C.S.Butler: Semantic predicate classification in English.

A.S.Duthie: A model of semantic structure.

W.S.Greaves, J.Benson and D. Mendelsohn (presented by W.S.Greaves): The centrality of intonation in English.

R. Hasan: On describing a text.

M. Gregory: Linguistics and theatre: Hamlet's voice, elements of text formation and cohesion in a soliloquy.

R.F.Walker: An analysis of child language within a systemic-functional frame.

J.D.Benson and W.S.Greaves (presented by J.D.Benson): Ideational, interpersonal and textual meaning in Melville's "Moby Dick".

D.J.Young: Continuative and inceptive adjuncts (still, already etc.) in English.

The functional components and the status of the semantic level were recurring themes, and the after-dinner session of the second day was devoted to a round-table discussion of them.

The Workshop was expertly organised by Tony Lyne, and it was acclaimed as a great success by the delegates.

David Young

HALLIDAY-HASAN WORLD TOUR

Michael Halliday and Ruqaiya Hasan returned home to Sydney last December, after spending 1980 on a series of visits which took in the U.S.A., Britain, Belgium, Germany, Austria, India and Pakistan. In California they stayed first at Palo Alto (home of Martin Kay, who will be remembered by some readers from the 1980 Workshop) and then at Irvine, when Michael and Ruqaiya worked on incorporating systemic approaches to text and to sentence grammar in computer programs. Michael reported on the latter work, which is being continued by Mark James, at the Sheffield Systemic Workshop, and this topic will be the subject of his paper in the book, New Developments in Systemic Linguistics currently being prepared. (See 'News of Publications'). Michael's and Ruqaiya's presence at the Workshop was, of course, an important factor in making it the success it was. Visits to Hassel and Trier on the European Continent followed, and in India they were able to renew contacts with two Indian Systemicists, Professor Shivendra Verma (who was also at the First Systemic Workshop) and Dr. V. Prakasam. (Both of these scholars, incidentally, will be contributing to New Developments in Systemic Linguistics.) They finally reached home on 17th December, to find a vast heap of mail awaiting them.

NEWS OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS

RECENT BOOKS. We shall describe some 1980 books in this Newsletter, and some recent earlier ones in the next. Please let us know if we have left out any that ought to have been included.

David J. Young: The Structure of English Clauses. London:

Hutchinson. 1 x + 373 pages. Price: £5.95 paperback

This is a textbook about English grammar, intended for students in higher education. It has several related aims. First, it aims to describe a large number of English grammatical structures, though it does not pretend to be comprehensive. The structures selected belong in general to units of higher rank than words, and have verbs rather than nouns as their nuclear elements. In accordance with recent developments in linguistic theory and description, much attention is given to the grammatical means that speakers have at their disposal with which to signal their communicative intentions.

Second, the book aims to encourage an investigative and exploratory attitude towards English text. Grammar is not to be seen as some sort of intellectual exercise indulged in merely for the sake of its formal beauty. It is of interest because it has to do with communication and co-operation and is necessary to the existence of societies and individuals. I hope that the reader will gain some insights into how a language achieves this by furnishing its speakers with a system for encoding meaning. (I am not claiming to have treated this topic in a developed way, but only to be helping the reader towards an understanding of what is involved.)

Third, it is intended that the reader will gain some understanding of the criteria used in grammatical studies for distinguishing one structure from another. There is little point in learning to attach grammatical labels without knowing what they mean.

I have put into Appendix B two slightly longer pieces of unedited text. Reference is made to these periodically and often they furnish the examples in the book. I cannot claim that they illustrate everything that is talked about - they make too small a corpus for that - nor does the book elucidate everything found in the texts. Moreover, I have not aimed at providing the reader with a method of textual analysis; but at least the texts provide some living examples of some of the things talked about in the book. Many people nowadays, including language teachers, speech therapists and sociologists find they need to study text, and it is hoped this book will help to explain some of the things that go on in text at the grammatical level.

The description is necessarily based upon certain assumptions about the way a language may appropriately be described. Some space is devoted to these assumptions in the first two chapters and here and there throughout the book. Most of them are not controversial or peculiar to any highly formalised model of description. Others are more particularly characteristic of that theoretical model called systemic grammar. But no attempt is made to justify the choice of this model in preference to others.

The book naturally owes much to the writings of other grammarians, especially to those working in the systemic tradition. In particular, it is greatly influenced by J. McH. Sinclair's *A Course in Spoken English: Grammar*, and by several of M. A. K. Halliday's works. No great originality is claimed for the ideas the book contains, which can mostly be found in published works, though not always in forms or places which are accessible to the non-specialist reader.

Robin P. Fawcett

Cognitive linguistics and social interaction

towards an integrated model of a systemic functional grammar and the other components of a communicating mind. XIV/290 pages. Paper.

ISBN 3-87276-228-1

DM 22,-

With the support of a detailed account of many central parts of a grammar of English, this book makes the case for a major theoretical about-turn in 'core' linguistics: away from the view that syntactic structures (whether or not transformationally related) lie at the heart of an explanation of language, and towards the view that such structures are merely the realisations of choices between meanings. Dr. Fawcett emphasises that it is these semantic options, which are related by explicit rules to 'surface' form, that lie at the heart of the grammar. Thus, the type of complexity that it is most crucial to include in an explanation of language is not syntactic but semantic, in the sense that each formal unit of language can be shown to express many different types of meaning, often simultaneously in a single element.

The theory presented here is systemic. It is thus derived from Halliday and ultimately Firth, but the direct influence of de Saussure is also strong. Fawcett's model goes further than Halliday's in a number of ways: it is in many respects more clear-cut, in particular being unambiguous as to the nature and location of 'semantics' in the model; it recognizes more 'functional components'; it introduces a new concept of semantic structure in the grammar; it operates with only one level of system networks (while not denying the existence of contrasts at others); and it is set within a model of a communicating mind. This includes, besides the language system, a 'discourse grammar', other codes, the speaker's 'knowledge of the universe' (including knowledge of the current encounter), his affective states, and a problem solver whose job it is to decide on appropriate communicative strategies.

'Core' linguists will particularly welcome Dr. Fawcett's examination of the arguments for and against the positions taken on various issues by himself and other systemic linguists, such as Halliday, Hudson and Berry: no other work provides a comparably broad yet detailed critical appraisal of the issues. This will additionally commend the book as an advanced undergraduate and postgraduate text. Its proposals are equally relevant to scholars in psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, artificial intelligence, etc. And the book will also be of particular interest to those working on the problems of the various areas of applied linguistics.

Sole distribution

USA and Canada: Heinle & Heinle Publishers, 51 Sleeper Street, Boston, MA 02210, USA

Southern Africa: Universitas Books (Pty) Ltd., P.O.Box 1557, 0001 Pretoria, South Africa

Elsewhere: Order through bookshops (at £5.98) or, if you also order other volumes from the Exeter Linguistics Series, from the Publications Officer, University of Exeter, at £3.80. (£6.50 obtains all four volumes, including C.S. Butler and R.R.K. Hartmann (eds): A Reader on Language Variety, G. Fenn: The Development of Syntax in X Group of Educationally Subnormal Children, and Hartmann, R.R.K: (ed.) Dictionaries and their Uses.)

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JULIUS GROOS VERLAG

Postfach 102423 · D-6900 Heidelberg 1

**Terms in
Systemic
Linguistics** Alex de Joia
 and
A Guide Adrian Stenton
to Halliday

Preface

The year 1976 marked two decades in the publishing life of Michael Halliday. And those twenty years saw a number of important changes. He moved from the strict formalism of 'Categories of the Theory of Grammar,' through the abstraction of 'Some Notes on Deep Grammar' to the social outlook of *Language and Social Man*. But there was a great deal of stability too, for example in the central position given to explanation in terms of function.

We felt that it was an appropriate time to stop and chart both the changes and the constants, and this book is the result.

It is a collection of citations from Halliday's work during this period. The citations are grouped thematically and chronologically, and supplemented and cross-referenced by an extensive 'Alphabetical Listing of Terms'. We hope that the book will prove to be useful in two ways. Its thematic arrangement means that if you want to get a general idea of what Halliday means by 'function', you can simply turn to Chapter 3 and browse through it. To this end each citation is intended to be able to stand on its own. If you want to put 'function' in a broader, or narrower, perspective, to explore more thoroughly its relationship to other terms, and to other parts of the theory, you can then work from the Alphabetical Listing backwards, and you will be directed to all those citations, in whatever chapter, which are specifically relevant. The Alphabetical Listing is thus a much more complete and accurate list than the contents alone.

Each citation has another context, of course, and this is the work from which it was drawn. Indeed, one of the broader aims of this book is to direct the reader to the appropriate paper or book by Halliday, to put it in the larger context of Halliday's work as a whole, to tie it in with earlier and with subsequent writings, a function served by the chronological listing of citations under each heading.

J. R. Martin and Joan Rothery: Writing Project Report 1980

Sydney: University of Sydney (Working Papers in Linguistics No. 1.) This 33 page report applies systemic techniques for discourse and register analysis to samples of student writing from late primary through secondary school in the Sydney region, and is the first report of an ongoing project. This book will interest both linguistically aware educationalists and others with a practical interest in the development of analytical techniques. Both papers analyse lexical cohesion, conjunctions, theme and schematic structure, and Paper 1 additionally looks at reference, transitivity and register categories. Order from Dr. J. R. Martin, Department of Linguistics, University of Sydney, N.S.W. 2006, Australia.

Geoffrey Sampson: Schools of Linguistics: Competition and evolution.

London: Hutchinson. 283 pp Price: £4.95 paperback. Systemic Linguists will enjoy the way in which both Chomskyan Linguistics and the way in which it is conducted are cut down to size, e.g. pp.160 - 165 and especially p.235. They will appreciate Sampson's summary 'All in all, the London School appears to have a good deal to offer' - which is more than he says for most other schools! (On the other hand, his deep suspicion of all attempts to build meaning into scientific accounts of language, which comes out throughout the book, prevents him from seeing the advantages of what I take to be the central tenet of systemic theory; the intimate tie-up between paradigmatic relationships and meaning.

ALSO:

Michael Halliday and Ruqaiya Hasan have recently written a new book Text and Context, which is based on a series of lectures given in Tokyo. Full details in the next Newsletter.

BOOKS RELEVANT TO SYSTEMIC LINGUISTICS 1978 - 1979.

Here is a selection of other books with relevance for systemic linguistics that have appeared recently. It is not exhaustive, so please send in your suggestions for others that might be included, preferably accompanied by a brief paragraph of description, as soon as possible, for inclusion in the next issue.

1978 M.A.K. Halliday: Language as Social Semiotic: the social interpretation of language and meaning. London: Edward Arnold. Summary and/or review of this central book in the next Newsletter.

1978 Anthony Davey: Discourse Production: a computer model of some aspects of a speaker. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. The model described here takes over where Winograd's famous SHRDLU program leaves off: it generates grammatical, referentially accurate, cohesively appropriate strings of sentences, using the most sophisticated yet of systemic grammars to be incorporated in a computer system. An important book, still not widely known. For a summary description see Fawcett 1980:17.

- 1978 Michael Gregory and Susanne Carroll: Language and Situation: Language varieties and their social contexts. London: R.K.P. (Language and Society Series). £2.25.
A valuable introductory text, centred on an examination of the various aspects of register variation, relating it out to dialect, code (in Bernstein's sense) and the social theory of language explored in Halliday 1978.
- 1979 Sherry Rochester and J.R.Martin: Crazy Talk: a study of the discourse of Schizophrenic Speakers. London and New York: Plenum Press (Cognition and Language). Includes Jim Martin's detailed proposals for 'phoricity' (the 'informational' systems in the terms of Fawcett 1980). A string of unpublished papers from Jim, details of which it would be good to include in the next Newsletter, has continued to explore this topic.
- 1979 D.J.Allerton: Essentials of Grammatical Theory: a consensus view of Syntax and Morphology. London: R.K.P. A useful book which includes discussion of key points in grammar from the viewpoint of a number of contemporary theories. While T.G. still has a strong place, systemic concepts are everywhere apparent, and Allerton gives plenty of space to summarising and discussing the systemic approach. Allerton's own alternative view of rank strikes this reader at least as unacceptable. But it is good to see systemic concepts being given a fair crack of the whip. Compare Sampson 1980, who does so also.

RECENT ARTICLES

I shall not attempt a similar list of articles, though I would welcome suggestions for inclusion in a future Newsletter. But mention must be made of one outstandingly useful contribution:

- 1979: C.S.Butler: 'Recent Developments in Systemic Linguistics'. Survey article in Language Teaching and Linguistics Abstracts 12.1. The article briefly reviews the work of the late '50's and '60's (briefly since this is already covered in the editorial introduction to a useful recent collection of Halliday's writings up to about 1970: Gunther Kress/M.A.K.Halliday: Halliday: system and function in language, London: O.U.P.) The article is concerned principally with the development of Halliday's thinking in the '70's, and with recent proposals by others working in a systemic framework. A highly informed summary, sympathetic yet critical. Strongly recommended.

PLEASE SEND BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF RECENT ARTICLES THAT YOU THINK SHOULD BE SHARED WITH OTHER READERS.

RE-PUBLICATION OF PAPERS

Some Proposals for Systemic Syntax, by Robin P. Fawcett, first appeared in 1974-6 in three parts in MALS Journal (the journal of the Midlands Association for Linguistic Study) 1.2, 2.1, and 2.2. This work, which is intended as a model that can be used for the analysis of complex natural texts, is being reissued as a one-volume monograph, at a cost of £1.00 (post free). It incorporates brief footnotes on small changes made in the model since 1976. But it should be emphasised that there is no claim that it deals with ALL of the problems of naturally occurring text: the fuller, more explicitly semantic version, which pays specific attention to such problems, will be presented in A Grammar for Textual Analysis: proposals derived from a systemic model of language. (in preparation)

Please send cheques made payable to Robin P. Fawcett, Department of Behavioural and Communication Studies, Polytechnic of Wales, Treforest, Cardiff CF37 1DL.

PUBLICATIONS ON THE RELEVANCE OF SYSTEMIC LINGUISTICS TO LANGUAGE TEACHING

There is a growing awareness in second language teaching circles of the contribution that can come from systemic theory, in the framework of the new notional/functional/communicative approach to language teaching. Some books which reflect this are:

- 1976 D. A. Wilkins: Notional Syllabuses: a taxonomy and its relevance to Foreign Language curriculum development. London: O.U.P. The pioneer work.
- 1978 H.G. Widdowson: Teaching Language as Communication London: O.U.P. Draws particularly on Halliday and Hasan's Cohesion in English, 1978.
- 1978 John Munby: Communicative Syllabus design: a sociolinguistic model for defining the content of purpose-specific language programmes. London: Longman. Draws on the 'Language as social semiotic' aspects of Halliday and Hymes, principally, for the sociolinguistic variables to be provided for in an 'English for Special Purposes' approach. Very thorough, and widely used in British Council work. Only disappointment: very unspecific about the actual language to be taught - i.e. there is a gap where we might wish to place the 'core' grammar of system networks falling into functional components, together with their realisation statements.

Two valuable recent articles are:

- 1979 Michael F. McTear: 'Systemic-Functional Grammar: some implications for language teaching' in IRAL XVII/2. Shows clearly the relevance of linguistic concepts highlighted in systemic linguistics.
- 1980 Michael Canale and Merrill Swain: 'Theoretical Bases of Communication Approaches to Second Language Teaching and Testing', in Applied Linguistics 1.1. Refers extensively to the three books mentioned above, to the works of Halliday 1970-78 and to Halliday and Hasan 1976, and more briefly to Benson and Greaves' The Language People Really Use, 1973, and Fawcett's 'Language functions and language variation in a cognitive model of communication'. (It's nice to have a mention, but it's ironic that it's as an advocate of the view that 'grammatical form follows the communicative purpose' in a precise sense, since the whole purpose of the paper was to distinguish between the set of 'communicative purposes' of semiotic actions and the 'functional components' in a grammar of a language!)

DO YOU KNOW OF OTHER WORKS THAT WE SHOULD DESCRIBE?
WHAT ABOUT THE 'ENGLISH AS A MOTHER TONGUE' AREA?

NEWS OF FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Readings in Systemic Linguistics, edited by M.A.K. Halliday and J.R. Martin, is due out from Batsford later this year. It includes papers by a wide range of systemic linguists, illustrating clearly that while systemic linguistics owes a lot to Michael Halliday, other linguists too have contributed to the development of the theory - with special reference, in this book, to the question of making the model more explicit. There is very little overlap with Kress/Halliday 1976. More details of date of publication and contents in the next Newsletter.

A Short Introduction to Functional Grammar by M.A.K. Halliday, is due out from Edward Arnold at the end of 1981. This will be what the title says - and it should be a very useful introduction for undergraduates and others to Hallidayan linguistics. More details in the next Newsletter.

New Developments in Systemic Linguistics, edited by M.A.K. Halliday and Robin Fawcett, is in preparation. Seventeen systemic linguists are (or should be!) currently writing or revising papers for this volume, which will illustrate the range of current activity within the theory. Again, Batsford will be the publisher. More details in due course.

PAPERS AVAILABLE IN MIMEC FORM

We hope to publish lists in each Newsletter. To start us off, here are those available from two Nottingham systemic linguists:

PAPERS BY C. S. BUTLER

1. 'Some important aspects of the interpersonal function' (1976)

Criticises previous work on interpersonal networks; presents a re-interpretation of mood, modality, modulation; develops a partial 'contextual' or 'second level' network for directives. (N.B. This paper contains a lot that the author no longer subscribes to!)

2. 'Semantic predicate types in English: a daughter dependency approach' (1980).

Criticises Halliday's 'Semantic grammar' treatment of transitivity as doing justice neither to the semantic nor to the syntactic phenomena involved. Builds up a semantic network for predicate classification, using a daughter dependency type of model. Realisation rules link the semantic classes to semantic structures.

PAPERS BY MARGARET BERRY

1. 'A note on Sinclair and Coulthard's classes of acts including a comment on comments.' (1979)

This paper suggests that it is not clear exactly what Sinclair and Coulthard mean by the term class. An attempt is made to discover what they mean, by considering their 22 classes of act from the point of view of Halliday's discussion of class in 'Categories of the theory of grammar.' The paper ends with a more detailed discussion of just one of their classes of act: the comment.

2. 'Systemic linguistics and discourse analysis: a multi-layered approach to exchange structure.' (1979)

Halliday's simultaneous structures approach has proved very insightful from the point of view of the structure of the clause. An attempt is made in this paper to use the same approach to discuss the structure of the discourse unit which Sinclair and Coulthard call the exchange.

3. 'A note on Coulthard and Brazil's classes of moves'. (1980)

Coulthard and Brazil characterise the progression which they see in the exchange in terms of an opposition between major information and polarity information. The present paper shows that there are problems with this approach when it comes to accounting for the coherence of discourse. An alternative approach is developed, based on a suggestion by Stubbs that the progression in the form of moves in an exchange is a progression in ellipticity.

4. 'They're all out of step except our Johnny: a discussion of motivation (or the lack of it) in systemic linguistics.' (1980)

Complaints which I have received recently from colleagues and students (that systemic linguistics does not seem to be making much progress; that we never define our terms sufficiently precisely; that we are good at outlining metaphysical general theories but never get round to systematically investigating the detailed consequences of these theories in order to see how much support for them there really is) have led me to believe that there is something currently wrong with systemic linguistics. The present paper discusses ways in which we might improve our standards of argumentation and also suggests a possible research programme for systemic linguistics.

THERE ARE LOTS OF OTHER PEOPLE ACTIVELY WRITING:
PLEASE SEND IN YOUR OWN LIST.

VIEWS

LET US HAVE SQUIBS, YOUR VIEWS OF WHAT A WORKSHOP SHOULD BE LIKE, RESPONSES TO ARTICLES, ETC.

REVIEWS

PLEASE SEND REVIEWS OF RELEVANT BOOKS, OFFERS OF SUCH REVIEWS (WE MAY BE ABLE TO GET YOU A REVIEW COPY) AND SUGGESTIONS FOR PUBLISHED REVIEWS THAT WE CAN SEEK PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE HERE.

- ANY ANY OTHER IDEAS.

FINAL REMINDER

If you want to receive the next issue of the Newsletter, please send £1 to the Editor, to cover the first 4 issues.

NETWORK NO. 2 should be out in June, and it will include a booking form for the 1981 Workshop (which was described on Page 4 of this Newsletter).