

news,  
views

# NETWORK no. 4

and reviews in systemic linguistics and related areas

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## EDITORIAL

We welcome two new Assistant Editors: Prof. Lewis Mukattash of the University of Jordan and Dr. Erich Steiner of the University of Saarbrücken, in the Federal Republic of Germany, who is spending the current academic year at the Polytechnic of Wales.

The present issue of Network is packed with interesting contributions from readers, but perhaps the highlights are: (1) the reports on the tremendously successful Ninth International Systems Workshop at Toronto, (2) the first instalment of Michael Halliday's annotated bibliography of his works and (3) Paul Simpson's valuable review of Coulthard and Montgomery's Studies in discourse analysis. Among the recent publications special mention should be made of Halliday and Martin's Readings in Systemic Linguistics.

In the last issue I invited responses to the proposal to include in future Networks (1) short articles, (2) syllabuses, (3) mini-grammars, (4) bibliographies of topics such as (a) Second Language Teaching, (b) First Language Teaching, and (c) Literary Stylistics. To this list two readers have very reasonably suggested adding (d) Phonology and (e) Discourse Analysis. (And what of (f) Lexis, that still over-ignored area of language?) Of these, the topic most frequently mentioned by readers was, surprisingly, mini-grammars. Perhaps there is a need to see how the various types of systemic grammar are actually supposed to WORK, as language-in-process. So, please, ask yourself if you could contribute in one of these ways. And if the answer is 'Yes', or 'Perhaps', or even 'Yes, but...', please write in to say so.

From the next issue on we shall regularly include a short article (as we did in No. 2). Bill Mann and Chris Matthiessen, whose presentation at the Toronto Workshop of their computer model of a systemic grammar was such a feature of the occasion, will be contributing short articles on various aspects of their research, and it would be good to complement these by contributions on other aspects of systemic and other neo-Firthian linguistics (or neo-Saussurean, I am tempted to add: see the 'Forthcoming Publications' section).

But please send in any news, for any section, and any views and reviews too.

Editor

NEWS OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

TENTH INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMIC WORKSHOP

Tuesday 6th - Thursday 8th September, 1983

ANCASTER HALL, UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, ENGLAND

The theme of the conference will be the contribution that Systemic Linguistics can make to the analysis of texts, both spoken and written. We plan to circulate, via the next issue of Network, a set of about six short texts, and we hope that wherever possible givers of papers will make use of one or more of these texts for their illustrative material. As usual, about half the conference will be devoted to the conference's theme, while the other half will be more generally based.

Papers may be considered for one or more possible volumes to be published by Frances Pinter. These would be devoted to contributions from systemic linguistics to areas such as literary stylistics, child language, and other areas where systemic linguistics is showing that it is an 'applicable' linguistics.

Offers of papers as soon as possible to:

Margaret Berry,  
Department of English Studies

OR

Chris Butler,  
Department of Linguistics

University of Nottingham,  
Nottingham, NG7 2RD, England.

THE HATFIELD POLYTECHNIC CONFERENCE ON DISCOURSE STRUCTURE

Monday 11th - Wednesday 13th April, 1983

(IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR APPLIED LINGUISTICS)

The theme of the conference will be the analysis of short texts, spoken and written. Our aim will be to achieve a 'renewal of connection' between established methods of linguistic analysis and their applications both in foreign language teaching and the study of the mother tongue. We wish to maintain the momentum generated by the successful BAAL Seminar on 'Intonation and Discourse', held at the University of Aston in Birmingham in April 1982, by considering the grammatical and lexical signalling of the meaning of the sentence in context.

It is hoped to publish the proceedings of the conference. Those wishing to offer papers should submit abstracts of about 100 words as soon as possible.

Abstracts and all other enquiries should be addressed to:

Dr. Eugene Winter  
Conference Organiser

OR

Dr. James Monaghan  
Conference Secretary

The Hatfield (BAAL) Discourse Conference,  
Linguistics Group, The School of Humanities,  
Hatfield Polytechnic, Herts. AL10 9AB.

SUMMER INSTITUTE AND SYMPOSIUM IN DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

Monday 25th July - Saturday 20th August, 1983

THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

The Institute The Department of English and the Language and Culture Center, together with the College of Humanities and Fine Arts of the University of Houston, are happy to announce a special Summer Institute on Discourse Analysis to be held on the central campus of the University.

There will be courses in the syntax of written discourse, the rhetoric of written discourse, the structure of technical Englishes, discourse analysis and literature, linguistics and writing, and approaches to written discourse analysis.

The Symposium The University of Houston will also convene, in conjunction with the Summer Institute, an Invitational Symposium on Discourse Analysis. The Symposium will be open to interested scholars, by invitation. Papers will be invited from distinguished students of written and spoken discourse.

distinguished visiting faculty John McH. Sinclair, University of Birmingham; Henry G. Widdowson, University of London; M.A.K. Halliday, University of Sydney; and Robert B. Kaplan, University of Southern California.

Application forms, etc. from:

The Director,  
Language & Culture Center,  
Department of English,  
University of Houston Central Campus,  
Houston, Texas 77004.

#### NEWS AND VIEWS OF RECENT EVENTS

We give below four reactions to the NINTH INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMS WORKSHOP, held at York University, Toronto, Canada, 25th - 28th August, 1982. It was immensely successful, as you will read below, with about a hundred participants. We shall not print the programme here however, as the papers given corresponded fairly closely to the list included in Network No. 3.

##### REACTIONS OF A REGULAR ATTENDER (1)

As a seasoned fellow-traveller of the Systemics movement I was intrigued by the possibilities of how the workshop would withstand the transplantation to the other side of the Atlantic. Although the organisers, under the Tolkiensque collective title ALRWG, were all well-known to us, the massive list of contributors and the variegated set of titles caused me to wonder if the meeting would degenerate into a welter of crowds and mutual incomprehension.

I am happy to report that nothing of the sort occurred. The organisation was of North American efficiency and the atmosphere was as friendly and as co-operative as ever, and in spite of a very full menu from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, with papers running three abreast, there was still lots of time to follow up individual contributions afterwards.

I was impressed with the all-star cast which, while leading to a different style of approach to the old one-theme workshop, showed the breadth of appeal that functional linguistics has in the 1980's. It was of particular value for me to share thoughts with scholars whom I had only read before. The evening sessions with Halliday, Hasan, Lamb and Pike were most interesting.

My most abiding memories of the workshop will include the dramatic re-enactment of the Mann/Matthiesen programme Nigel, starring M.A.K. Halliday as the Grammar and R. Hasan as Knowledge of the World; Kenneth Pike unveiling his Rubik triangle; and bumping into people at Malton International Airport still hotly debating signals of text structure.

If all future workshops can be as open and hospitable as this one to colleagues moving in the same directions under different flags - and I have no reason to doubt that they will - then the Systemics movement will have a permanent place in the development of our science.

James Monaghan  
Hatfield Polytechnic

##### REACTIONS OF A REGULAR ATTENDER (2)

The Ninth International Systemic Workshop was as different from the previous eight as we'd expected. It was also, if anything, even more successful.

The Workshop was most obviously different by its size and by the preponderance of American accents. The presence of some one hundred linguists compared with a previous average of forty meant that one was constantly meeting new people with whom to engage in systemic discussion. This was really quite remarkable. In Britain, workshops have tended to consist of a sizeable 'hard-core', together with a number of 'occasionals' who usually attend for the purpose of discovering what systemic linguistics is about. Here in Toronto we were bombarded with people most of us had not even heard of and yet who were working with systemic theory in a variety of ways, although they were not always au fait with current developments. They tended to be very Hallidayan, in the way British systemicists were before the inception of the workshops. It was very useful to be able to discuss with so many linguists the practical problems associated with applying the theory, for outside of the relatively small

circle of systemicists in Britain, this is impossible; ignorance and academic hostility are often related.

The large numbers involved entailed a correspondingly varied array of papers. Besides the inevitable "core" papers on systemic theory, such as those of Gregory & Malcolm and Steiner, there were papers on a host of topics treated from a systemic point of view. Perhaps the two most popular themes, however, were those of discourse analysis and of artificial intelligence. The large amount of discussion devoted to these suggests that they are indeed the topics of most concern to systemicists. Yet the wide variety of papers on topics other than these confirms that they do not hold pride of place as of right, that the theory remains vigorous and that there are many problems within linguistics which may benefit from a systemic analysis. In this connexion, it was particularly refreshing to hear papers on systemic phonology (Catford, Mock) and on a systemic approach to EFL (Young). Papers on linguistic methodology (Martin, Calder) and on the 'social' 'end' of the theory (Lemke, and to some extent Berry) confirmed the continuing relevance of these topics. It was unusual, however, to hear so many papers concerned with applications of the theory. There was a distinct trend in these towards a consideration of the relation between spoken and written language, and the implications of this for language-learning and the teaching of reading and writing. Monaghan and Gilbert contributed in this area, and we were particularly fortunate in having the presence of Dick Walker (Australia), who has pioneered much relevant work in the field of education in relation to this.

In some respects, the Workshop was more like a linguistics conference than a workshop. Besides the large number of participants, there were some papers whose relation to systemic theory was tangential, in that their material could just as readily have been placed in another theoretical framework. But what was particularly interesting was that the linguists who gave these papers felt that they could come along to a specifically systemic workshop and give them. I for one found such papers both interesting and interpretable in systemic-functional terms (e.g. Colby, Simpson, Ross), which suggests that the theory is perhaps more powerful than is usually acknowledged.

No account would however be complete without mention of the high points. These, it seemed, were designed to be the three lectures given on the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings. On Wednesday we were treated to a discussion of the theoretical and historical origins of systemic grammar by Michael Halliday. Thursday evening saw Ruqaiya Hasan take one small section of this history and argue forcefully for a reappraisal of the work of Bronislaw Malinowski. Friday evening was a real event! Three founders of modern linguistic theories lectured on them. First, Kenneth Pike outlined the stages in the development of tagmemic grammar, and gave reasons for them. Then Sydney Lamb outlined his model of stratificational grammar and expounded on certain theoretical implications. Finally, Michael Halliday gave a short talk on how systemic grammar relates to these two, and then chaired a most interesting discussion with Pike and Lamb on similarities and differences in the explanatory scope of the respective theories.

My overall impression of the contribution of the Workshop to the progress of ideas is that it made a significant contribution to linguists' awareness that there are things in language which are outside the scope of Chomskyan theory and that these things are explicable in terms of other linguistic theories. There seemed to be an awareness of this amongst the American linguists present; what the Workshop did was to focus that awareness and make the alternatives clearer and - hopefully - more accessible. At the same time, it was demonstrated that systemic grammar can do many, if not all the things that Chomskyan grammar can do. This was an important and necessary part of the 'focussing' process.

The Workshop was justly entitled 'Current Applications of Systemic Theory', although current applications of other theories (notably tagmemic grammar) were also discussed. 'Current Applications', then, is a fitting description of the wide variety of papers given. This in turn reflects the large number of people present and, probably, the wide range of geographical provenance amongst them. But the major and repeated value of the Workshop for me was that by being there I was able to hear and discuss with so many systemic and non-Chomskyan linguists whom I would otherwise never meet. In this respect the Workshop truly achieved its aim. I learnt a lot and I confidently expect this to enrich the courses I teach on. For this both I and my employers must thank Bill Greaves and Jim Benson (Workshop Organizers), Robin Fawcett and the British Council, for without their support and foresight, it wouldn't have happened.

Barry Calder  
Doncaster Metropolitan Institute  
of Higher Education

## REACTIONS OF A NEWCOMER

As one who has made use of systemic notions regularly over the past ten years without formally joining the club, I found myself rather at home at the Toronto workshop. It was refreshing not only to hear about the classic systemics of the clause, but to learn that neo-Firthian phonology is alive and well on the one hand, and that people are analyzing and teaching text construction via networks on the other.

It was an open-minded gesture to invite representatives of the tagmemic and stratificational points of view to share their ideas. I saw little evidence that ideas were actually passing between any of the name brands, but at least each can now be a little more sure of good interpersonal relationships with his intellectual neighbors, so he can treat them rather like buffer states on his borders that help keep Them - the linguists who didn't come - from rooting up the gardens.

A certain amount of waffle is inevitable at a meeting of this sort. In contrast, Margaret Berry, Chris Butler, and Bill Mann stood out in my mind by the way they nailed down what they had to say with clear arguments. The kind of logical inevitability that pervades their work is what will carry systemic theory ahead.

The arrangements were cheerfully disorganized and we all muddled through once we found how to get to where the food was served. If the next workshop is any bigger it will require a conference manager. The program was overcrowded, which I suppose is a consequence of opening the doors to just anyone - me, for example. I would suggest more time to talk, eight invited papers in plenary sessions, and a limit of 20 submitted papers two at a time, chosen to encourage the growing edge to grow and scheduled in such a way as to minimize dilemmas about which to attend.

Joseph E. Grimes  
Cornell University and  
Summer Institute of Linguistics

## THE ORGANISERS' PERSPECTIVE

The organizing committee for the Toronto workshop was itself international, with Jim Benson, Mike Cummings, Bill Greaves, and Richard Handscombe from Glendon College, York University, Richard Bailey from the University of Michigan and Peter Fries from Central Michigan University. The organizers met on a number of occasions in Ann Arbor and Toronto over a two year period, and set clear goals in the early stages.

Our objectives were:

- (1) to preserve the 'elbow room' and informality of previous workshops;
- (2) to have strong representation from Australia, Britain, Canada, and the United States;
- (3) to have Michael Halliday and Ruqaiya Hasan as keynote speakers;
- (4) to encourage the active participation of interested non-systemic linguists;
- (5) to publish representative papers to make systemic linguistics better known in North America.

Although we did lose some of the workshop atmosphere, owing to concurrent sessions and size generally, we more than met our original objectives. We had a strong representation from our target countries. Michael Halliday and Ruqaiya Hasan, in different ways, set the tone. Our invited speakers, Sydney Lamb and Kenneth Pike, participated throughout the whole workshop, and there was genuine interaction between systemicists, tagmemicists, and stratificationalists. As a result of the workshop and the Ablex volume to appear in 1983, the profile of systemic linguistics is now higher in North America.

How did all this come about? Primarily by taking enough time and by planning carefully. The first obstacle that we faced was finding ways to fund travel for delegates from far away, and it was decided that such funding should be achieved from within each country. The organizers began by breaking this rule, however, and secured a grant of £1000 from the British Council's Ottawa office, as well as a grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for travel and subsistence for our keynote speakers. The British Council's early commitment to the project in 1980 (which would not have happened without Richard Handscombe's contact there) was crucial - it was the key to unlocking other sources of funding. The British Council certainly deserves special

recognition for initiating what was to become a crescendo of institutional support in the U.K.

The organizers also devoted considerable time to ensuring the best possible conference environment, and generating the funding from internal sources to pay for it. York University in its various institutional manifestations was extremely supportive, we are pleased to acknowledge.

Lead time was particularly important for establishing a date for the workshop, and for disseminating this information in the form of a call for papers (we were not helped in this by a lengthy Canadian postal strike in the summer of 1981). We certainly needed the time in order to test the reaction to our provisional program. The final program, with its shorter sessions and fewer concurrent sessions, was the result of feedback we received, primarily from Australia. The changes unquestionably made for a better workshop.

Conferences are not the be-all and end-all of existence, but they do have an important function in the development and communication of ideas. The requirements for successfully organizing them would seem to be those listed by Herman Melville for writing novels: 'Oh Time, Strength, Cash and Patience!'

Jim Benson and Bill Greaves

#### NINTH LACUS FORUM

Since I was to be in North America in any case for the Toronto Workshop, it seemed the moment to finally join LACUS - the Linguistics Association of Canada and the United States - and to attend their annual conference. And I'm mighty glad I did so.

It was a wonderful occasion - very like the systemic workshop in its open spirit, and its sense that we were there to give each other not only scholarly criticism but also support and encouragement in exploring our different approaches to understanding the nature of language. Here there were probably more tagmemic and stratificational linguists than systemicists, but there was nonetheless a general sense of continuity between the three theories - and between these and other linguists working outside the particular and rather arbitrary set of assumptions associated with neo-Chomskyan linguistics.

Indeed, if I were to suggest the main links between the three, it would be between systemic and stratificational linguistics for the similarities in their network approaches to modelling language and between systemic and tagmemic linguistics for what they have in common in their slot-and-filler and 'plurifunctional' approaches to the analysis of actual texts (see also Gotteri 1982, described in 'Recent Publications').

Systemic linguists were active in a number of ways. Michael Halliday was there in his capacity as Vice-President of LACUS, and he made a fine speech introducing this year's President, Charles Hockett, at the main dinner. Michael Gregory and Karen Malcolm each gave papers, and I found myself giving the 'Invited Talk' on the second evening (see Forthcoming Publications). And systemic linguists, together with stratificationalists Syd Lamb and Jim Copeland (who both came later to the systemic workshop) were among those who stayed up latest playing pool and other games.

I cannot recommend too strongly to any reader of Network who can get to Quebec City 7-11th August next year that you should do so : there will be stimulating papers and good company. And the President will be Michael Halliday.

Robin P. Fawcett  
The Polytechnic of Wales

#### RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

THE POLYTECHNIC OF WALES Postgraduates are welcome to pursue research in linguistics and related areas of study in the Department of Behaviour and Communication Studies. At present there are four postgraduates with linguistic interests, all working on projects in connection with the Child Language Projects directed by Dr. Robin Fawcett (which is described in the Research Projects section). Judith Young holds a Research Assistantship and is working on her Ph.D., which covers the implications of the computer storage and analysis of such a data base, as well as findings related to child language; Erich Steiner has a post-doctoral Research Fellowship, financed by the German government; and Anita van der Mije and Carla van Wissen are supporting themselves (helped by some part-time teaching) while completing dissertations as part of their degrees at the Free University of Amsterdam.

We should make it clear that there is no money available from the Polytechnic (except for the possibility of a little part-time teaching), but we would welcome enquiries from students with grants or who are otherwise self-supporting for the academic year 1983-4 and beyond. Holders of a DES State Studentship, for example, could register for an M.Phil. or Ph.D. It may also be worth investigating the possibility of registering for a part-time degree while living on national assistance.

The computer analyses of the Polytechnic of Wales Child Language corpus should be becoming available by then, so we would be particularly keen to welcome scholars, at whatever level of seniority, who would like to work with us on this project at this important time. Other areas of staff interest are: all aspects of systemic functional grammar, including various applications and the development of a computer parsing program, and discourse analysis. The main supervising staff are Robin Fawcett and Martin Montgomery.

Enquiries should be addressed to either of these, at the editorial address.

Other departments with particular interest in systemic and Firthian linguistics who would welcome postgraduates are invited to send in particulars.

#### NEWS OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The most important book in systemic theory in 1981 was without doubt:

Halliday, M.A.K. and Martin, J.R. (Eds.): Readings in systemic linguistics pp. 361. London: Batsford. 1981. Hardback £17.50; paperback £8.75 approx.

This book is expensive, but it contains the material of two books and it will surely become an essential part of every systemic linguist's library, as well as regularly being required reading for anyone genuinely trying to come to grips with systemic theory. It traces the way that current generative models have come into being, and in doing so explains why many of their characteristics are as they are. It also contains a short but important general introduction by Michael Halliday; six extremely valuable section introductions by Jim Martin which put the papers in context and bring out clearly what each has contributed to the theory as a whole; a valuable glossary; and a very full bibliography and index.

What attracts you to systemic theory? Is it its sociolinguistic strength, with its categories of dialect and register, and the hope of further developments in the idea of a socio-semantics? Or is it the servicable syntactic categories that it offers for clause and group analysis? Or the idea that system networks model choices between meanings? It seems possible that there are a good number of people who are attracted to the theory for one or more of these and perhaps other reasons, but that many still have no very clear idea of precisely what the connection is between system networks and tree diagram representations of Subject, Predicator, Complement and Adjunct. This book brings out the importance of making this crucial connection quite explicitly, especially in the papers in Parts IV and V.

Readers should be warned that some parts of the book involve technical discussion at a level and of a type that is very different from, say, most of Halliday's Language as Social Semiotic. But some technical discussion is an inevitable aspect of any adequate theory of a phenomenon as complex as language, and most readers of Network will not find Readings beyond them.

We hope to include a full-length review in a future issue of Network, and we would be glad of offers to review it. (See also the 'Reviews' section.)

There now follows a brief description of a second important book, which is already becoming a standard undergraduate textbook on courses in Stylistics. Much of it is relevant to ANY practical study of texts, and not just works of literature.

Geoffrey N. Leech and Michael H. Short: Style in fiction: a linguistic introduction to English fictional prose. pp xiii + 402. London: Longman. 1981. Paperback £6.95.

This excellent textbook is by no means explicitly systemic throughout, and it introduces, for example, notions such as Grice's maxims when it is useful to do so. But the very fact that Chapter 1 is entitled 'Style and Choice' suggests from the start the almost complete



compatibility of the approach taken with systemic linguistics, and in the section 'Pluralism: analysing style in terms of functions' the authors suggest (pp. 82-3) not only that in their view the 'pluralist' approach is more insightful than the 'dual' approach (e.g. of Ohmann's TG-related model), but that the pluralist approach of Halliday is preferable to that of I.A. Richards and Roman Jakobson - one reason being that 'its application to language...has been worked out in considerable detail' (p.31). Typical lines are the approving summarising statement that 'Halliday's view is that all linguistic choices are meaningful and all linguistic choices are stylistic' (p.33). References to Halliday's seminal 1973 'Inheritors' paper and the approach to stylistics developed in it appear at many points in the book.

The level of linguistic technicality is not too loftily theoretical, and one might complain that not enough of the 'considerable detail' praised in Halliday's approach gets related to the grammar used by Leech and Short in their analysis. The terminology is, by and large, that of Quirk, Greenbaum, Leech and Svartvik's Grammar of contemporary English (Longman, 1972), and specifically (p.74) Quirk and Greenbaum's derived University grammar of English. The descriptive terms, then, like the overall approach that has been taken, are very largely compatible with systemic theory, sharing as it does the same Firthian roots.

But this approach is open to the criticism that it leaves a lot of work to be done by the reader in relating the categories used to the plurifunctional model advocated earlier. After all, such forms are simply the realisation of choices in networks of meanings clustered into various functional components of the grammar, but this important link gets somewhat neglected in the piling up of statistics on the frequencies of linguistic categories such as nouns, adjectives and verbs (Chapter 3: A method of analysis and some examples'). Perhaps this is inevitable: we still lack a reasonably holistic systemic grammar that could be drawn upon by students seeking to apply the principles of systemic functional grammar in such fields of application.

However, in Chapter 4 'pluralism' is redefined in more detailed terms, and the explicitly systemic model comes back into view. Leech and Short emphasise both the plurality of LEVELS (semantic, syntactic, graphological) and the plurality of FUNCTIONS (ideational, interpersonal and textual, though not in Halliday's precise interpretation of these terms (p.137)), and later chapters take these ideas further. In short (no pun intended!) this is a first-rate practical stylistics textbook which my colleague Martin Montgomery and I - like many others no doubt - have already used successfully with students.

From the systemic viewpoint it is satisfying to find that there is not a transformation in sight (except in the early pages to explain why the plurifunctionalist approach is to be preferred), and the expression 'deep structure' does not even appear in the index. Neither, however, do the terms 'system' or 'systemic'; one can only guess at the reason, which I suspect is that the authors felt that to openly associate the book with one school of linguistics would be to risk losing many of the readers that they hoped to serve. Yet the linguistics in this practical book is informed by systemic theory throughout, and the book can itself be taken as a notable contribution to the theory's application. It is a sad commentary on the politics of linguistics today that authors may feel that they risk losing readers by relating their work explicitly to a school that is not providing the dominant paradigm. Perhaps this fact is, in its way, a measure of the precariousness of the neo-Chomskyan paradigm: at all events, that approach has contributed little or nothing to this excellent book, which may in turn bring more readers to appreciate the insightfulness of systemic theory.

We shall include a full length review in a future issue of Network. R.P.F.

R. M. Coulthard and M. M. Montgomery (Eds.): Studies in discourse analysis, pp.ix + A 98, London: RKP, 1981. Paperback £5.95.

This important book reports the developments of, and arguments relating to, the Scale and Category based model of discourse presented in Sinclair and Coulthard's seminal Towards an analysis of discourse (O.U.P.: 1975). There is a full length review of this important work in the 'Reviews' section of this issue of Network. You may be interested to know that Margaret Berry's paper 'Towards layers of exchange structure for directive exchanges', which appeared in Network No. 2, complements her paper in this volume.



Robin P. Fawcett and Michael R. Perkins: Child Language Transcripts 6-12: Volume 1: 6 year olds (xiv + 261 pp.); Volume 2: 8 year olds (xiv + 274 pp.); Volume 3: 10 year olds, (xiv + 308 pp.); Volume 4: 12 year olds (xiv + 317 pp.) Cardiff : Polytechnic of Wales. 1980. 4 Vols. £15.

The publication of these transcripts marks the completion of Phase 1 of the Polytechnic of Wales project on the language development of children aged 6 to 12 (a report of which is given in the section entitled 'News of Research' in this issue). These four volumes, totalling 1160 pages, contribute a corpus that is probably unique for this age group in combining a control of the main social, individual and situational variables with a very large oral corpus. An additional feature is that intonation is marked, using a broad phonetic notation. There is thus nothing explicitly systemic or Firthian about these volumes, except that the preface, which is repeated in each volume, describes the type of syntactico-semantic analysis being done for Phase 2. Stocks of the transcripts are now starting to run low, so if you or your institution want a set, you are advised to order soon, as described in the section on 'News of Research'.

(A review of these four volumes appears in the current issue of the Journal of Child Language.)

G. Nixon: Aspects of English Structure. pp. 59. Dept. of English Language, University of Sheffield. Part 1, 3rd ed. 1980.

This booklet is designed to accompany the first year course in English Language at the University of Sheffield, but it can be read in its own right. It can be ordered from the author at the above address, from whom details of the price can also be obtained.

Belfast working papers in Language and Linguistics: Volume 5: special edition on discourse analysis

Contents:

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| M. Stubbs  | 'Discourse, semantics and syntax: some notes on their relationship'       |
| M. McTear  | 'Towards a model for the linguistic analysis of conversation'             |
| J. Wilson  | 'Come on now, answer the question: an analysis of constraints on answers' |
| K. Jamison | 'An analysis of overlapping in children's speech'                         |

Volumes 3 and 4 are available at £2.00 each; two recent publications including material from Volumes 1 and 2 are:

Lesley Milroy: Language and Social Networks (Blackwell 1980)

James Milroy: Regional Accents of English: Belfast (Blackstaff 1981)

To order copies of Belfast Working Papers, please write, enclosing a cheque made payable to Ulster Polytechnic to: Dr. M. McTear, School of Communication Studies, Ulster Polytechnic, Newtownabbey BT37 0QB, N. Ireland.

In addition, we are particularly pleased to give publicity to the following book. We hope increasingly to be able to bring to readers' attention works on topics of interest to systemic and other Firthian linguists, published in languages other than English.

Lutz, Luise: Zum Thema "Thema" : Einführung in die Thema-Rhema-Theorie ('On the theme of "theme" : introduction to theme-rheme theory' : in German). Hamburg: Hamburger Buchagentur. Price: DM 38.00. Order from Hamburger Buchagentur, D-2000, Hamburg 60, Postfach 605 448. W. Germany.

Also now available:

Martin J.R. & Rothery, J., Writing project reports No. 2, (Working Papers in Linguistics No. 2), 1981, Sydney : University of Sydney.

This work includes a useful approach to the syntagmatic structure of children's written discourse, which has since been applied successfully to the analysis of the genres of nursery rhymes and children's playground rhymes by one of my students. (RPF)

Requests to be sent to the authors at: Department of Linguistics, University of Sydney, Sydney, N.S.W. 2006, Australia.

Another recent publication by a systemic linguist is:

Kress, Gunther, Learning to write 224 pp., London: RKP. 1982. Cloth £10.95, paper £5.

In learning to write children face the twin tasks of learning a new, distinctly different form of their language, and of producing language in isolation. Gunther Kress looks at how children learn to write from the ages of 7 to 13, concentrating on language, social setting and cognition rather than on the aesthetics of writing. He questions the concept of 'error' and suggests that it is more appropriate to consider the purposes and needs which the majority of writers will have in their adult lives, and how these may best be met.

Martin, J.R., 1980. 'How many speech acts?' in UEA papers in Linguistics 14-15.

An analysis of SPEECH FUNCTION in English is presented with a network developed generating 17 basic speech acts. Consideration is given to extending the network in delicacy and in situational specificity given particular descriptive goals.

C.D. Jeffery brings to our attention the following recent publication:

Claude Germain The Concept of Situation in Linguistics transl. from French by B.J. Wallace (Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press 1979). This is actually his 1970 thesis, and hasn't been updated, but it's still a useful survey; and pays serious attention to Firthian ideas, though rejecting them in favour of the ideas of his supervisor, a man called Georges Mounin. ISBN 2-7603-4533-5.

J. Maw and J. Kelly, Intonation in Swahili, pp. 143

School of Oriental and African Studies, London WC1E 7HP, 1980?, price £3.50 in U.K.

Intonation in Swahili will be of interest to phoneticians, general linguists and Africanists, as well as to students of Swahili. This is the first book exclusively devoted to the intonation of an African language. It describes both the intonation patterns of a standard variety of Swahili and also the way the intonation interacts with the grammar to convey the total meaning of an utterance. The grammatical analysis used is that described by Dr. Maw in Sentences in Swahili, (1969), and derives from the early work of M.A.K. Halliday, as does the approach to intonation.

BILL MANN and CHRIS MATTHIESSEN. The presentation of their systemically based text-generating computer program at the Ninth International Workshop aroused a great deal of interest. A number of their most relevant published papers relating to this project are listed below. But the authors are also willing to supply copies directly, and it will therefore be more helpful to list them under 'Papers available in mimeo form'.

W.C. Mann, 1981a 'Two discourse generators' in The Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics, Sperry Univac.

W.C. Mann et al. 1981b 'The state of the art of text generation' and 'A bibliography on text generation', in American Journal of Computational Linguistics.

C.M.I.M. Matthiessen, 1981 'A grammar and a lexicon for a text-production system' in The Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics, Sperry Univac.

Gotteri, Nigel, 1982. 'Towards a comparison of systemic linguistics and tagmemics : an interim report and bibliography'. In MALS Journal (New Series) 7: pp. 31-42, of which pp. 36-42 are a bibliography. This article offers interesting general observations about the two theories; it is an aperitif for the fuller article that is promised as a successor.

PAPERS AVAILABLE IN Mimeo FORM

ANDREW PHILP's paper 'Dialect, register and code - and the the teacher of English' was announced in an earlier Network. We now have a price: 80p (please add the cost of exchange if outside the U.K.)

Address (different from before since the amalgamation of two colleges):

Department of English, St. Andrews College of Education, Bearsden, Glasgow.

PAPERS BY BILL MANN AND CHRIS MATTHIESSEN



**Two Discourse Generators**  
**A Grammar and a Lexicon for a Text-Production System**  
 ISI/RR-82-102  
 September 1982  
 approx. 30 pages

William C. Mann  
 Christian Matthiessen

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**Two Discourse Generators:** Because discourse generation is a relatively new branch of Artificial Intelligence, only a few incomplete discourse generators have been developed. A study of those efforts reveals the nature of the task, what makes it difficult, and how the complexities of discourse generation can be controlled. This report compares two recent discourse generation systems: PROTEUS, by Anthony Davey at the University of Edinburgh, and KDS, by Mann and Moore at USC/Information Sciences Institute. Viewing the systems separately, the author identifies particular techniques in each system that contribute strongly to the quality of the resulting text. A comparison of the two systems follows, with a discussion of their common failings and the possibility of creating a new system that combines the strengths of both PROTEUS and KDS.

**A Grammar and a Lexicon for a Text-Production System:** In a text-production system high and special demands are placed on the grammar and the lexicon. This report views these components in such a system. First, the subcomponents dealing with semantic and syntactic information are presented separately. The problems of relating these two types of information are then identified. Finally, strategies designed to meet the problems are proposed and discussed. One of the issues illustrated is what happens when a systemic linguistic approach is combined with a KL-ONE-like knowledge representation--a novel and hitherto unexplored combination.

**The Anatomy of a Systemic Choice**  
 ISI/RR-82-104  
 September 1982  
 approx. 30 pages

William C. Mann

Choice is a primary organizing concept in systemic linguistics. Choices may be viewed either as actions which the speaker performs, or, more commonly, as classifications of the potential available to the speaker. This report develops the view of choices as actions by the speaker, and outlines a set of extensions to the systemic framework which make it possible to formalize the notion of generating text according to a given intention to communicate. These extensions are (1) Identification of the boundary of the grammar (expressive powers lie within the boundary, and intentions to communicate lie outside); (2) Representing choice as a procedure (called a "choice expert") associated with each system of choices; (3) Extending the notion of a grammatical function so that it bears explicit relations to the given intentions to communicate; (4) Creating informal and formal representations of the methods by which the choice experts can explore the given intention. Each choice expert conducts an independent formalizable dialogue with the environment until it knows what choice to make.

To illustrate how choice experts can be defined and used, we explore the choice of Singular vs. Plural in a particular systemic grammar, NIGEL, part of the PENMAN text generation system. This is apparently a simple choice, but it has complexities not suggested by the labels Singular and Plural. The principal effects of this development on the systemic framework are (1) The meaning of the feature names is made explicit; (2) The relationships between grammatical functions and the purposes which they serve are made explicit; (3) The ways in which the choice experts interact with the environment becomes a model of the semantic range which the framework can manipulate; (4) Arguments for preferring particular forms of the grammar over others can be made from the demands which arise in choosing.

**The Syntactic Coverage of a Text-Production Grammar**  
 ISI/RR-82-105  
 September 1982  
 approx. 25 pages

Christian Matthiessen

This report addresses the syntactic coverage of a good grammar for a text-production system. That is, the question is what goes into the grammar, what parts of language are to be encoded, and not what the nature of the formalism this material is encoded in is. The research to date on programming computers to produce text has yielded very little knowledge about what characteristics a grammar of a text-production system ought to have to be highly useful, both in particular text-production systems and as a product that is portable from one system to another. Areas where we might expect to find insights, for example, theoretical linguistics of the Chomskyan type (where the evaluation of grammars has been given a prominent place in the framework) do not offer any help. Consequently, we have to accumulate a new body of knowledge about the demands we should put on a text-production grammar in the hope of making it a good one. This report is an attempt to take a step in this direction.

**Generating Text: The Grammar's Demands**  
 ISI/RR-82-106  
 September 1982  
 approx. 25 pages

William C. Mann

Programming a computer to function to a significant degree as an author is a challenging research task. The creation of fluent multiparagraph text is a complex process because knowledge must be organized into linguistic forms at several levels of organization, including paragraphs, sentences and words. One of the key design problems is to identify the kinds of information that can be represented syntactically. A text-generating program contains a grammar of the reader's language and provisions for directing that grammar to represent the syntactically representable portions of the knowledge underlying the text, for the particular sentences to be generated. This paper contributes to the design of such programs by surveying the demands for information made by a particular programmed grammar of English. The resulting description has three dimensions: the varieties of operations on information, varieties of information operated upon, and the subject matter of the operations. These demands involve both traditional and nontraditional linguistic abstractions, spanning the knowledge to be represented and the plans required for presenting it.

DICK HUDSON writes (September 1981):

'Recently I've been working on a book-length grammar of English, using the new theory, which I'm now calling WORD GRAMMAR. The results so far are encouraging - I've managed to produce 'rules' covering semantics and syntax for quite a wide range of constructions. I don't expect it to be ready for publication till the end of next year, but I may get some parts of it written up beforehand in the form of distributable papers.'

(Four substantial chapters of this have recently arrived on my desk, so clearly this project is well on its way! RPF )

Readers will recall Dick's 'Daughter Dependency Theory; presented in Arguments for a non-transformational grammar (Chicago U.P. 1976). This was a type of syntactically oriented systemic grammar, incorporating 'sister-dependency' of the European dependency (or 'valency' grammar tradition - hence the 'dependency' in its name, and it has attracted a number of significant adherents, including the former transformationalist Paul Schachter of the University of California, Los Angeles, and Joe Taglicht of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Then, in the late 1970's, in a short series of 'Daughter Dependency Grammar Working Papers', Dick developed this approach yet again in a way which emphasised the word and its associated structures rather than (some might say 'at the expense of') the generalisable syntactic structures. This he termed 'Pan-lexicalism', and he has since re-named it 'Word grammar'. (See Appendix B, on 'Systemic grammar and lexicalism' of Fawcett 1980 for a brief discussion of this type of approach to language.) Thus, over the last decade and a half Dick Hudson appears to have been moving further and further away from a model of language centred on meaning as choice and, as he himself says, he has in effect stopped being a systemic linguist. Nonetheless his work is always interesting, and Dick invites any reader of Network who thinks they might be interested in his recent and possible future working papers to write to him, asking to be put on his mailing list.

Address: Department of Phonetics and Linguistics, University College, London,  
Gower Street, London, WC1E 6BT.

#### PAPERS BY J. R. MARTIN

##### 1980a 'Participant identification in English, Tagalog, and Kate'

A contrastive discourse analysis of participant identification systems (systems for getting people, places, and things into a text and referring to them once there) in three languages which identify participants at different ranks: English which employs a group rank system; Tagalog which employs a clause rank system interacting with THEME; and Kate which uses a clause complex system interacting with CONJUNCTION.

##### 1980b 'Schizophrenia, language and reality'

In this paper the schizophrenia research reported in Rochester & Martin is reappraised from a sociosemantic perspective. A linguistic interpretation is given of the way in which language constructs social reality and how this breaks down in schizophrenia.

##### 1981 'Register and metafunction'

In this paper criteria for recognising metafunctional components in systemic grammar are reviewed. It is pointed out that none of the criteria proposed are either necessary or sufficient given current practice and it is suggested that only by relating the concept of metafunction to register analysis can a satisfactory categorisation be worked out.

Other papers are to appear elsewhere. 'The meaning of features in systemic linguistics' will be in Halliday and Fawcett (see Forthcoming Publications section). Other papers concerning 'Conjunction and conventional structure', 'Reference as semantic choice', 'Three kinds of phoricity in English text' and 'Lexical cohesion' are being re-written for incorporation in a book to be published by Frances Pinter.

Address: Department of Linguistics, University of Sydney,  
Sydney, N.S.W. 2006, Australia.

#### PAPERS BY ERICH STEINER

1982a, 'Working with TRANSITIVITY-system networks in semantic-grammatical descriptions'.

1982b, 'Analytical verb constructions in English'.

Address:

Department of Behavioural and Communication Studies,  
The Polytechnic of Wales,  
Treforest,  
Cardiff, CF37 1DL,  
Great Britain.

#### NEWS OF FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

M.A.K. Halliday and R.P. Fawcett (Eds.) New developments in systemic linguistics. London : Batsford. The papers are now almost all in and the editors are preparing the volume for the publisher.

J. Benson and W.S. Greaves (Eds.) are currently working on one - and possibly two - volumes from the Toronto Workshop, to be published by Ablex.

J. Morreall (Ed.) is now putting together the volume to be entitled The Ninth LACUS Forum, to be published by Hornbeam Press (Columbia, U.S.A.). It will include papers by Michael Gregory and Karen Gregory on 'communication linguistics' and Robin Fawcett's Invited Lecture 'Language as a semeological system : a re-interpretation of Saussure', in which it is argued that of the current models of language, the one that most closely fits the conceptual framework developed by Saussure is systemic grammar.

## Linguistics and Psychology

### OPEN LINGUISTICS SERIES

Edited by Robin P. Fawcett of the Polytechnic of Wales. This new series is 'open' in two senses. First, it provides an open forum for works associated with any school of linguistics, or none. Second, it encourages works that open out linguistic theory in various ways. The only criteria are originality, interest, interdisciplinary relevance and academic excellence. The first two books are:

#### ◆ SEMIOTICS OF CULTURE AND LANGUAGE

Edited by Robin P. Fawcett, Polytechnic of Wales,  
M. A. K. Halliday, University of Sydney,  
S. M. Lamb, Rice University, Houston, and  
A. Makkai, University of Chicago

This collection of original papers presents a series of explorations of the relationship between language and culture which together provide a number of new perspectives on semiotics, as traditionally defined. The contributors' disciplinary bases are principally in linguistics, but they have been concerned to break down the barriers between linguistics and neighbouring disciplines.

October 1983                      220 pages  
hardback only                      0 86187 295 9                      £12.50

#### ◆ MODAL EXPRESSIONS IN ENGLISH

Michael R. Perkins, Leeds Polytechnic

Modality is an important area of semantics. Most studies, however, concentrate almost exclusively on the modal verbs and this work, which is both theoretical and descriptive, is the first to cover the entire range of modal expressions in English. It will be of interest to linguists, philosophers, psychologists and all other 'consumers' of linguistics.

October 1983                      190 pages  
hardback only                      0 86187 298 3                      £9.50

Future contributors to the series include Kenneth and Evelyn Pike on *Text and Tagmeme*, and Michael Gregory on *Communicative Linguistics*. There will also be works by J. R. Martin, Gunther Kress and Sandra Harris. In addition, the series will include further contributions from M. A. K. Halliday and Adam Makkai.

Frances Pinter (Publishers) Ltd  
5 Dryden Street, London WC2E 9NW  
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Telex 299533 · Telecopier 01 240 5600

## YOU AND YOUR ENGLISH I ü Br/Am

The kinds of English you use  
James Benson and William Greaves

Based on copiously illustrated authentic texts this course leads the learner to experiment actively with language use in a way that will develop a healthy respect for the complexity and creativity of language in everyday use. It provides a meaningful framework for editing, punctuation and generally shaping language to actual needs.

The materials are derived from a two-year project in secondary schools, funded by the Government of Ontario, Canada. They comprise three distinct parts:

**Styles are Changeable:** the authors focus on factors over which the language user has control by being able to switch from style to style as he/she wishes.

**Dialects are Stable:** the authors examine factors - time, place, individuality - over which the user does not have such control, thus making the student more aware of the constraints that operate on all of us.

**Meaning is Choice:** the theme is meaning - in more conventional terms "grammar" - in relation to the real world, to interaction with other speakers and to the way in which disconnected sentences form continuous discourse.

This book is uniquely in tune with current thinking and breaks new ground in the design and writing of textbooks. An audio cassette accompanies the book and is especially relevant to the discussion of varieties of spoken English.

The authors teach at York University, Ontario, Canada.

0 08 028630 5 f\* Autumn 1982 £5.75  
Cassette Kit (Book + 1xC60 Cassette)  
0 08 029424 3 a Autumn 1982 £11.75

## THE LANGUAGE OF LITERATURE

A stylistic introduction to the study of literature  
Michael Cummings and Robert Simmons  
with an introduction by Michael Halliday

The book is intended primarily as a main text in stylistics and literary criticism for literature students with little previous background in linguistics.

Language is described as a total system. The application of this system to literary criticism is simultaneously practised in a wide range of texts, thus constituting the ideal bridge between literary criticism and linguistics. The need for such a book has been under discussion for some time; this is the first successful attempt to achieve such an ambitious and worthwhile goal.

The field of advanced English as a second or foreign language, the introductory linguistics course and survey of literature courses all provide additional uses for the book, which have been tested in practice.

This original work, although it might appear to be intrinsically demanding, is written in an easily readable style and illustrated with diagrams and photographs.

The authors teach at York University, Ontario, Canada.

0 08 028629 1 f\* Autumn 1982 £6.50

1982

PERGAMON INSTITUTE OF ENGLISH

Headington Hill Hall  
Oxford OX3 0BW  
England  
Tel: (0865) 64881

Steiner, Erich, 1983. Die Entwicklung des Britischen Kontextualismus. Heidelberg: Julius Groos. (N.B. Firthian linguistics is referred to in German as 'British contextualism') This book contains a full scale history of the development of 'Firthian and systemic linguistics', giving due weight to the contribution of the earlier tradition (Wegener, Gardiner, Malinowski, Firth) and following the development of Halliday's thinking up to the late seventies.

The book contains also a survey of the proceedings and results of the former 'Schools Council Programme in linguistics and English teaching', as well as an English-German glossary of technical terms of Firthian and Systemic Linguistics.

#### PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

PAUL CHILTON, who has published articles on 'Nukespeak' in Sanity (the journal of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament) and elsewhere, would like to hear from authors interested in contributing to a book centring round this topic. The goal would be to cover the register (and dialect?) variations in all of the various situation-types in which the topic of nuclear weapons is discussed: e.g. insider talk in parliamentary debates, between military specialists and between their academic advisers; the language of the administration to ordinary people (the British government pamphlet Protect and Survive); newspapers of varying ideological persuasions; attempts to talk 'straight' by neutral organisations such as the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute; the insider language of the CND movement and its academic advisers, and to the public; etc.

The book would either take the form of a jointly authored book, if one or more contributors would like to contribute on that basis, or a book of related papers by many authors. What is intended, however, is something that is not simply a collection of papers, and intending contributors should be prepared to tailor their contributions to the needs of the book as a whole. The expectation is that the linguistic theory which best lends itself to this task is systemic functional grammar, together with its extensions in discourse analysis and register studies, but offers of papers drawing on other traditions will also be welcome.

The book would be offered to the Frances Pinter 'Open Linguistics' Series.

Please write to: Dr. Paul Chilton, Dept. of French Studies, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 6AL.

NOTTINGHAM LINGUISTIC CIRCULAR The Editors of Nottingham Linguistic Circular have asked me to guest edit the June 1984 volume, which is to be a Special Issue on Systemic Linguistics. I should like to make the volume as representative of Systemic Linguistics as possible and I invite readers of Network to submit articles for consideration. First drafts of the articles would need to be in my hands by October 31st, 1983. The style sheet for NLC is included in every issue, and copies may also be obtained from the Editors or myself:

Margaret Berry, Department of English Studies, The University, Nottingham, NG7 2RD., England.

CALL FOR PAPERS : DAVID BIRCH is editing a special issue of Indian Journal of Applied Linguistics on STYLISTICS, and he would welcome papers by October 1982. Although it is a little past this deadline, we thought it would be still worthwhile including this item.

Address : Dr. David Birch, Dept. of English Language and Literature, National University of Singapore, Kent Ridge, Singapore 0511.

THE FRANCES PINTER OPEN LINGUISTIC SERIES The Editor of the series invites offers of books; see the brief description of the goals of the series in the 'Forthcoming Publications' section, and the fuller description in Network No. 3.

NETWORK. Please remember that Network, although primarily a news-and reviews-letter, also welcomes offers of short articles.



NEWS OF READERS' ACTIVITIES

BARRY CALDER You will be sorry to hear that Barry has had a very bad motor-cycle accident. He is in hospital and is likely to be there for some time. Many readers will remember Barry as one of the most consistent of attenders at the annual systemic workshops, taking a particular interest in transitivity and theme. If you would like to write to him, his address is : Ward 1 South, Lodge Manor Hospital, Redmires Road, Sheffield, S10 4LH.

FRANCES AUSTIN writes (with interesting news of a change of course model from TG to systemic) :

'I don't carry out any research on systemic grammar, although I use it, particularly in the area of stylistic analysis of literary texts. We are (with some gentle persuasion on my part) changing from generative to systemic grammar on two of our language courses next session. The nature of these particular courses seems to make it a more useful model, and by the same token, the work done will be essentially at a practical level and non-theoretical. Both courses are introductory language courses and for various other reasons need to be very practical in their content.'

Address : Dept. of English Language, The University, Liverpool L69 3BX

MARY ANN EILER, who last year took up an appointment with the Department of Rhetoric in Oakland University, Michigan, writes with a salutary warning to those currently seeking a post involving linguistics teaching :

'It turned out to be a first class disaster - job was terribly misrepresented (rhetoric became remedial comp - so much so that the materials I had developed for the high school level proved too difficult). In short, it is a long bloody tale that led to my free will resignation in the fall and my return to Chicago.

Since then, I have not been able to find a full time teaching or academic position. At present I am affiliated part time with the College of DuPage (a community college outside the city) and full time with the American Medical Association, where I am doing a good bit of technical writing and at present the preparation of a major publication of demographic statistics, etc. I am not in my field but I do need to eat.'

Dr. Eiler, who has extensive experience with curriculum design and who is a member of an NCTE committee on this subject, will be reviewing books in which systemic ideas are used in education.

Address : 2836, North Parkside, Chicago, IL 60634, U.S.A.

DAVID BIRCH writes:

'I'm busy doing a survey of literary and linguistic computing in S. E. Asia', and he will be reviewing two books that relate systemic linguistics to computing in a future Network.

Address: Dept. of English Language and Literature, National University of Singapore, Kent Ridge, Singapore 0511.

ROBIN FAWCETT gave the 'Invited Lecture' at the Ninth LACUS Forum of the Linguistics Association of Canada and the United States, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, August 2 - 6 1982. His subject was 'Language as a semeological system : a re-interpretation of Saussure'. (See also 'Forthcoming Publications'.)

MICHAEL HALLIDAY has been elected President of the Linguistics Association of Canada and the United States, in succession to Charles A. Hockett, for the year 1982-3.

RUQAIYA HASAN writes :

'I visited Italy for a fortnight in May 1981, having been invited by the

Societa Linguistica Italiana for its XVth Int Congress, which was held this year in Genova, on the general theme of 'Textlinguistics'. I presented a paper on The Structure of the Nursery Tale : an essay in text typology, which will eventually appear in the proceedings of the Congress. Apart from this I also gave a talk at the English Section of Foreign Modern Languages and Literature at the University of Genova, on Where does the analysis of one poem lead? - from practice to theory. I visited three other centres outside Genova, with activities as follows:

i. Bologna University, Centro Interfacolta di Linguistica Teorica e Applicata.

A two-session workshop on context, register and text.

ii. Torino University joint lecture for the Faculty of Literature and Political Science.

Topic : Context of situation fifty years after Malinowski.

iii. Pavia University, Institute of the history of Italian Language.

- (i) Coherence and cohesive harmony,
- (ii) The role of context in text structure.

The visit was thoroughly enjoyable and stimulating. I found much interest in text-linguistics; in particular, the various researchers making use of Cohesion in English and the interest in my later work in text structure could perhaps be taken as a sign that functional explanations are now possibly regarded as more widely useful than they were.'

ANITA VAN DER MIJE and CARLA VAN WISSEN, both of the Free University of Amsterdam, are working with ROBIN FAWCETT and JUDITH YOUNG on the Polytechnic of Wales Child Language Project for the year 1982-83. They are making a discourse analysis study of the children's interaction, using an approach developed from the work of (1) Wells, Montgomery and MacLure (1979) and (2) the work of Dick Walker at Mount Gravatt, in Queensland, Australia.

ERICH STEINER, of the University of Saarbrücken, has taken up a postdoctoral Research Fellowship at the Polytechnic of Wales for the academic year 1982-83. He is working on 'non-interactional aspects of discourse structure in the Polytechnic's Child language corpus, and there is a possibility that in due course he will be involved in developing a derived project on the computer parsing of natural language. Erich Steiner was at the Birmingham workshop in 1981 and at the Toronto workshop in 1982. (See also 'News of Research'.)

Pressure of space has forced us to hold over several interesting accounts of readers' activities till the next issue.

#### NEWS FROM LINGUISTIC CIRCLES : CARDIFF

We hope to publish from time to time brief descriptions of the relevant activities of linguistics circles. The following brief report comes from the Cardiff Linguistics Circle.

Though it began its life under a different name, the Cardiff Linguistics Circle has now been meeting for ten years. It generally meets about ten or twelve times a year. Recent papers of special relevance to systemic linguistics have been:- May, 1978: Robin Fawcett and Mick Perkins, 'Language development of children aged 6 - 12: a plan for a research project'. Mick Perkins has also given two papers on English modals (March 1979 and February 1980) and has recently brought the two topics together in 'The development of modal expressions in children between the ages of 2 and 12' (December 1980). Robin Fawcett has given papers on 'Aspects of Illocutionary Force' (May 1979), 'Types of complexity in language' (January 1980) and 'Being, having, getting and going : an alternative approach to Halliday's for relational processes in English' (March 1982). There have also been the following papers:- David Young: 'Continuative and inceptive aspect in English' (January 1979); John Ford: 'What is linguistic structure?' (February 1979); Paul Atkinson: 'Ethnomethodology and applied linguistics' (January 1980); Nik Coupland: 'Style-shifting in a work setting in Cardiff' (January 1979) and 'Conversational analysis and linguistic variation' (May 1980). In November 1980 the Circle was invited to attend a guest lecture at U.C. Cardiff's Dept. of Psychology, given by Gordon Wells, on the Bristol project 'Language at home and at school'. Some more recent papers of interest to systemic linguists include:- Paul

Tench: 'English in Nigeria' (November 1981); David Young: 'A computer program for teaching English grammar' (November 1982); and Erich Steiner: 'Analytical verbal constructions in English within a systemic framework' (December 1982).

David Young and Erich Steiner

Please send in details or relevant talks from your linguistic circles.

NEWS OF RESEARCH

RUQAIYA HASAN writes:

'I have a small research project going on the role of language in the establishment of ways of learning; it's warming up now and looking quite exciting. The data is four hours of natural conversation between mother and 3-4 year old child - two middle class and two working class dyads. The aim is to see how - and what - information is passed on. It is, if you like, an analysis of learning by osmosis!'

Address : School of English and Linguistics, Macquarie University, North Ryde, NSW 2113, Australia.

MICHAEL McTEAR writes :

'My main research interest is in discourse analysis. My Ph.D. was a study of the development of conversational ability in preschool children, looking in particular at initiations, requests, repairs and devices for sustaining talk. My view of discourse was inspired originally by the Sinclair and Coulthard model and, although I have found some difficulty in applying aspects of this model to the analysis of casual conversation, I am still interested in the basic notions of exchange structure and the relationships between prospective and retrospective utterances. I also draw on some of the work of the conversational analysts. My work is fairly similar to that of Wells, Montgomery and MacLure (1979), with whom I have shared many discussions and arguments about discourse analysis.'

Forthcoming publications:

Explorations in the analysis of discourse. Julius Groos Verlag (in press). This book represents my attempts to come to terms with various approaches to the analysis of conversation. I present a critical review of the most useful approaches and an outline of an alternative model which can account more satisfactorily for the casual conversation of children. The second part of the book consists of empirical work in discourse analysis, looking in particular at conversational development in children and at teacher-pupil interaction in EFL classrooms.

The Development of conversational ability in children. Academic Press (in preparation). This book, intended for the Applied Language series, aims to introduce speech therapists and teachers to the developing area of discourse/conversational analysis. The main part of the book consists of an empirical study of conversational development. Later chapters look at the development of conversation in school-aged children and at recent work on disorders of conversation.

My future research plans include more detailed work on disorders of conversation. I would be interested in hearing from other researchers working in this area.

Address : School of Communication Studies, Ulster Polytechnic, Newtownabbey, BT37 0QB.

PAUL SIMPSON, who reviews Coulthard and Montgomery's Studies in Discourse Analysis elsewhere in this issue, is researching in the application of discourse analysis to literature. He writes:

'I can refer you to two forthcoming publications which capture some of the essence of it: 1) A joint paper written with Ron Carter of Nottingham on narrative structure in literature will be appearing in the next volume of Belfast Working Papers (available from Michael F. McTear at the same address),

- 2) A paper on 'Politeness phenomena and the literary text' given at the 1982 Sociolinguistics Symposium should be appearing in a collection taken from this conference.'

Address : c/o Dr. M. F. McTear, School of Human Communication, Ulster Polytechnic, Newtownabbey, N. Ireland, BT37 OQB.

CAROL MACDONALD writes:

'I am studying children's understanding and usage of modal expressions in middle childhood (5-11 years), syntactically, semantically and a bit on pragmatics (conditional reasoning modally qualified), and I'd welcome any correspondence.'

Address : Department of Psychology, University of Edinburgh, 1-7 Roxburgh Street, Edinburgh EH8 9TA.

MARY ANN EILER. Linguistic educationalists will be interested to know about Mary Ann's Ph.D. thesis Meaning and choice in writing about literature : a study of cohesion in the expository texts of ninth graders. Linguistic options involving lexis, conjunction, reference, substitution, and ellipsis, as selected by 15 ninth graders in the development of expository essays about literature written at three month intervals in the school year, were analysed according to the coding system for cohesion developed by Halliday and Hasan. The categories of cohesion were, in addition, correlated to the contextual descriptors of the register 'Writing about Literature', namely the Field, Tenor and Mode of the discourse.

Address : Dr. Mary Ann Eiler, 2836 North Parkside, Chicago, IL 60634, U.S.A.

#### RESEARCH IN INDIA

The main centre of systemic linguistics in India is undoubtedly the Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages, Hyderabad - 500007, where Shivendra K. Verma is Professor of Linguistics. The list of dissertations completed under his supervision is impressive, and all of the following are based on systemic grammar.

1. Y.B.V.S. Ramasastry: A contrastive analysis of the verbal prepositionals in English and Telugu.
2. Paramjit Wallia: A contrastive analysis of English & Punjabi : sentence, clause and verb phrase patterns.
3. V. Prakasam: A study in the systemic contrastive analysis of Telugu and English syntactic patterns.
4. M. K. Verma: Hindi and English sentence and clause patterns : a study in systemic contrastive analysis.
5. Rosy D'souza: A study in the contrastive analysis of basic sentence patterns in Kannada and English.
6. S. Pandey: Adverbials of time and place in English and Hindi - a study in systemic contrastive analysis.
7. Ramesh Chandra Arya: Problems of Translation (English-Hindi).
8. Gita Mukerji: Analysis of the Register of Defence Technical Institute as a basis for English proficiency test construction.
9. Mukta Bhatnagar: Certain mental verbs in Hindi and English : A Lexico-Semantic contrastive study.
10. S.V. Parashar: Errors in English made by a group of Hindi-speaking first year students of Madhya Pradesh : a study in Applied Linguistics.
11. Bakshi, R.N.: A linguistic analysis of errors in the verbal groups in English made by Punjabi speaking students.
12. Neelakanthan Susheela: Errors at the discourse level : Study of Errors in English made by 1st year English medium students.
13. D'souza, Leonara: Syntactic errors : their significance for teachers.
14. Badlani, Rajni: The system of articles : a semantic pragmatic approach.

If you are interested in obtaining further details of any of these, please write in the first instance to Shivendra Verma at the above address.

ERICH STEINER writes :

'I am currently working on the Child Language Development Project at the Polytechnic of Wales. In the analysis of the language the children use in their interaction, I am trying to bring together a theory of activity and a theory of language. Most current approaches in this area rely on some version of role theory or interactionist theory. I try, however, to link up a theory of activity derived from the work of Vygotsky, Luria and Leontev in the USSR with Systemic Linguistics, in the description of texts. The focus of the description is on coherence and cohesion in TRANSITIVITY, THEME development, lexical structure and context dependency - beyond the clause. I'd be interested in corresponding with anyone working with similar aims.'

Address : as for Network

#### POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Eija Ventola

Foreigner-Talk in Service Encounters: native registers vs. simplified registers

This study looks at foreigner talk (FT) from a contrastive point of view. FT is a simplified version of a speaker's language which is used to address foreigners. Most FT studies so far lack a proper consideration of FT as a register. That is, not enough attention has been paid to contrasting FT to the unsimplified registers of native speakers as well as to the foreigners' native registers.

The first part of this study discusses the native English and Finnish registers of three service encounters: a post-office, a shop, and a travel agency. The model adopted for the analysis is a systemic-functional one. The second part concentrates on English foreigner talk in the same encounters, discussing the differences which occur with respect to the native registers.

Clare Painter

This thesis is based on a case study of one child's language development. Data has been collected from the beginning of the protolanguage until about 30 months of age, though the present research concentrates on the 'transition' period (approximately 17-25 months). A systemic analysis of the data for this period is currently being undertaken, using a series of synchronic stages to represent diachrony, in an attempt to explore further Halliday's theory of language development.

Peter Collins

Aspects of Theme in English

This is a study of selected thematising constructions in English (with particular attention upon 'cleft' and pseudo-cleft sentences). The syntax and semantics of these constructions is being investigated, and their effects upon the distribution of new and given information. The study is based on a corpus of written and spoken discourse from a variety of genres.

Cate Poynton

Terms of Address as Markers of Social Relations in Australian English

This is a study of the use of terms of address in Australian English, within a systemic framework. Currently I have a set of 35 types of realisation and am working out the semantics involved. At this stage I am primarily interested in selections from the paradigm which are relevant to different 'domains', the family being the one I have investigated so far. I propose to look at usage in a range of other domains (eg. school, work, goods and services encounters, recreation) with the intention of drawing networks that initially will be register specific but that may later be unified at some more abstract semantic level.

Gunter Plum

Systemic Grammar as a large variable rule

This thesis explores the question of assigning probability values to features in system networks. Three types of probability will be distinguished: inherent probability - that is probability inherent in the system, disregarding context; second, register sensitive

probability - a reweighting of inherent probability with respect to field, mode, and tenor; and third, code sensitive probability - a reweighting of inherent and register probability with respect to a speaker's coding orientation.

A quantitative study is being undertaken of interviews with middle and working class Australians who breed and show dogs. The interview is being structured in such a way that variation with respect to register and code can be differentiated. The results should provide clear empirical evidence for the need to distinguish register and code and will provide a methodological base for further research into semantic variation.

Paul J. Thibault

Narrative structure and narrative function in Vladimir Nabokov's 'Ada'

This thesis involves a synthesis and development of both theory and method in linguistics, semiotics, structuralism, and literary criticism. The aim is to develop a perspective which is not dependent on any specific discipline or its models to investigate the modes of meaning and the socioeconomic organizations which constrain those of an extended literary text in its socio-cultural context. Specified aspects of this project include: the representation of speech and thought in narrative discourse and how this relates to the concept of a centre of consciousness at any given point in the narrative text; the interpersonal semantics of narrative fiction and how this relates to the addressor-addressee relations which underlie all narrative discourse; the function of different levels of narration; the structuring of a concept of reader (as external addressee) into the text's production of an ongoing context situation; and the ways in which narrative fiction encodes and transmits systems of knowledge and belief which derive from the notion of culture itself as a form of coded information.

GORDON FRULTON writes:

'I am a research student from Canada working on a thesis on style in the novels of Samuel Richardson (especially Clarissa), under the supervision of Professor JOHN CHALKER at Westfield College, in the University of London.

Address : 28 Micklefield Lane, Rawdon, Leeds LS 19 6AZ

PETER FRIES writes:

'My current research is generally concerned with some aspect of text analysis. Specifically, I've been trying to use my version of Ruqaiya Hasan's 'cohesive harmony' to interpret stories. So far I've only dealt with short fairy tales and a couple of children's stories, but I hope to work toward more complex short stories.'

Peter gave a paper to the Ninth LACUS Forum in August 1982 in which he argued that the highly influential work of his father, C. C. Fries, was not 'purely formal' structuralism as is sometimes asserted, but that the emphasis was on 'those features of language which are used as signals within the community'. Then, at the Ninth International Systems Workshop he gave a paper which draws on the core of his current research interests to answer the question 'How does a story mean what it does?', in which he analysed a children's story at a micro- and a macro-level.

Address: Department of English and Linguistics, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Michigan 48858, U.S.A.

LINDA RASHIDI is a Ph.D. student working under Peter Fries, and she too gave papers this summer to LACUS and the Systemic Workshop - in each case, bringing a systemic functional approach to Lawrence Durrell's The Alexandria Quartet. Clearly, there is a welcome steady increase in the use of systemic functional grammar in literary stylistics, and those working in this area should be in touch with each other. (Who would like to compile a bibliography? Ed.)

Address: as for Peter Fries.

BILL MANN and CHRIS MATHIESSEN, whose computer linguistics project was presented so far at the Toronto Workshop (reported elsewhere) describe their work briefly below. We plan to include short papers describing various aspects of their work in future Networks.

Penman A research project at USC/Information Sciences Institute is addressing issues of how to specify in detail a way to generate fluent multiparagraph English text. The experimentation medium is the design of a large computer program. The system being designed, called Penman, will include four principal groups of processes: one for acquiring knowledge which is relevant for a given expressive purpose, one for planning text, a grammar which is able to generate sentences according to a text plan, and improvement processes which produce variant plans using hindsight. Most of the effort has gone into the grammar, called Nigel.

Nigel A large systemic grammar of English is being created as part of the Penman research project. The grammar, called Nigel, is being constructed by Christian Matthiessen and Bill Mann with help from Michael Halliday and others of the University of Sydney. It is generally Hallidayan in style, with some parts adapted from published networks and others original. As of June 1982 the grammar contains 213 systems and about 430 grammatical features. The experimental lexicon has 130 distinct lexical features.

The work of building Nigel has included significant efforts to make the framework very explicit and definite; the account of ordering has been developed extensively.

Because a computer is being used to hold the grammar, Nigel can be exercised without human intervention. This has led to the discovery of many kinds of unintended potential, and to subsequent refinement of the grammar. Some contradictory constraints have been discovered in this manner as well.

At some future date Mann and Matthiessen hope to make both the written grammar and the computer program available to other researchers.

Text Planning Research The research group at ISI intends to concentrate a significant part of its effort on text planning, starting in June of 1982. They will attempt to characterize the problem which faces the creator of texts, especially paragraphs, and to describe how plans for paragraphs can be created based on given intentions to communicate. Early work will focus on decomposing the text planning problem into relatively independent parts, and on the subproblem of planning clause coordination.

Explanation Workshop In June 1982 a group of about 20 linguists and computer science researchers met in Idylwild, CA to discuss 'Explanation'. All of the participants are active in working on some aspect of getting computer programs to explain parts of what they know in English. Because of the prior use of the Systemic framework by Winograd, Davey, McDonald and others, and the ongoing work by Matthiessen, Mann and others, much of discussion centered on systemic grammars and their use in purposeful text generation. The strategy and tactics of text organization, characterization of causal explanation, and methods for summarization were also central topics.

Panel on the State of the Art in Text Generation In June 1981, in conjunction with the Association for Computational Linguistics Annual Conference, a panel was convened to assess the state of the art in text generation by computers. The panel's report identified a need for comprehensive linguistically justified grammars as one of four needs which will be the major determiners of progress in the coming decade. (The other needs were: discourse models, models of the reader, and notations for knowledge representation.) The systemic framework (including Kay's unification grammars) is the one being most actively developed for text generation.

Choosing Tense in English This is work by Christian Matthiessen, in progress. The task is to characterize the choosers of grammatical tense systems in English. The grammatical analysis is essentially Halliday's as he presents it in his discussion of the verbal group. The present discussion explores the semantics of controlling these tense systems to achieve appropriate choosing. The discussion builds on and summarizes work by e.g. Jespersen, Reichenbach, and Bull, but the semantics proposed differs significantly from all these previous treatments. The presentation illustrates in detail how the chooser framework can be applied to a particular area of English and it addresses a number of specific analytic problems of English tense.

For further details, see the 'Papers Available in Mimeo Form' section.



## LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT IN CHILDREN AGED 6 TO 12 : AN INTERIM REPORT

Note: Rather similar reports have also appeared in the BAAL Newsletter, First Language and Linguistics, so for some readers this report given below may literally be a déjà vu experience.

The project is directed by Dr. Robin P. Fawcett with the assistance of Dr. Michael R. Perkins during Phase 1 (1978-80) and Ms. Judith Young during Phase 2 (1981-84). Phase 1 was primarily concerned with the recording, transcription and publication of a large body of data (see 'Recent Publications'), while Phase 2 is concerned with its analysis.

We take it as axiomatic that language continues to develop in important ways after the age of five, and that the development of, for example, the ability to do increasingly complex things with the primary syntactico-semantic categories is not the trivial achievement that it has often been taken to be in the past, but a phenomenon of considerable intrinsic interest with important implications for education, both normal and remedial. The project has thus been set up with the following objectives in mind:

### Objectives

- a) to describe the general patterns of syntax and the corresponding area of semantics of a representative sample of children between the ages of 6 and 12 in two types of situation, and within this overall framework to examine the correlations between (i) social and individual variables and (ii) syntactico-semantic variables, and to consider explanations for the observed differences;
- b) to refine, by differentiating and relating the component concepts, the notion of syntactico-semantic complexity, and to develop metrics for these variables;
- c) to establish an archive that will be of value to others investigating language development in this age range, whether or not such work is specifically associated with the present project, and so to facilitate linguistic studies of this age range;
- d) to provide findings that will be of value in establishing norms for linguistic development relevant to (i) educational linguistics and (ii) language pathology.

### Population Sample

The subjects consist of 112 children divided into four groups according to age, each child being within 3 months of 6, 8, 10, and 12 when studied, thus giving in very broad terms the effect of a longitudinal study of a single group. The methods used for deciding on the composition of the sample and for trying to ensure a broad parity between the groups are based closely on those of the Bristol University study of children aged 1½ to 5½ directed by Gordon Wells (see Wells 1974). Following their criteria, which give equal weighting to (i) the occupation and (ii) the level of education of both father and mother, we use four classes of socio-economic background, labelled A, B, C and D (with two groups of C class children in most cases to provide a double check on our findings, since these represent nearly half the population). The children are further differentiated according to sex, thus yielding, in principle, 40 distinct cells of 3 children, each cell being homogenous in terms of age, socio-economic background and sex. In practice, all but 2 of the C cells were filled and in four cases a child with a different socio-economic background was included to complete the cell, so that the total sample is not 120 but 112.

Questionnaires, preceded by letter seeking co-operation, were used to obtain the information relevant to constructing the sample, together with other information that might cause us to exclude a child (e.g. bilingual background) or that might be of interest at a later stage. These were distributed through, and corroborated by, head teachers and class teachers of the Mid Glamorgan Education Authority, whose helpfulness at every stage is a pleasure to acknowledge. The schools involved are in and around Pontypridd, a small industrial town just outside Cardiff, with a population of a little over 35,000, and the parents of some of the children commute to Cardiff.

Further constraints on the composition of the sample were that children should not have any physical or mental abnormality, and that the members of each cell should, in the opinion of the class teacher, be reasonably compatible in a play situation - i.e. they should be on friendly terms.

### Situational Variables

#### a) Peer group play

The 3 children in each cell were given an excitingly large set of Lego bricks and asked to build a house - a task which proved equally acceptable to boys and girls and to 6 and 12 year olds. Each play session lasted about 20 minutes, and was tape recorded in stereo with no adult or other children present. The purpose of recording in stereo was to enable the transcriber to differentiate the voices of the three children on directional criteria. This proved a successful technique, and brought the bonus of additionally differentiating the voices from the noise made by the Lego, which was at times considerable.

#### b) Conversation with an adult

Immediately after the play session, each child was interviewed by a friendly but unknown adult (Dr. M. R. Perkins) about (i) the building task, (ii) a game they liked to play, (iii) a recent film or TV programme, and (iv) something they would like to do in the future. Each interview lasted between 6 and 10 minutes and these texts too were recorded in stereo.

#### c) Written texts

Written descriptions of the building task were also obtained from those children who could write, but Phase 2 of the project is limited to the spoken texts, so that we have no plans at present for the study of these texts. Other scholars are however invited to make use of them (see the section 'An Invitation' below).

### Transcription

Approximately 10 minutes of each play session and 6 minutes of each interview were transcribed by a team of about fifteen trained transcribers, using conventions adapted from the Bristol project, the Survey of Modern English Usage at University College, London, directed by Professor Randolph Quirk, and Crystal, Fletcher and Garman (1976). After careful double checking and if necessary further consultation, these were typed, and the main pitch movements inserted by a trained linguist.

These transcripts have been published in 4 volumes. (For details of how to obtain them, together with copies of the original tapes, see the end of this report.)

### Syntactico-semantic analysis

The transcribed texts have been analysed by ten specially trained analysts, using a tree-diagram notation for syntax with superscripts to indicate many further semantic features. The model used is an updated version of the systemic grammars used in several similar projects and is also fairly close to the LARSP system outlined in Crystal, Fletcher and Garman (1976), although it is considerably more detailed. It handles systematically such phenomena as 'raising', dummy subject clauses, ellipsis, etc., and recognises many different types of adjuncts, serving different semantic functions. The semantic analysis reflects Halliday's proposal for recognising various types of meaning or 'functional components', so that here too there are similarities with the Bristol project.

### Current state of the project and future plans

The transcribed texts, together with their tree-diagram analyses, are currently being coded and stored, using the Polytechnic of Wales' DEC system - 20/50 computer. Dr. Brian Rosser of the Polytechnic of Wales Computer Centre, has almost finished developing an extremely complex and comprehensive storage system and information retrieval program which is designed to enable us to interrogate the data in terms of various parameters of syntactico-semantic complexity. Theoretical considerations, together with data from similar small-scale projects, suggest the value of recognising the following types of syntactico-semantic complexity:

- a) Unit-structure complexity; the number and type of sister elements of structure in a unit such as a clause or nominal group, including structures with a marked sequence of elements, structures with it or there as subject, 'raising', etc.

- b) Co-ordination complexity: the number of co-ordinated units in each complex unit, and the type of co-ordination.
- c) Embedding complexity; the occurrence of units at a 'depth' of 1, 2, 3, etc. nodes below their unmarked depth, and the type of such embedding.
- d) Complexity of overt functional plurality: the number of functional components of the semantics (in the sense of Halliday 1970 and Fawcett 1980) realised overtly in any given clause/nominal group.
- e) Elliptical complexity: a type of 'non-realisation' complexity distinguished from other types of non-realisation by the clear recoverability of optionally omitted formal items (i.e. not, in Ike wants to run, the omitted 'agent' in the embedded clause to run, the omission of which we assume here not to be a type of complexity).

### Projected timing of Phase 2 of the project

On the assumption that there are no further delays in implementing the computer program, we expect that the coding of a good proportion of the data on syntactico-semantic complexity, together with a pilot study to establish the effectiveness of the program for interrogating the system, will be completed during the Summer of 1983; that the programs will have been run, the findings considered, and the process of writing up begun by the Summer of 1984; and that new lines of enquiry will be opening up thereafter.

### Dissemination of findings

In addition to the four published volumes of transcripts referred to above, papers on the project's methodology and the concept of complexity have been given at the Cardiff Linguistics Circle; a paper on methodological problems overcome (Fawcett 1979) was presented at the 1979 Child Language Seminar at Reading University, and a paper outlining the five types of syntactico-semantic complexity recognised in the project (Fawcett 1980) was read at the 1980 Annual General Meeting of the British Association for Applied Linguistics. A study of the development of modal expressions in the 6-12 age range has been carried out (see Perkins 1980 and in preparation) and further studies are envisaged.

### An invitation

However, in view of the quantity and richness of the data we would also like to issue an explicit invitation to any scholar who is interested in the possibility of making a study and/or supervising a postgraduate engaged on such a study, whether on a large or small scale, to write to us at the Polytechnic of Wales. It seems likely, for example, that there is scope here for a number of valuable M.Phil/Ph.D. studies, as we point out in the 'Research Opportunities' section of this issue of Network. But we would be equally happy to co-operate, with whatever degree of integration seemed most appropriate, with scholars based in other institutions.

Copies of the four volumes of transcripts, entitled Child Language Transcripts 6-12, together with copies of the accompanying tapes, may be obtained at the following (1982) prices:

Volume 1 Six year olds-----	£5.00
Volume 2 Eight year olds-----	£5.00
Volume 3 Ten year olds -----	£5.00
Volume 4 Twelve year olds -----	£5.00
All four volumes -----	£19.00

9 tapes for Volume 1 -----	£16.20
9 tapes for Volume 2 -----	£16.20
10 tapes for Volume 3 -----	£18.00
10 tapes for Volume 4 -----	£18.00
Single tapes (e.g. 'Class C girls aged 8') -----	£1.90

Send orders to: Dr. Robin P. Fawcett, Dept. of Behavioural and Communication Studies, Polytechnic of Wales, Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan CF37 1DL.

Cheques should be made payable to 'Polytechnic of Wales'.

#### REFERENCES

Crystal, D., Fletcher, I., & Garman, M., 1976. The Grammatical analysis language disability. London: Edward Arnold.

Fawcett, R. P., 1979. 'The syntactico-semantic development of children aged 6-12: a progress report'. Paper given to the Child Language Seminar, University of Reading.\*

Fawcett, R. P., 1980. 'The measurement of linguistic complexity: problems, possible solutions and further questions'. Paper given to the Annual Meeting of the British Association for Applied Linguistics, University of Leeds.\*

Fawcett, R. P. & Perkins, M. R., 1980. Child Language transcripts 6-12 with a preface. 4 vols. Department of Behavioural and Communication Studies, Polytechnic of Wales, CF37 1DL.

Perkins, M. R., 1980. The expression of modality in English, Ph.D. Dissertation C.N.A.A.

Perkins, M. R., in preparation. 'The development of modal expressions in the spontaneous speech of 6 to 12 year old children'.

Wells, G. 1974. 'Project report: Language development in pre-school children'. *Journal of Child Language* 1: 158-162.

\* Regrettably, pressure of other matters (including editing Network) has prevented the writing up of these papers in a form suitable for dissemination, but requests for copies of the 1980 paper are being stored for the time when this is done. The 1979 talk will not be written up.

Robin Fawcett  
Michael R. Perkins

Note: Since January 1981 Mick Perkins has been based at: Speech Therapy Section, School of Health and Applied Sciences, Leeds Polytechnic, Calverley Street, Leeds LS1 3HE.

HAVE YOU A REPORT OF A RESEARCH PROJECT THAT MIGHT INTEREST READERS OF NETWORK?  
IF SO, PLEASE SEND IT IN. IF IN DOUBT, PLEASE CONSULT THE EDITOR.

Note: Network No. 1 gave details of the first report of Jim Martin's and Joan Rothery's writing project at the University of Sydney, and the 'News of Recent Publications' section of the present issue tells you about the second.

# BIBLIOGRAPHIES

We intend to publish in this section bibliographies of (1) individual scholars and (2) areas of interest (such as literary stylistics and first or second language learning). Each would normally be restricted to papers of systemic or other neo-Firthian interest, though papers showing the connections with other theories such as tagmemic and stratificational grammar might well also be included. In future issues we hope to include bibliographies of Peter Fries, Ruqaiya Hasan, Shivendra Verma (all of whom have sent in bibliographies which for reasons of space must be held over) and of other scholars.

Michael Halliday has made available to Network his own annotated bibliography of his publications, originally prepared in 1977, and we shall publish this in three instalments, starting with this issue. What makes these annotations particularly valuable is the way in which the author has picked out in earlier papers the way in which the seeds of concepts that were later to become important were there in earlier papers, and in this way we gain a unique insight into the development of Michael's thinking over a twenty year period.

## ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO SYSTEMIC THEORY: BOOKS AND ARTICLES BY M.A.K. HALLIDAY

### Descriptors:

1. Semantics
2. Lexicogrammar: syntax
3. Lexicogrammar: morphology
4. Lexicogrammar: lexis
5. Phonology
6. English
7. Other languages
8. System networks
9. Realizations
10. Functional components
11. General theory
12. Comparison with other general theories
13. Applied linguistics (language in education)
14. Other applications of linguistics
15. Text and discourse
16. Child language and language development

1. 'Grammatical categories in Modern Chinese', Transactions of the Philological Society 1956. 177-224.

A highly condensed sketch of Modern Chinese grammar in terms of units, structures, systems and classes. The units recognized are those of sentence, clause, group, word and morpheme (referred to as 'character' in conformity with Chinese practice). Elements of structure are set up for the higher ranks, and structures stated with their exponents in the form of classes of the rank next below. Twenty-seven word classes are identified, under the three main groupings verb, noun and adverb. Sentences taken from recorded conversations are given as examples at the end.

(2, 7)

2. 'The linguistic basis of a mechanical thesaurus, and its application to English preposition classification', Mechanical Translation 3.3., 1956. 81-88.

It is suggested that the appropriate form for a mechanical dictionary would be a thesaurus; this would group lexical items into relevant taxonomies and enable account to be taken of collocational patterns and restrictions. The principle of lexico-semantic overlap is illustrated from railway terminology in English, Italian and Chinese. A final section deals with the question of contrasting versus fully determined prepositions and their treatment in a thesaurus framework.

(4, 14)

3. The Language of the Chinese 'Secret History of the Mongols', Oxford: Blackwell (Publications of the Philological Society 17), 1959. xvi, 235 pp.

Presents a grammatical, lexical and graphological description of the language of a fourteenth-century Chinese text, the earliest text of any length in colloquial Mandarin. The text is treated as a source of information about the language, and provides material for a fairly detailed account of systems of the sentence, clause and group. Structures are stated for these three ranks (the finiteness of the text making it possible to avoid any treatment of rankshift). Tables of occurrences are given for the principal classes, and the figures are used to determine whether gaps are systemic in the language or merely an artefact of the text. The phonology is reconstructed and compared with that of present day Mandarin. Written in 1952-54, this work anticipates many later features of 'scale-&-category' and systemic theory.

(2, 4, 5, 7)

4. 'Categories of the theory of grammar', Word 17.3, 1961. 241-292. Reprinted as Bobbs-Merrill Reprint Series no. Language - 36.

The fullest statement of what came to be known as 'scale-&-category' theory. Begins with some general considerations about the nature of language, and discussion of the concept of 'level'. The four primitive notions of unit, structure, class and system are then introduced, with discussion of each and of the relations among them. Units are said to be organised on a scale of rank, and stress is given to the importance of keeping the notions of 'rank' and 'level' apart. Structures and systems are described in terms closely following Firth, and suggestions are made for the form of relation between the two. Both structures and systems are the sources for the derivation of classes and sub-classes; the term 'delicacy' is introduced to refer to progressive differentiation within the structural and systemic descriptions. The abstract theoretical categories are related to the items at each level, and ultimately to the phonic or graphic substance, by exponence (later re-named, following Lamb, 'realization'). This gives the four categories of unit, structure, system and class, and the three scales of rank, exponence and delicacy from which the term 'scale-&-category' was derived. The article ends with a critique of structuralist theories of the 'phonemics' and morphemics' kind.

(2, 4, 5, 11)

5. 'Linguistique générale et linguistique appliquée à l'enseignement des langues vivantes', Études de Linguistique Appliquée 1, 1961. 5-42.

A series of lectures delivered in Besançon, outlining a general approach to the description of language as considered to be relevant to the needs of a language teacher. Incorporates some of the points covered in no. 8 below.

(2, 4, 11, 13)

6. 'Linguistics and machine translation', Zeitschrift für Phonetik, Sprachwissenschaft und Kommunikationsforschung 15.1/2, 1962. 145-158.

The concept of rank is suggested as the basis for a machine translation procedure of a 'progressive approximation' kind, which would (i) parse a text in the source language into a rank-type (few I.C.'s) constituent structure; (ii) list a set of provisional equivalents in the target language for each morpheme; (iii) successively modify these equivalents in the light of the combination of morphemes into words, words into groups, groups into clauses and clauses into sentences. Illustrations are given from Chinese, Russian and English.

(2, 3, 11, 14)

7. 'Class in relation to the axes of chain and choice in language', Linguistics 2, 1963. 5-15.

Discusses the concept of 'class' as applied to the description of language, and makes the distinction between chain classes (derived from structures) and choice classes (derived from systems). The article also introduces the notion that there are two types of recursive structure in language: linear recursion (hypotaxis and parataxis), and rankshift.

(2, 11)

8. (with Angus McIntosh & Peter Strevens), The Linguistic Sciences and Language Teaching, London: Longmans (Longmans' Linguistics Library), 1964. xix, 322 pp. (English Language Book Society (The Teacher's Bookshelf), 1970.) ISBN 0 582 52391 5.  
The first part of this book presents an outline of a system-structure model of language in so-called 'scale-&-category' terms. The topics dealt with are: general nature of language; grammar and lexis; phonology and phonetics; sociolinguistics; comparative linguistics. The perspective is that of the language learner and language teacher, and the second half of the book takes up questions of applied linguistics and language teaching methodology in the light of this interpretation of language.  
(2, 4, 5, 11, 13)
9. 'Syntax and the consumer', C.I.J.M. Stuart (ed.), Report of the Fifteenth Annual (First International) Round Table Meeting on Linguistics and Language Study, Washington, D.C.: Georgetown Univ. Press (Monograph Series on Languages & Linguistics 17), 1964. 11-24.  
This paper puts forward the view that different theoretical models in linguistics should be considered as complementary rather than contradictory, and that the relevance and adequacy of any particular approach is relative to the type of enquiry that is being pursued. Some points of English grammar are discussed, and system networks introduced.  
(2, 12)
10. 'Some notes on "deep" grammar', Journal of Linguistics 2,1, 1966. 57-67.  
Suggests that the transformational notion of 'deep structure' is self-contradictory, since structure is an inherently 'surface' concept. In system-structure theory, relations that are 'deep' are represented by the concept of the 'system'; this could be thought of as a kind of 'deep paradigm'. If the system is used as the basic concept for the interpretation of abstract relations in grammar, structure is appropriately accounted for as the realization of systemic features. The problem of relating one item (such as a sentence) to another then disappears, since the systemic description of any item is, at the same time, the description of all other items that are related to it.  
(1, 2, 11, 12)
11. 'The concept of rank: a reply', Journal of Linguistics 2,1, 1966. 110-118.  
A rejoinder to P. H. Matthews' polemical article 'The concept of rank in neo-Firthian grammar' (same volume). Explains that the notion of rank embodies a generalization about constituent structure that is built in to our everyday knowledge about language, and allows us to account for complex-looking facts in a relatively simple fashion. (to be continued in Network No. 5) (11)

# REVIEWS

Reviews are now being prepared by readers for the following works listed in Network No. 3:

Bolinger 1977, Crystal 1979, Crystal, Fletcher and Garman 1976, Davey 1978, Halliday & Hasan 1980, Kress 1982, Leech & Short 1981, Leech & Svartvik 1975, Martin & Rothery 1980 & 1981, Munby 1978, Rochester and Martin 1979, Turner and Mohan 1970, Young 1980.

We would still welcome offers to review (or the confirmation of invitation to review) other books from the list in Network No. 3.

Books in stock in the Editor's office are: Fawcett 1980 and Gregory & Carroll, 1978. However, if you want to review another work and don't have a copy, we can normally obtain one from the publishers.



Review of Coulthard, M and Montgomery, M, Studies in Discourse Analysis,  
Routledge and Kegan Paul : 1981

Studies in Discourse Analysis brings together a collection of work on the structure of verbal interaction. It represents the culmination of over ten years of research within the "Birmingham" tradition of discourse analysis, originating from the seminal research of John Sinclair and Malcolm Coulthard. Their earlier 1975 model has formed the basis of much subsequent work in this area, and several of the individual contributions in this book are attempts to criticize, modify and hopefully to enrich this theoretical base.

The first chapter of the book is a comprehensive and condensed review of the development of Discourse Analysis over the past decade. Coulthard and Montgomery outline how the descriptive apparatus emerged, pointing to how particular problems were faced and solved, thereby attempting to give the reader "criteria for evaluating alternative descriptions of verbal interaction". In beginning their formulation of a specifically linguistic model of interaction, the authors observed criteria for an adequate linguistic description: that is, they postulated firstly that the descriptive system should be both finite and comprehensive, and secondly that the symbols in the descriptive system should be precisely relatable to their exponents in the data and that there must be at least one impossible combination of these symbols. This notion of linguistic structure was seen to play a vital role in the development of the 1975 model.

However, Coulthard and Montgomery also note that the units and structures proposed at this stage were derived from an examination of only one type of discourse, namely classroom interaction. Thus, there was a need to extend the analysis - using the same basic descriptive principles - to less formal, non-authoritarian contexts. They stress that

the ultimate goal was, and still is, a descriptive  
system that can cope with all forms of discourse (my underlining).

This aim is central to much of the book. Many contributions set out to remove the "situation-specific" aspect, by constructing more powerful models that can cope with "all types of talk".

One feature of interaction which achieves great prominence in Studies in Discourse Analysis is the notion of exchange structure. Coulthard and Brazil's chapter entitled "Exchange Structure" dispenses with the earlier configuration [I R (F)], and now proposes that the exchange is structured in the following way:

[ I (R/I) R (F) (F) ]

where I = initiation, R = response, and F = follow up. This entails that the exchange is minimally a two part structure, but may potentially consist of up to five moves. One notable innovation here is the R/I element of structure, which denotes dual function. This particular move may function as a response with respect to the preceding element and as an initiation with respect to the following element. For example, in the following exchange, an R/I is realized by the pupil's utterance -

Teacher : can anyone tell me what this means  
Pupil : does it mean danger men at work  
Teacher : yes ...

These elements of exchange structure are defined by the criteria of [+predicting] and [-predicted], as shown by the matrix:

	Predicting	Predicted
1. Initiation	Yes	No
2. Response	No	Yes
3. Follow-up	No	No
4. Response/Initiation	Yes	Yes

However, there is a problem. Coulthard and Brazil argue that "many classroom eliciting exchanges have the structure I R/I F". Yet according to their own matrix this is an impossible combination as the F is [-predicted] whilst R/I is [+predicting]. Michael Stubbs, in fact, in the next chapter entitled "Motivating Analyses of Exchange Structure", dwells on similar problems, and he amplifies and modifies many of Coulthard and Brazil's observations. For instance, he builds in the additional criteria of [+initial] and [-terminal] into the above matrix. Moreover, Stubbs concludes his chapter by noting that the concept of the exchange is often applied to relatively formal social situations where the chief aim is to transmit information, and is not so readily applicable to casual conversation where the function of much discourse may be phatic and social, and thereby not so concerned with the transmission of information.

Indeed, one contribution that does propose a model which can cope with both formal and casual conversation is Deirdre Burton's chapter "Analysing Spoken Discourse". Here, Burton works on the assumption that the original Sinclair and Coulthard model is a base which is intended to be modified in subsequent research to greater generality. She then schematically describes her own analytic framework, which is designed to show the potential structure of discourse and is capable of handling all the data collected.

Margaret Berry, on the other hand, dispenses with the more conventional single layer approaches to exchange structure in her contribution entitled "Systemic Linguistics and Discourse Analysis: A Multi-Layered Approach to exchange structure". She argues for a three layered structure, using Halliday's notions of function. Thus, it is suggested that the discourse framework set up by, for example, an initiating move in an exchange has three aspects: namely, the interpersonal, the textual and the ideational. By adopting this approach Berry optimistically contends:

I hope ... that it will allow me to have the best of a number of different worlds.

Unfortunately space restricts me to only mentioning in passing the remaining three chapters of Studies in Discourse Analysis. David Brazil makes an insightful contribution on the value of intonation in discourse analysis, whilst John Gosling provides a valuable additional perspective on the importance of "kinesics" (or more explicitly, "Certain aspects of non-vocal communicative behaviour between participants") in a model for the analysis of conversation. Kay Richardson, on the other hand, in her chapter entitled "Sentences in discourse", postulates that it is "possible, appropriate and revealing" to assume that syntactically defined units can be seen as entering directly into the structure of discourse, rather than via a "realisational" relationship.

On the whole, Studies in Discourse Analysis reflects a vigorous debate within the field rather than a systematic and unified approach to Discourse Analysis. Indeed,

many contributors implicitly share Kay Richardson's contention that her own argument "is at odds with the general view of discourse structure presented in this book" and this, of course, automatically challenges the claim that there is a "general view of discourse structure" at all. In fact, some contributors hold totally opposing ideas on fundamental features of exchange structure. Coulthard and Brazil, for instance, claim that the move R/I "is not recursive" (p 103) whereas Stubbs, in the succeeding chapter, contends that "The move R/I is itself recursive" (p 114). Polar oppositions of this sort generate a context of diversifications as opposed to unification in the book and although a lively debate within the field is healthy, there still must be some emphasis placed on the need for an integration of approaches.

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