

news,
views

NETWORK no. 8

and reviews in systemic linguistics and related areas

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EDITORIAL

June 1985

In The Editorial to Network No. 7 we welcomed the new Archive of Systemic papers at the University of Stirling, which is being run by Martin Davies. Please ensure that any paper that you write that could be of interest to systemic linguistics is sent to him; Network No. 7 contained a list of those currently available, and Network No. 9 will contain an update of that list.

In this issue we welcome an equally significant development: the establishment of Occasional Papers in Systemic Linguistics, at the University of Nottingham. This means that from now on systemic linguists have a permanently available welcoming outlet for their writings. We now have the full range of types of publishing that any theory needs if it is to survive and make a contribution on the wider stage; Network for news, views and reviews (and for SHORT articles); OPSL (and other welcoming journals such as UEA Papers in Linguistics) and the new Sheffield Working Papers in Linguistics, also announced in this issue of Network for papers, and friendly publishers such as the Frances Pinter's Open Linguistics Series, Edward Arnold, Batsford, Ablex and Benjamins (among others) for books. Let the ink - or at least the fingers over the word-processor keyboard - flow!

This issue is also notable for the fact that it contains reviews of three works (by Berry, Fawcett, and Halliday & Hasan), each of which in its different way offers a reasonably complete systemic approach to understanding language. Network no. 9 will contain reviews of two recent works on systemic approaches to literary stylistics; in the present issue those with concerns in this area will find plenty to interest them in a short contribution from David Butt on the work of Systemic functional grammar in understanding a 'difficult' literary text. Finally, this issue brings notice of two important new books - each in its way a vital and major contribution to the systemic literature.

Dr. J. R. Martin
(via Halliday)

Editor

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

TWELFTH INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMIC WORKSHOP

21st - 24th August, 1985, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109, U.S.A.

Organiser; Professor R. W. Bailey, Department of English.

Dick Bailey writes (May 1st 1985) 'We are now preparing the program for the Workshop and for the other meetings that will be held earlier that week. With twenty five major presentations, we believe that this Workshop will be a stimulating and significant gathering. The Workshop will be broadly international, with speakers from Australia, Canada, Finland, Great Britain, Germany, Iraq, Nigeria, the Republic of South Africa, and the United States. With such a diverse group, you will have the opportunity to meet new colleagues and to renew old friendships. We look forward to your participation.

Announcing

THE TWELFTH LACUS FORUM

University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
August 5-9, 1985

The Twelfth Annual LACUS Forum of the Linguistic Association of Canada and the United States will be held August 5-9, 1985, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, on the campus of the University of Saskatchewan. In addition to four days of refereed papers, there will be three evening lectures by eminent scholars, including the Presidential Address by Robert A. Hall, Jr.

Participants will be housed on campus in the Voyageur Place Residences or, if preferred, in the near-by Bessborough Hotel. Meals will be available at various campus facilities as well as several near-by restaurants. On Thursday evening the traditional Presidential Banquet will be held.

Papers presented at the Forum will appear in the LACUS yearbook, *The Twelfth LACUS Forum*, which, like the previous yearbooks, will be published by Hornbeam Press, 6520 Courtwood Drive, Columbia, South Carolina, U.S.A. 29206. The LACUS professional membership fee of \$20 per year (\$27 Canadian) and student and emeritus membership fees of \$12 (\$16 Canadian) include a free copy of the current year's *Forum*.

To be put on the mailing list for further information regarding the Twelfth LACUS Forum, and/or to join LACUS, please write to Valerie Becker Makkai, Secretary-Treasurer, LACUS, P.O.B. 101, Lake Bluff, Illinois, U.S.A. 60044.

1st - 3rd April 1985, Leeds. EURALEX Seminar 'The Dictionary and the Language Learner'. Information: A.P. Cowie, The School of English, University of Leeds, LS2 9JT.

14th - 17th April 1985: 2nd Infoterm Symposium 'Networking in Terminology'. Information: Infoterm, ON, Postfach 130, A-1021 Wien, Austria.

August 1985 Ann Arbor: 5th Biennial Meeting of the DSNA. Information: R. Bailey, Department of English, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI, USA-48109.

26th - 30th August 1985 Leuven: 5th European Symposium 'Languages for Special Purposes'. Information: Instituut voor Levende Talen, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Versaliusstraat 21, B-3000 Leuven, Belgium.

21st - 23rd March 1986 Exeter: DRC Seminar 'The History of Lexicography'.

10th - 14th September 1986 Zurich: 2nd EURALEX Conference. Information: Mary Snell-Hornby, In der Au 38, Meilen, CH-8706, Switzerland.

WELCOME TO A SISTER 'NETWORK'

LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION NETWORK

Newsletter No. 1, March 1984

Editor: Frances Christie
School of Education
Deakin University

The Language in Education Network was created at a Working Conference on Language in Education held at Deakin University, Geelong, 22-26 August 1983. Some 45 participants attended the conference and they included English language curriculum consultants, classroom teachers, linguists and others working in language education both in university schools of education and colleges of advanced education. Speakers and workshop leaders included Professor M.A.K. Halliday (University of Sydney), Dr. Robin Fawcett (Polytechnic of Wales), who was in Australia with British Council support, Associate Professor J.L. Lemke (Brooklyn College of Education, City University of New York), Dr. R.F. Walker (Brisbane College of Advanced Education) and Mr Gunther Kress (N.S.W. Institute of Technology).

The volume of working papers issuing from the conference is still in preparation. It should be ready by mid 1984.

Why create a Language in Education Network? The Network is not an association of any kind. We already have in Australia a number of professional associations variously concerned with the study and the role of language in education. They include for example the Applied Linguistics Association of Australia, the Australian Association for the Teaching of English, the Primary English Teachers' Association, the Australian Reading Association, and the Australian Linguistics Society.

Each of these associations makes an important contribution to the collective professional interest in Australia in mother tongue English language education, and members of the Network will in many cases belong to one or more of the associations. However, no one of these associations really represents the full range of those concerned with language in education and the Network offers a forum within which all may occasionally meet and exchange information and ideas.

For a brief description of the successful Brisbane conference, see 'News from down under' in the 'News of readers' activities' section In Network No. 7.

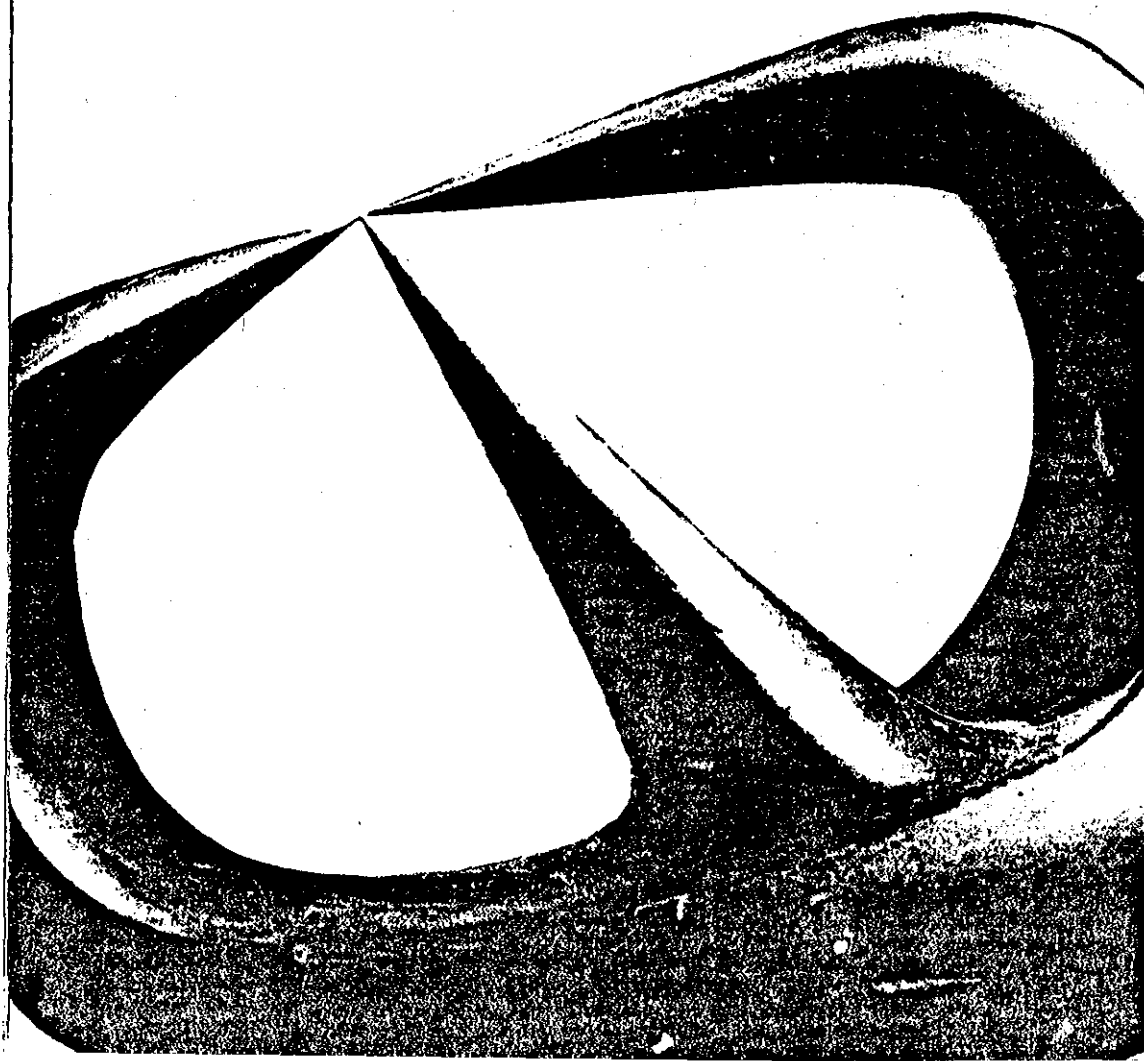
RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Offers to review any of the books in the following list should be sent to Martin Davies, English, The University, Stirling, FK9 4LA, U.K. Also Clare Painter's Into the Mother Tongue, Gunther Kress's Learning to Write, James Copeland (Ed.)'s New Directions in Linguistics and Semiotics, Halliday & Martin's Readings in Systemic Linguistics, K. & E. Pike's Text and Tagmeme, Fawcett, Halliday, Lamb and Makkai (Eds.)'s The Semiotics of Culture and Language (2 vols.), Cummings & Simmons' The Language of Literature.

OUT AT LAST! Price: £14.95 (paperback)

An Introduction to Functional Grammar

M A K Halliday



Systemic Linguistics

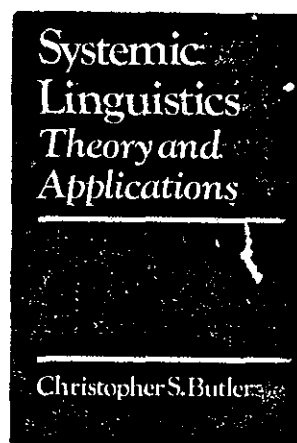
Theory and Applications

Christopher S. Butler

A detailed critical account of 'systemic' approaches to language has long been needed. Christopher Butler here provides the first comprehensive survey of the development of systemic linguistics, and of major applications of systemic theories in other fields.

He begins by discussing the origins of systemic linguistics in the work of Firth and Malinowski. The following three chapters are devoted to an exposition of the models put forward by Michael Halliday since the early 1960's; Scale and Category grammar; the semantically-oriented systemic grammar of the late 1960's; and the sociologically-oriented systemic functional grammar of the 1970's and 1980's. A more critical appraisal is then given of the systemic functional model.

Turning to the applications of systemic theory, the author reviews in turn: the work of Fawcett and Hudson on systemic syntax; systemic approaches to lexis, phonology and discourse patterning; systemically-based descriptions of English and other languages. A chapter on the contribution of systemic models to work in stylistics, educational linguistics and artificial intelligence demonstrates their remarkable versatility. The concluding chapter discusses similarities and differences between various versions of systemic theory, and between systemic and transformational models.



£19.95 Hardback 272pp 50 illus June



Batsford

4 Fitzhardinge Street, London W1H 0AH (01)-486-8484

BENSON, James, and GREAVES, William, 1984. You and your language: the kinds of English you use, Volume 1: Styles and dialects (pp xvi + 104); Volume 2 Meaning is choice (pp xii + 100). Oxford: Pergamon Press, Softback. These two textbooks, plus a cassette that accompanies Volume 1, is a course for secondary school pupils. (An offer to review those would be welcome - ideally from someone who has used them or seen them in use.)

DOWNES, William, 1984. Language and society. London: Fontana paperbacks. (pp 384). £4.95.

Bill Downes was active in systemic linguistics a few years back, and is beginning to make a welcome contribution again. (See the report of the Eleventh International Systemic Workshop in Network No. 7). But this book will disappoint systemic linguists; it is not the fuller and more wide-ranging development of Gregory and Carroll's Language and situation (1978) that we might have hoped for. Indeed that work does not even appear in the bibliography (though Gregory's famous 'Aspects of varieties differentiation' paper of 1967 does), and there is no mention of Halliday's writings after 1970. And how could Downes totally ignore Language as social semiotic (1978). Nor, indeed, is there any reference to Bernstein's seminal theorising. Why should this be? Part of the answer, perhaps, is that in recent years Downes has been immersing himself in the philosophical-linguistic approach to understanding discourse and the relation of language to 'knowledge of the world'. And, in the context of this somewhat limited framework, it can be said that he adds a new dimension to current discussions. Nonetheless it still seems odd that the two final chapters give no place systemic ideas. Chapter 10, entitled 'A mode of action', opens with a quotation from the anthropologist Malinowski, but it is devoted almost exclusively to Austin, Searle and Grice. And Chapter 11, 'Language and social explanation', concentrates almost entirely on philosophical issues: such as 'Are teleological explanations insightful?' The presentation is clear and the points persuasively argued, with telling examples, as always in Downes' writing. But I for one long for him to accept the challenge of grappling with the concepts with which Sapir, Whorf, Bernstein and Halliday challenge us. It does seem a little odd that a book with a chapter that seeks to relate language and knowledge of the world should never mention Whorf! In summary, then, it is a book that is in no way systemic; that draws on standard American Labovian socio-linguistics and speech act theory for much of the meat (and it presents this well); and that is strongest in its discussions of actual texts in a linguistic-philosophical mode. In some of the texts that Downes discusses (e.g. Paul Robeson's testimony before a congress committee on his membership of the Communist party) the book gries out for the ideas found in Language as social semiotic, in Kress and Hodge's Language as Ideology (1979) and in Fowler et al.'s Language and control (1979). (The last two were reviewed fully in Network No. 3). Perhaps Downes will write another book, using his impressive powers to integrate and present clearly intricate ideas, that will link the approach taken here with the macro-social and ideological elements that must be a part of any full understanding of language and society. (RPF).

PRAKASAM, V., 1984. The linguistic spectrum. Patalia: The Punjabi University. This collection of twelve papers were due to appear in December 1984. We have no description of the contents at this stage, but a knowledge of Prakasam's interests suggests that they are likely to include papers developing a specifically systemic approach to phonology, and on literary stylistics.

HUDSON, R.A., 1984. Word grammar. Oxford: Blackwell. Hardback. Price: £22.50 (hardback).

The author offers this description:

'Dick Hudson has written another book about a theory which is not transformational and which can distantly be connected to systemic grammar. This time the theory is called 'word grammar' (NB no capital letters please), as it puts the word into the centre of the picture. The whole of the grammar is written as a set of facts either about words, or about sounds - no mention in the grammar of groups, phrases, clauses or sentences. So no rank scale except a poky little one inside the word (with word at the top and sound at the bottom.) The grammar is meant to be psychologically real, and constitutes a small section of the speaker's total cognitive structure; and as the latter is obviously a network, so must the former be. But there are no system networks as such, because the role of features is deliberately kept to a bare minimum (in fact 'arbitrary' features, which represent just a single

fact rather than a bundle of facts, are in principle excluded altogether). The syntax meshes with a fairly fully developed semantic structure, and also with a less well developed structure for utterance-events into which contextual information can be slotted. In case you can't make head or tail of the above summary, you'll just have to read the book

THREE PAPERS FROM BILL MANN AND CHRIS MATTHIESSEN, Information Sciences Institute, University of S. California, 4676 Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey, California 90292-6695, U.S.A.

MANN, William C., 1984. 'Discourse structure for text generation' (pp iii + 17).

Abstract: Text generation programs need to be designed around a theory of text organization. This paper introduces Rhetorical Structure Theory, a theory of text structure in which each region of text has a central nuclear part and a number of satellites related to it. A natural text is analyzed as an example, the mechanisms of the theory are identified, and their formalization is discussed. In a comparison, Rhetorical Structure Theory is found to be more comprehensive and more informative about text function than the text organization parts of previous text generation systems.

MATTHIESSEN, Christian M.I.M., 1984. 'Systemic grammar in computation: the Nigel case' (pp iii + 16). Reprinted from Proceedings of the First Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics, Pisa, Italy, 1-2 September 1983.

Abstract: Computational linguistics needs grammars for several different tasks such as comprehension of text, machine translation, and text generation. Clearly, any approach to grammar has potentially something to offer computational linguistics, say for parsing or text generation (and, by the same token, there is a potential benefit from an application within computational linguistics for each approach, cf. [Fawcett 80]). However, it is equally clear that some approaches have much more to offer than others. Here I will take a look at Systemic Linguistics in the service of computational linguistics tasks, concentrating on a large computational systemic grammar for text generation (Nigel) that is currently being developed.

The question I will try to answer in this paper is what systemic linguistics can offer computational linguistics. Since the answer is, I think, far too long for a short discussion, I will let a more specific question represent the general question here: What can systemic linguistic accounts of grammar and semantics offer computational linguistics in the area of text generation? This question excludes for example the use of systemic grammar in parsing .. see [Winograd 72] .. and the large systemic body of work on discourse organization (see in particular [Halliday and Hasan 76], [Hasan 78], [Hasan 79], [Halliday and Hasan 80], [Martin 83], and [Butler]).

MATTHIESSEN, Christian M.I.M., 1984. 'How to make grammatical choices in text generation' (pp iii + 17). Reprinted, with permission, from The Tenth LACUS Forum 1983, published by Hornbeam Press, Columbia, South Carolina.

Abstract: How are grammatical choices made purposefully as part of the process of text generation in the creation of a text? Finding a solution to this problem is a challenge and a significant research task. Having a solution is critical to the success of any significant future text generation systems. At present there is no general and widely known solution to the problem of how to make grammatical choices. This paper presents a notation for stating how to make appropriate choices in the grammatical component (or stratum; grammar for short) of a text generation system. The type of grammar used in our research on text generation is systemic grammar.

TAGLICHT, Josef, 1984. Message and emphasis: on focus and scope in English. London: Longman (English Language Series). (pp viii + 214). Paperback £6.95.

This is the first full-scale general account of focusing adverbs in English - word like only, also, even. Through it Dr. Taglicht throws light on a range of topics of vital concern to linguists: the relations between syntax and intonation, between semantics and pragmatics, and between the grammar of

the sentence and its place in the context of discourse. In setting the grammar of the focusing adverbs in its full context he surveys recent work on the semantic analysis of negation, on 'information structure' as signalled by intonation, and on 'theme-rheme structure', or word order as exploited for the building of text. As well as integrating the treatment of these topics, he makes his own original contribution to them, constructing the theoretical framework necessary for a fuller understanding of focusing adverbs. In his final chapter he applies this theory to a corpus study of only, also, too and as well, based on data from the Survey of English Usage at University College London.

Dr. Taglicht's theoretical framework, in which 'focus' and 'scope' are key concepts, enables the analyst to deal with the linguistic message, with language in action, from two complementary points of view: one that considers the static aspect - the message as a body of data; and one that considers the dynamic aspect - the message in transmission from speaker to hearer. The first point of view is close to the logician's, the second informs what the Prague linguists have dubbed 'functional sentence analysis', and both have until recently been neglected by linguists.

Joseph Taglicht is a lecturer in the Department of English at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He has written numerous articles on English linguistics (both historical and descriptive) for a variety of scholarly journals.

Publisher's description.

YOUNG, David, 1984. Introducing English grammar. London: Hutchinson. (pp 125). Paperback: £4.95.

This work is aimed at secondary school students, and draws, by implication only, on systemic linguistics. Young's earlier The structure of English clauses was expressed in clearly systemic terms, and introduced a good number of system networks, some involving interesting theoretical claims. This work is not at all like this: the work is as theory-neutral as it is possible to be, and simply introduces the terms of traditional grammar in a coherent and clear framework.

We welcome a new journal:

SHEFFIELD WORKING PAPERS IN LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

Contents of the first issue:

- Peter Trudgill 'Dialect contact and the transmission of linguistic forms'
Jim Miller 'Discourse patterns in spoken English'
Lesley Milroy 'What a performance! Some problems with the competence-performance distinction'
Alison Davis 'Behind the FOR-TO filter: FOR-TO infinitives in Belfast English and the theory of government'
Nigel Gotteri 'A speaker's right to choose: aspects of tense and aspect in Polish'
Roger Hawkins 'Schemes and prototypes in French syntax'
John Harris & Philippa Cottam 'Phonetic features and phonological features in speech assessment'

The first issue of the Working Papers appeared in 1984, price £2.90 within Europe and £3.10 outside Europe (inclusive of p & p; sterling only, please. All correspondence to: Roger Hawkins or John Harris, School of Modern Languages and Linguistics, University of Sheffield, SHEFFIELD, S10 2TN, U.K. Make cheques payable to SWPLL.

This journal, like increasing numbers of those at the 'working papers' end of the market, is sympathetic to articles using systemic linguistics, and this first issue includes an important systemic paper by Nigel Gotteri.

nottingham linguistic circular

SPECIAL ISSUE ON SYSTEMIC LINGUISTICS

Volume 13: 1984

Margaret Berry	Foreword	1
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Sandra A. Thompson	Grammar and written discourse: Initial vs. final purpose clauses in English	157

This is now available price £4.00 (£4.50 overseas) from the
Department of Linguistics, University of Nottingham,
Nottingham NG7 2RD, England.

Gordon Frulton writes (3. 4.84) with these interesting references:

"If you have a bit of space left in Network, here are some references that might be of interest: Pl. G.L. Bursill-Hall, 1961, "The Linguistic Theories of J.R. Firth", Thought; The Learned Societies of Canada, 1961. Toronto: Gage.

Pl. G.L. Bursill-Hall, 1960, Level Analysis: J.R. Firth's "Theories of Linguistic Analysis" Journal of the Canadian Linguistic Association (now "Canadian Journal of Linguistics"), VI (1960), 124 - 135, 164 - 191. These make an interesting comparison with M.A.K. Halliday's "Categories of the Theory of Grammar", (1961) and read like a road not taken. The second has a 100 item Bibliography of the "Prosodic Linguistic Theories of J.R. Firth". Terence Gordon 1982 "A History of Semantics", (Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 1982) (studies in the History of Linguistics), which has a chapter on Firth, also delivered as Saussurean Structuralism and J.R. Firth: "A Reassessment" at the XIIIth International Congress of Linguists last year in Tokyo.

Address: Wontong Workshop, Glendon College, York University, 2275 Bayview Avenue, Toronto Ontario, Canada, M4N 3M6.

NEWS OF READERS' ACTIVITIES

DAVID BIRCH writes:

"I have just been appointed lecturer in the School of Human Communication, Murdoch University, Western Australia. I will take up the appointment in Australia on 1 July 1985, ready for the start of the second semester. I will be attached to two of the three sections in the school. On the one side I will be with Communication Studies, involved in teaching linguistics, stylistics, discourse analysis and such like, and on the other side with Comparative Literature, involved with literary theory, drama in performance, experimental workshops etc. etc, with a view to developing a semiotics of theatre course. The other section is Asian Studies.

Murdoch is a very new University (ten years old) with a student population of about 3000, though it has a very active External Studies section (like the open University) which brings the numbers up to about 4000. The School of Human Communication reflects this newness by underpinning all its courses with post-structuralist literary, linguistic and semiotic theory. Film, television, theatre and literary texts are all considered equal and necessary parts of a University education in communication studies. And the emphasis throughout is on interdisciplinary approaches.

The University is midway between Perth and Fremantle, so it will be glorious summer all year long. Who knows, I might even learn to windsurf!"

Address: (till 1st July 1985) Dept. of English, National University of Singapore, Kent Ridge Singapore 0511.

Address: (after 1st July 1985): School of Human Communications, Murdoch University, Western Australia 6150.

David will thus be joining a department with a strong systemic orientation, with Michael O'Toole as Professor and Bob Hodge as an Associate Professor. David Birch and Michael O'Toole are jointly editing a book possibly to be entitled "The functions of style" on systemic Functional approaches to style in literary and non-literary texts, for Frances Pinter's Open Linguistics Series. Murdoch's gain will, however, be Singapore's loss; Singapore too has a strong tradition of giving a solid place to Systemic Linguistics, and excellent linguists remain at Singapore to continue this work.

JIM COPELAND, a stratificationallinguist from Rice University, Houston, spent a period last year at the University of the Saarland, where Erich Steiner is based. The two in fact shared an office in the English Department during Jim's visit - and also, Erich writes, "now and then some pints of German beer".

GORDON FRULTON writes (3rd April 1984):

"My wife and I left Saskatchewan May 1 last year (I hesitate to say "last summer", as there were still traces of snow in shaded places), and came to Toronto; where the libraries are better stocked with material we need for our theses. (Part - time teaching is a moveable feast - although a somewhat meagre one!) Now if I can persuade the University of Toronto's Roberts Library to order such material as Nottingham Linguistic Circular, UEA Papers in Linguistics, etc., I'll be all set. This academic year I have been an instructor in essay writing workshops at York University (main campus) and Glendon, where Kathy has worked as Director of the Workshop, I assume: Ed. The problems of funding being what they are, we have no idea yet of whether we will be able to do this next year. Working with students on their writing is a thought-provoking task - I would highly recommend it for anyone who thinks that linguists can sit down in self-satisfied confidence when they manage to describe some absurdly idealized "competence". So far, Dwight Bolinger's "Aspects of Language" seems to be the only textbook of general linguistics with anything to say about writing. I expect (or at least hope) to spend the summer working on "Clarissa".

Address: Writing Workshop, Glendon College, York University, 2275 Bayview Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. M4N 3M6.

ERIC STEINER gave a paper at a symposium in a LAUT symposium at the University of Trier, at which R.W. Langacker was the main speaker. Langacker described his version of grammar and Erich described his - combining systemic functional linguistics and "action theory". Erich writes: "I am glad to have got this chance; it might do systemic linguistics in Germany a little service!" It seems that it has; we have recently heard that Erich's paper has been selected (when many were rejected) for inclusion in the published Proceedings of the symposium.

PAPERS AVAILABLE IN MIMEO FORM

PAPER BY NORMAN FAIRCLOUGH: 'Critical and descriptive goals in discourse Analysis'

I view social institutions as containing diverse 'ideological-discursive formations' (IDFs) associated with different groups within the institution. There is usually one IDF which is clearly dominant. Each IDF defines its own ideological and discursive norms. Institutional subjects are constructed, in accordance with the norms of an IDF, in subject positions whose ideological underpinnings they may be unaware of. A characteristic of a dominant IDF is the capacity to 'naturalize' ideologies, i.e. to win acceptance for them as non-ideological common sense.

It is argued that the orderliness of interactions depends in part upon such naturalized ideologies. To "denaturalize" them is the objective of a discourse analysis which adopts "critical" goals. I suggest that denaturalization involves showing how social structures determine properties of discourse, and how discourse in turn determines social structures. This requires a "global" (macro/micro) explanatory framework of "descriptive" work in discourse analysis. I include a critique of features of such work which follow from its limited explanatory goals (its concept of "background knowledge", "speaker-goal" explanatory models, and its neglect of power), and discuss the social conditions under which critical discourse analysis might be an effective practice of intervention, and a significant element in mother tongue education.

Available from: Norman L. Fairclough, Linguistics, University of Lancaster, Lancaster LA1 4YT, U.K.

PAPERS BY ROBIN P. FAWCETT

1984 a 'Linguistics, computing and you! a danger alert at the man-machine interface' (a lightly revised version of Part 2 of 'Language as a resource' (for which see below) (12 pp).

- 1984 b 'Why we communicate: towards a model of the socio-psychological purposes of language and other semiotic systems' (a lightly revised version of Part 3 of 'Language as a resource', for which see below). (22pp + 11 figures).
- 1984 c 'Language as a resource (Parts 1 and 4)' The introduction and conclusion, which relate the two main parts of the paper (now published separately as 1984 b and 1984 c) to each other and to the concept of 'Language as a resource'. 'Keynote Address' to the Eight Annual Congress of the Applied Linguistics Association of Australia, La Trobe University, Melbourne, 1983 (5pp).
- 1984 d "Children are choosers: a socio-cognitive framework, using systemic linguistics, for thinking about Language in Education". (based on a talk given to the Second 'Language in Education' seminar, Deakin University, Geelong, Australia, 1983). To appear in the Report of that seminar, ed. Fran Christie. (32pp + 12 figures)

Available from the author at the Editorial address.

PAPER BY ERICH STEINER (in German)

"Die Erkenntnisse des Britischen Kontextualismus und ihr Einfluss auf die Praxis des Fremdsprachenunterrichts (Englisch)". (The insights of Firthian/Systemic Linguistics and their influence on foreign language teaching (English) in Germany).

Available from Dr. E. Steiner, Anglistik, Universität des Saarlandes, D66, Saarbrücken W. Germany.

PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

We give here news of the closing of one door and the opening of another, related one.

Christopher S. Butler writes about the Nottingham Linguistic Circular:

"I am writing to inform you that Volume 14, to be published in the Autumn of this year, will be the last issue. It will be a special issue on pragmatics.

The journal has been very successfully published, with a wide distribution to several countries, for fourteen years. However, the editors now feel that it has outgrown its usefulness. Fourteen years ago, there was a clear need for a publication of this kind, but there are now many more journals in linguistics, both formally and informally published, and hence many more outlets for articles.

In order to redistribute to our subscribers the moneys remaining in our accounts, we have decided to distribute Volume 14 free of charge to all who paid subscriptions in 1984. For this reason, no invoices will be sent out for 1985.

Back copies of the Circular are still available, and can be obtained from:

The Secretary, Department of Linguistics, University of Nottingham.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking you, on behalf of the publication committee of the Circular, for your interest in, and subscription to, the journal."

On behalf of all those many readers of Network who have also subscribed to the NLC, I would like to pay tribute to those who have worked hard to edit and market - and write - the NLC. It kept an outlet open for systemic and related writings through a period in which there were few journals in which systemic linguists could be sure of a sympathetic reading, and if this were the only reason to be grateful for its life it would be sufficient. But it has done far more, contributing in particular a number of important papers in discourse. We await its final issue with interest.

(R.P.F.)

We look now to Nottingham University's new venture: Occasional Papers in Systemic Linguistics (OPSL). Network will continue to publish short articles, but clearly OPSL will fill a valuable complementary role, enabling more of those writing in the broad systemic functional framework to find their way into print.

OCCASIONAL PAPERS IN SYSTEMIC LINGUISTICS

EDITORIAL STATEMENT AND NOTES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

1. Occasional Papers in Systemic Linguistics is intended to be a relatively informal journal after the manner of Nottingham Linguistic Circular, UEA Papers in Linguistics, etc. Its main aims are:

(i) to provide quick circulation for important papers in systemic linguistics due eventually to be published in more formal journals but unlikely to appear in these other journals for some considerable time;

(ii) to provide an outlet for working papers reporting on the early stages of research programmes and designed to elicit comments from colleagues in the field;

(iii) to encourage new writers in systemic linguistics who may wish initially to try writing for such a journal before revising their work for publication elsewhere.

It is also hoped occasionally to publish papers from writers who, though not working within a systemic framework, nevertheless share the concerns of systemic linguistics.

2. It is intended initially to publish two volumes of the journal, in the autumn of 1985. Frequency of appearance thereafter will depend on (i) the flow of interesting papers, (ii) the extent to which the first two volumes have paid their way by selling in sufficiently large numbers of copies.
3. The editorial committee for OPSL consists of:

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For ease and quickness of administration, members of the committee are all based in Nottingham. This does now, however, preclude the possibility of sending papers for reading and refereeing to scholars outside Nottingham when appropriate.

4. Contributions to OPSL and correspondence about contributions should be addressed to:

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NG7 2RD.

5. Copyright in all contributions rests with the authors, who are therefore free to offer their contributions for subsequent publication elsewhere. (See !. above).

Offers of contributions are invited for TWO possible collections of papers, each to form a unified whole that provides a systematic coverage of the area concerned. Both works would be offered for publication to Frances Pinter Limited, for the Open Linguistics series edited by Robin Fawcett. You may offer more than one paper to either volume, and you should be willing to discuss with the editor(s) adjustments to ensure a balanced book. We expect to include some earlier, seminal papers in both.

PAPERS IN SYSTEMIC PHONOLOGY, edited by Martin Davies and Carol Mock.

The book would contain at least the following sections.

Theoretical Foundations: developments from and relationship to prosodic analysis; relations with Prague School Linguistics; attempts at model-building in an explicitly systemic framework;

Descriptions of the Phonology of Specific Languages: e.g. Carol Mock's of Nzema and perhaps one from a well know systemicist on the Chinese syllable;

Phonology and Grammar: e.g. developments since, and possible modifications to, the Halliday 1970 description for English; recent intonation studies on discourse;

Systemic Phonology and Language Universals: i.e. the way the systemic model handles the constraints imposed by physiology and acoustics;

Other possible areas could include:

Phonology and Graphology: e.g. work by Kenneth Albrow;

Applications: e.g. the role of intonation in (a) silent reading and (b) reading aloud.

These are draft suggestions only, and those who wish to propose others should not be deterred if they do not find an appropriate section listed here.

SYSTEMIC PAPERS IN EDUCATIONAL LINGUISTICS, edited by Martin Davies (and possibly A.N. Other; offers from interested parties to Martin Davies or the Series Editor, Robin Fawcett).

The book would need to have work on the following:

the relationships between a "support discipline", such as linguistics, and educational theory and practice;

the nature of the support linguistics can offer;

the relationship between support of this kind and the kind of support requested by teachers and teacher trainers;

the way, or rather ways, in which linguistic notions have to be mediated from theory, through description, teacher training, and course design into classroom practice;

the notion of 'relevant models';

the advantages and disadvantages of different linguistic models for different areas of Educational theory and practice;

'register' and teaching; classroom applications of discourse analysis.

Anyone interested in contributing to either of these collections, should get in touch with Martin Davies, Department of English Studies, University of Stirling, Stirling, FK9 4LA, Scotland.

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REVIEWS

Review of Berry, M., 1975 and 1977: Introduction to Systemic Linguistics, Vol 1 Structures and Systems (x + 209 pp) Vol 2 Levels and Links (viii + 142 pp). London: Batsford.

It is now nearly ten years since volume one of Margaret Berry's book appeared, and the second volume dates from 1977, so writing a review of a work which practically every reader of Network will be familiar with smacks of closing the stable door after the horse has bolted. There seems little point in trying to give a synopsis of a wide-ranging work or of arguing the toss over details. In my view, no direct rival in the shape of a new introduction to the systemic model, aimed at first or second year undergraduates, has appeared in the intervening years and this surely testifies to its enduring qualities. I have used it as a basic text-book for students reading linguistics dualled with a modern language ever since it appeared (and indeed before, thanks to the author's generosity in making a pre-publication version available). Nevertheless it must be admitted that it is some time since 'Keegan kicked the ball to Toshack' (Vol. 2, p. 9)! A successor should surely be on the horizon, so perhaps the most useful thing for me to do is to suggest just one or two features which my experience with this book (henceforth 'B') leads me to hope any such eventual successor (henceforth 'B+') may have.

Given current fashions in school language teaching (both FL and English), the school-leaver has had little practice in grammatical analysis. He can rarely tell a preposition from a conjunction and, more generally, his linguistic metalanguage is virtually non-existent. B is resolutely theoretical rather than descriptive in its emphasis. It is at pains to point out the model's relevance for applied purposes but it devotes little space to exemplification. This is fine for a reader already familiar with, say, the University Grammar of English, or for a linguist having a thorough grounding in another model of language, but it poses serious problems for a fresher. The reverse is true of Scott et al's English Grammar (1968), with plenty of description and little theoretical discussion. Muir's A Modern Approach to English Grammar (1972) struck more nearly the right balance for today's fresher but, alas, it was flawed by confusing printing errors and inconsistencies. Something along the lines of Fawcett's surface-orientated Some Proposals for Systemic Syntax (1974-6/81) would seem to be a pedagogical prerequisite for a successful introduction to notions of 'deep grammar' even if, from a strictly generative point of view, it is the systems which call the tune.

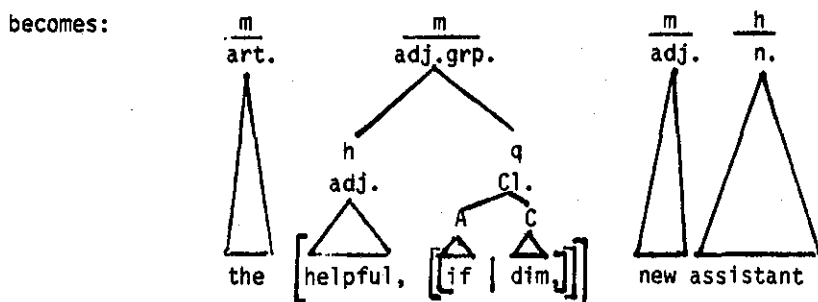
To develop the last point, as long as systemicists disagree as to just what systems exist and how they are related, there will be room for disagreement about the syntactic categories (units, classes, structures, etc.) 'needed to state with the greatest economy the realisation rules that express the options in the semantics' (Fawcett, op. cit.). Nevertheless, with a bit of give and take, it should be possible for B+ to improve on the still valuable Scott et al. To take just one example, I imagine the 'hypotactic univariate' structures which figure prominently in B (see especially Ch. 6), will play a smaller and perhaps non-existent role in B+.

Every 'sentence' will be a clause with or without other clauses rank-shifted into it, e.g.

S | P | C S | P | C | A
I' | I | believe | it I' | I | believe | it | [[when I see it]]

unless it is a clause-complex, i.e. consists of two or more coordinated clauses. As long as syntactic analysts continue to recognize constituency as well as dependency (pace Hudson, 1984), it should be possible with a little ingenuity to dispense with 'hypo-tactic univariate' structures by carrying rankshift to its logical conclusion, whatever the rank of the unit concerned, e.g. (see B p. 99):

Thus: m m m h
 the helpful, if dim, new assistant



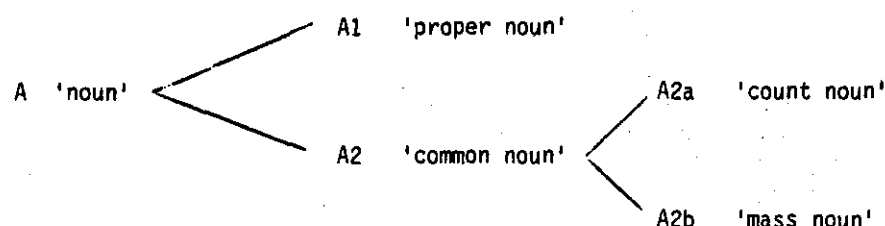
Since there is not a one-to-one correspondence between element of structure and class of unit (e.g. A may be filled by groups of various classes, rankshifted units, etc.), I believe it is very desirable from a pedagogical point of view always to give nodes double labels; otherwise confusion between element of structure and (class of) unit can arise in students' minds. B does not always do so. For example the elements of pG structure are given as b ('before preposition'), p ('Preposition') and c ('completive'). Muir, on the other hand, has p ('Prepend') and I prefer this because the new term makes it quite clear that p stands for a structural element and not for the word-class 'preposition'. Admittedly this policy inevitably gives rise to some proliferation of terminology, (in this particular case prepend happens always to be filled by preposition), but I think on balance this is worth while in the interests of maintaining this crucial theoretical distinction.

Turning to another matter, Volume 1 Chapters 1 and 2, dealing with the characteristics and branches of modern linguistics and with the particular distinguishing characteristics of 'systemic linguistics, seem to me to be admirably clear and to the point. The treatment of the subject-matter of Ch. 3, levels of language, in B+ would however hopefully bury once and for all the systemicist's mystifying attachment to the term 'context' used to refer both to the interlevel of language which everyone else calls 'meaning' and to the subdiscipline of linguistics which corresponds to it viz. semantics. (B's avoidance of the latter term throughout the two volumes is presumably intentional). Concerning the other interlevel, phonology, I think it important that B+ should make clear that it is specifically segmental phonology (including word accent e.g. 'record versus record') which constitutes this interlevel, whereas prosodic phenomena (tone, tonality, tonicity) in themselves constitute a full level, on a par with grammar and lexis. As such they are part of 'form' since they directly encode meaning.

As regards system, the heart of the model, there seem to be if anything fewer certainties around in 1984 than in 1975. I don't envy the author of B+ his task in fleshing out a network with 'real' systems to serve as a specimen. I'll content myself with two observations:

Firstly, however many types of systems there may turn out to be (semantic, syntactic or both or more besides), there can surely be no place for a system whose terms constitute a phonemic opposition like /p/ v /b/. I don't think that B means to suggest this. On the other hand I think that B+ should spell this out more clearly. In B's discussion of the paradigmatic axis of language in Ch. 4 she may unintentionally give the impression that the 'choice' between /p/ and /b/ is no different in kind from that between two lexemes or two terms in, say, a transitivity system. Of course pin and bin happen to contrast formally only with respect to the identity of their initial consonant, nevertheless the only true choice here is a lexical one. The speaker does not choose /p/ or /b/; he chooses pin or bin. That precisely is why segmental phonology is an interlevel as opposed to the meaning-encoding full levels of grammar, lexis and 'prosody'.

The final remarks I wish to make concern fuzziness and clines, an area fraught with difficulties for a model of language which aims to be generative. B rightly points out in Ch. 2 that systemic linguists have been more ready than those of other persuasions to accept that many linguistic phenomena have to be regarded as clines rather than finite sets of discrete elements. I feel less than convinced however that the systemic model itself has found a satisfactory way of incorporating them. B discusses (Vol. 1, p. 29) 'the scale of delicacy'. (Some people might call this 'specificity', reserving the 'delicacy' for the left to right disposition of systems in networks.) But this scale is surely just a practical descriptive convenience and does not solve any problems of genuine fuzziness. For example, applying B's diagram to some word classes we might write:



All well and good. All nouns let us suppose, are either A1, A2a or A2b and it may be convenient for certain applications to lump them all together as A. But such a scale is of no use to us in trying to sort out classes of phenomena where there are conflicts of criteria, for example in trying to decide whether on the shelf is complement or adjunct in I put it on the shelf. 'Traditionally', as a pG it fulfils A (morphological criterion), but the fact that it cannot be omitted from the clause argues for C. (See Young, 1980 for an excellent exposé.)

B also rightly observes that systemicists have always been sociolinguistically aware, recognizing diatypic as well as dialectal variety. She claims that the systemic model is better suited too to handling literary language - 'Systemic linguists are able to include such literary sentences under the heading of unusual (.....) grammatical sentences. (.....) Systemic linguists want to be able to handle literary works, the truly creative uses of language, within the main framework of their grammars. '(idem) But how is the systemicist's undoubtedly genuine concern for language variation to be translated into system networks? Can he really deliver the goods?

As regards literary language first of all, I feel that B's personal interest in explicating literary texts has drawn her too far into considering the peculiarly knotty problems which it raises in what is an introductory linguistic text-book. For instance she has (Vol. 1

p. 155) a system of 'typical/untypical animacy' (The river flowed into the sea v Theodore flowed into the room.) Is it realistic to try to write one huge system network to allow not only for all 'typical' uses of English but for all the untypical ones too? Surely the essence of literature, and of the 'play' function of language more generally, is to bend the rules. If we try to build networks which include not only the rules but the bends as well, where will it end?

As regards non-literary language, (and non-play language), all choices may be regarded as 'typical' but some will be typical of one dialect/register and some of another. Even here one may wonder whether it is realistic to try to write system networks for the 'whole language', within which dialectal and diatypic variation are to be allowed for. The alternative would seem to be to work within one closely specified variety at a time, a course of action which Firth and Halliday both seem to have advocated at various times. To do otherwise might well be to try to reconcile mutually incompatible systems - rather like superimposing a diagram of the Paris Metro on one of the London Underground. You can't get from Piccadilly to the Place de la Bastille on the Tube.

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A.A. Lyne,
University of Sheffield.

REVIEW OF FAWCETT, ROBIN P., 1980. Cognitive Linguistics and Social Interaction: Towards an integrated model of a systemic functional grammar and the other components of a communicating mind. Heidelberg: Julius Groos Verlag and Exeter University. xiv + 290pp.

Robin Fawcett may not be one of the most prolifically published of systemic linguists, but he must surely be one of the best known advocates of the discipline. With Cognitive Linguistics and Social Interaction we see a long overdue attempt on his part to present his valuable work to a much larger audience than gathers at the many conferences and workshops he attends and helps to organize on systemic linguistics. It is therefore perhaps fitting that he should include as an appendix to this book a brief account of its genesis, and of the beginnings of the now well-known systemic workshops which he founded.

The overriding debt is to Halliday and more particularly perhaps to Hudson, in that there seems to me to be that mix of original systemic thinking, on the one hand, and a reaction to and with Chomsky and Cartesian tradition, on the other, that found its particular mark with Hudson and generative systemics. Fawcett stands strong in that tradition. His central argument is that language can be modelled successfully (indeed, must be, eventually) in a cognitive framework. Many might not agree, of course, some on principle; others because it might be thought unfashionable to think like that; a few because earlier gods have supposedly been toppled; and yet more, perhaps, because they remain unconvinced of the recent successes of AI - because they feel it has not been shown to actually work realistically.

Linguistic theory has generally moved in either of two directions in recent years; into an

explicit, highly formalised but simplified model, or into a non-rigorous but less generalised model (cf. Poythress, 1982:277). Fawcett tries to merge the two approaches, resulting in what now suggests itself to be a probabilistic model (cf. Schoen, 1982) that offers a successful blend of the positivist Chomsky and the more hypotheticist Halliday. The emphasis, however, is clearly on creativity, which I suppose is an inevitable result of any anti-inductive approach (cf. Rogowski, 1980:94), but within a procedural framework explicitly developed out of Halliday and Hudson. The result is a forward-looking book which emphasises integration. It is an attempt to steer the middle course that many of us seek, but few are prepared or able to synthesise, and therefore draws together, rather than drives apart, the twin roles of the psychological and sociological. And that, since many linguists have polarised towards the sociological in recent years - to the almost total exclusion of the psychological - is a refreshing, and extremely viable, position to advance.

Robin Fawcett has several aims in this book, the main one being to present a systemic functional model of language at work within an overall model of a mind that is interacting with another mind. He does this by showing how a sentence can be generated from that model. This sentence is developed in incredibly full detail within six chapters, and in doing it he raises, as deliberate policy, a multitude of questions about linguistics in general and systemic descriptions of English in particular. Central to his model is that the generative base is the semantics (cf. Barrett, 1982) made up of eight functional components: experiential, logical relationships, negativity, interaction, affective, modality, thematic and informational. I see no objections to the functional approach at all, in general terms, but I do wonder about where he, and others get their functions from. I would have liked to have seen a more extensive discussion of his decision to develop Halliday's three or four functions into eight. Such functions appear to me to have been formulated, at least to some extent, as part of an epistemological apparatus that pre-existed descriptive discoveries of such functions. (c.f. Garvin, 1980). The arguments here and in Halliday (1968 and 1970) need to be supported with extensive text analysis, and we can only look forward to the publication of work involving such extensive analyses as a way of bringing evidence to bear on this issue.

Fawcett's decision to stop treating syntax and semantics as two autonomous levels, and so to use system networks only in the semantics, is a bold and convincingly argued approach. His arguments for treating syntax as a level of language which can be described independently of semantics, but cannot ever be explained independently from it, are very well handled, and are just one of the many topics that I have been able to discuss with great success with my graduate class in textlinguistics. The problem does remain, however, that making a grammar semantically oriented and explicit inevitably results in a formalism and a procedural approach that requires all probabilities to be accounted for. Hence we get a network for dialectal variation according to sex style that offers a choice between 'masculine', 'neutral' or 'feminine': and a network of the purposes of communication that offers a choice for us to be straight, oblique or to lie. Just exactly what 'neutral' or 'oblique', or indeed the implications of lying, mean is not clear. The 'reality' of these concepts needs considerable discussion. Explicitness is one thing, but it can mean creating some procedures which may not have any actuality outside of the model. No room is left for intuition, except that the only way we can judge the success of the system when it is presented as, say, the output of a computer program, is by intuition, i.e. by what we consider acceptable or not.

But it is in his very ambitious attempt to stand back from ongoing work and to try to pull together many of the strands of language-oriented work into an integrated grammar, that the success of this book really lies. Not, for me at any rate, because it is a particularly successful integrated grammar - it is much too tentative and patchy for that - but because the attempt has actually been made by someone who genuinely seeks inter-disciplinary integration. Of course, that someone should try this suggests both a remarkable optimism in implying that it can be done, and, in the context of this book, a considerable foresight

in stating (and going towards showing how) it should be done. Fawcett appreciates, realistically, that the task is an enormous-one, and this is, without a doubt, the most successful approach I've seen. That suggests, for me, that such an approach is a feasibility in the future. He is fully aware that to look at language as he does requires a fully explicit grammar (cf. Berwick & Weinberg, 1983:52), but that linguistics and its concentration in the past on one-component analysis is not ready for that explicitness. The point is that by stepping aside from that sort of analysis, whilst recognising its necessity, gives one a clearer view of how such integration can be achieved. This doesn't mean to say that there is only one way of achieving this integration, but this one is certainly exciting in the possibilities it opens up.

There has, undoubtedly, been a reaction against formalism (cf Garvin 1978) and computer simulations of social processes, mainly because of the simplifications and generalisations that such approaches generate (though cf. Newell & Simon 1973). The emphasis on neutrality (and the consequent sterility this can create) is very much a part, for many people, of the history of linguistics. There are two sides to this, though, because in moving away from the general and simplified some of us have put ourselves into positions where the indeterminacies and fuzzy edges have become an overpowering concern; as if they make up the whole complexity of naturally occurring behaviour. Attempts such as Fawcett's to construct fully explicit models may not be fashionable in the ethnographic-descriptive strand of linguistics, but they certainly show the need for striking a reasonable sort of balance between modelling in virtual systems and descriptions of real ones.

Striking that balance is the principal message of this book - though, of course, any approach that attempts to model language more as an algorithmic process than as a heuristic (i.e. systematic empirical method of description) is likely to be opposed (cf. Pinker, 1979:234f). And, though system networks might seem ideal for this sort of procedural approach, it does mean that the modelling of the production of language becomes a very clean and neat (too clean and neat?) operation. That sort of idealisation (and Fawcett is only concerned here with an idealised performer) could present many problems, if the model is criticised from an approach oriented towards the sociological/ethnographic. Thus, for example, Fawcett writes a network (p.83) which, arguably, is able to cope with the phenomenon of code-switching in theory, but appears to be unable to cope with code-mixing in practice. This, again, is one area (and the whole of the chapter in which this appears) where this book has proved to be very useful in both classroom work and discussions with my colleagues. The point is that a heuristic approach, which seems much more in line with mainstream Firthian thinking (though there is no reason why this should be a legacy by which systemic approaches should be judged) is less readily predictable (and predictive), more flexible, and seemingly more a question of trial and error; thus it is closer to our intuitions about what language is really like. Such an approach, the argument might go, cannot be as easily written as a computer program (cf Tyler 1980), and whilst that may appear very attractive in a non-interactive model, it does not hold up so well in one that suggests itself to be about social interaction. The inevitable question is bound to be: when does the language of an idealised performer cease simply to be language that can simply be recognised as acceptable, and becomes language that can be accepted as real? One of the flaws of Fawcett's work, in this book, it seems to me, is that it leaves open the danger of confusing the explanation of an event (in this case that of a teacher asking for two louvre windows to be opened by one of his pupils) and the procedures that take place to make the event possible. Interaction in modelling is not necessarily the same as social interaction amongst and between people. For example, we read (p.85), referring to the sentence that is to be generated by the model, '...but since the utterance will be a short one he (the teacher) will not become involved in the various phenomena such as pauses, hesitation markers and anacoluthon that are the more obvious signs of the spontaneous spoken mode.' Do we really make such choices and decisions - even unconsciously? If we do, and the argument in this book is that we do, particularly when we are in a position of power, then it is unfortunately convenient that some of the more problematic areas of discourse that do occur and that therefore do need to be dealt with in any grammar that claims to be explicit and holistic - are not covered at all here. A further example of the sort of problems involved here occurs (p. 74) when

we are told of the teacher that he plans '...what is, in the terms of Sinclair and Coulthard (1975) a "transaction" consisting of one "exchange", which is in turn made up of three "moves".' Labels aside, this seems to me to be a case of a descriptive system of analysis of real language being used to suggest that these same sort of descriptive operations take place in production. I wonder whether here Fawcett doesn't already know what his teacher is going to say before he actually generates it with his model? It isn't enough simply to cite psychological facilitation as a means of getting round the thorny problem of whether, in the production of an utterance, we plan and make choices through a multitude of networks. There needs to be a better balance here, it seems to me, between production and reception; between the role of speaker as speaker, and speaker as hearer.

These are problems facing any one of us, but they are foregrounded here because the emphasis in this book is on the sentence grammar. For a holistic model, much is left out; the relatively brief treatment of discourse in chapter 5 seems to be presented merely as the setting for the sentence, and as for the concept of text - and Fawcett distinguishes between the two - he says (p. 32) that '...the construction of a text is an incidental by-product of the effort to communicate meanings.' But this, of course, assumes a theoretical centrality for the sentence (clause, really) that as far as I know has never been justified by anyone satisfactorily (cf. Fronek, 1983), but which has been assumed by practically everyone. It must be said, though, that Fawcett's approach to semantics, like Halliday's, gives a central place to concerns that in other approaches are handled in the ragbag of pragmatics (or not handled at all). Yet they do not seem to have been worked through with the same sort of commitment given to the clause, nor, indeed has the central place given here to discursal concerns been allowed to bring into question the primacy of the clause grammar.

What is clear about this book is that if it was made a part of all linguists' reading, it would generate considerable discussion. There is enough material, enough ideas raised, on every single page of this book to keep graduate programmes going for years. The breadth and scope are enormous, the vision optimistic - even if not fully realised or realisable yet - and some of it is handled very confidently indeed, particularly the extensive discussions in chapters 1-4 and 6-10 of systemics. Other parts of it show a too ready tendency to take whatever is most easily available and to incorporate it into the model. Consider the notions of field, mode and tenor; Bernstein's elaborated and restricted codes; illocutionary force and Joos's frozen, formal, consultative, casual and intimate categories - are these really useful as categories which really further our understanding of language as their often-quoted use would seem to imply? So often categories like restricted and elaborated codes are used without question, when in fact many sociolinguists would condemn them as totally unrealistic.

This book requires a considerable commitment to studying it in order to get the most out of it. But it is a book that does reward one considerably, both in the graduate classroom, and in one's own thinking, once that commitment is made. Robin Fawcett goes a long way, mutatis mutandis, towards offering a methodology for how some of the problems in putting together an integrated grammar of language can be tackled, and in some cases, resolved. This may not be what such a grammar will finally look like, but reading this book should give all of us a pretty good feeling about how such an overall grammar might work.

David Birch
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REVIEW OF HALLIDAY, MAK., AND HASAN, RUQAIYA, 1980. Text and Context: aspects of language in a social-semiotic perspective (Sophia Linguistica: Working Papers in Linguistics Number 6) Tokyo: Sophia University 107pp. No price given.

In May 1978 Halliday & Hasan together gave three public lectures under the above title at Sophia University, which arranged for the lectures to be taped, transcribed and published, after revision by the lecturers. Having in mind a non-specialist audience they both start from first principles and expatiate on ideas which are already familiar to specialists. The titles of the lectures will indicate the ground covered:

1. Context of situation (Halliday)
2. The structure of a text (Hasan)
3. Functions of language (Halliday)
4. The texture of a text (Hasan)
5. Register variation (Halliday)
6. The identity of a text (Hasan)

There is no need for a review of the arguments here. There are however one or two matters arising which do seem worth taking up.

H. & H.'s exposition of their theories is generally very clear, enlightening and convincing, and no doubt their original audience found it so too. But some may have been troubled

by Halliday's application, in lecture 3, of situational analysis in terms of field, tenor and mode to the first two lines of 'Drink to me only with thine eyes'. He does a good job of taking it apart, but he never really comes to terms with the fact that the context of situation has to be deduced from the text itself: it is not an outside 'given' which can be tidily related to the language which you find inside (as in discourse analysis).

You rely on the language to tell you the situation in the first place. There seems to be an inescapable element of circularity in the procedure. Halliday does remark later on, in lecture 5, that 'there are certain kinds of text - literary text is an obvious example - in which there is no situation except the external situation of ourselves as readers, and we have to construct the inner situation entirely from the text' (p. 62), and he illustrates the point with simple genre-defining examples like Once upon a time, this is to certify that, four hearts, etc.; but he leaves it at that, doubtless for want of time.

Hasan too makes 'an important generalization about texts of this type: at a first glance, their language and their structure appear to bear no relationship to the situation in which they unfold....in order to show the relevance of the context of situation to the language and structure of texts of this type, one has to take several steps' (p. 17); but she too lacks the time.

It is a pity the matter had to be left there, though, because the application of the Hallidayan analysis to literary texts remains problematic. Halliday's own application of it to the Thurber text (1978: 145 - 51), though quite helpful, is by no means enough to release the beginner from uncertainty and confusion - as I found when I came to apply it to my own purposes (the analysis of polysemous words in Old English texts). These lectures are a useful introduction to H & H's theories, but I think they need to go further into this quite tricky area; a thorough authoritative discussion would be very welcome.

The book would also have been improved by making the lectures rather less obviously lectures. When the mode changes from spoken lecture to printed book the register should change accordingly, and in this book more of the more obtrusive features of the lecture register would have been removed for publication. A reading audience can get along with a less repetitious and laboured exposition than a listening audience.

The book actually stays faithful to the lectures to the extent of reproducing the original practical arrangements for delivering them, with the disconcerting result that (as the list of titles quoted above indicates) Hasan's lectures are interpolated among Halliday's, although they are only quite loosely related to them; and consequently each disturbs the other's drift. Such fidelity is quite senseless, for Hasan's matter follows naturally on Halliday's and it makes much better sense to read his first and then hers.

On the whole, though, although there are some weaknesses in the presentation (and occasionally in the printing, e.g. p. 68, where two lines have been lost), there is a lot of interesting material in this book, and it is good to have such a clear exemplification of the theory. Both lecturers took pains to be clear, for the sake of their audience no doubt, and that makes the book a potentially very useful introduction to the concepts, central to Hallidayan linguistics, of text and context. Since these are published as Working Papers it seems unlikely that Sophia University envisages a very wide distribution (and there is an appendix by Yoshihiko Ikegami 'Linguistic Typology and Textual Cohesion: Some Notes on Halliday and Hasan's Cohesion in English' (pp. 92 - 107), which seems to be most suitable for the Japanese market). Yet in this material, with suitable augmentation and rearrangement along the lines suggested here, there is the germ of a very helpful introductory book on Text and Context for a much wider market.

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Note: Network no.9 will include reviews of two recent textbooks in Literary Stylistics that draws on systemic linguistics. Gordon Foulton's review of L. Leech and Short's Style in fiction: a linguistic introduction to English Fictional prose (Longman, 1981) and Paul Thibault's review of Cummings and Simmons' The Language of literature: a stylistic introduction to the language of literature (Pergamon 1983). It will also include Chris Jeffrey's penetrating review of Bolinger's Meaning and Form (Longman 1977), and Alan Duthie's review of Tomori's The morphology and syntax of present-day English: an introduction. (Heinemann 1977).

ARTICLES

SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR AND FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR

In Network No. 6, Christian Matthiessen raised the question of the relationship between Systemic Grammar and Simon Dik's Functional Grammar. As it happens, I recently attended the First Colloquium on FG in Amsterdam, where I was able to converse with a number of those who have been involved with FG from its earliest days, including Prof. Dik himself. From these conversations I formed the following impressions.

Although the work of Michael Halliday and other Systemicists is, of course, well known to the FG community, the history of FG appears to be one of parallel development to other functionalist approaches, rather than FG being strongly derivative in relation to any one of these. In fact, the closest relative (conceptually) to FG, as far as I can see, is the Prague Three-level model, as proposed by Danes in the mid sixties, though the Prague formulation was not explicitly generative at the time. The generative formalism of FG IS, IN FACT, NOTICEABLY DIFFERENT, IN OVERALL TERMS, FROM THAT OF ANY OTHER MODEL OF WHICH I am aware, despite any similarities on particular points (e.g. constituent ordering). Dik may have incorporated features from other approaches, but the synthesis seen in FG is certainly original.

Simon Dik was not resident in London in the late sixties. He has always been at Amsterdam.

In the previous edition of Network, where you kindly publicised the FG Newsletter, the Editor suggested that the term 'functional' has a different sense in FG compared with Systemic Grammar. I don't feel that this is so. What is different, of course, is the analysis of linguistic functions, that is provided by the two approaches. For example, in Systemic Grammar, 'macrofunctions' such as the ideational are recognised and built into the model in terms of systems of choices, whereas FG is not designed along these lines at all. But would a Systemicist be unhappy to subscribe to the following statement in Dik, Functional Grammar. (1978 : 1) ?

'In the functional paradigm a language is conceived of in the first place as an instrument of social interaction between human beings, used with the primary aim of establishing communicative relations between speakers and addressees. With this approach one attempts to reveal the instrumentality of language with respect to what people do with it in social situations.' As far as I can see, this view of what constitutes a 'functional' approach to language is shared by Systemic linguists, and if this is true, then there is no fundamental disagreement between the two approaches as to what the term 'functional' means.

I would readily concur, on the other hand, that in the expression 'Functional Grammar', the term 'Functional' (with a capital F) has the distinctive meaning of referring to Dik's model rather than anyone else's. This is why the proposed title of Michael Halliday's forthcoming Introduction is potentially confusing, and was spontaneously criticised by everyone at Amsterdam to whom I even mentioned Systemic Grammar.

The Colloquium itself, by the way, was a considerable success. It occupied four days, and the atmosphere was rather like that of a Systemic Workshop. Socially it was excellent; non-Dutch participants were very well looked after, and there was a good party both on the first night and on the last. The latter took place on a boat near the docks, so that if you felt the floor move, you had to reassure yourself that this was due to the passage of another vessel rather than the amount of alcohol you had consumed! The (sober) Proceedings will be published by Foris, probably in early 1985.

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COMMENT ON CONNOLLY ON (SYSTEMIC) FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR

Network is very glad to publish this useful contribution to clarifying the relationship between systemic linguistics and what is clearly in many ways a close 'sister' theory. In particular I welcome the quotation from Dik on the goals of linguistics. I have to say, however, that the impression that I personally have of Functional Grammar - in terms of the topics that are written about by Functional Grammarians in their papers - remains very much one of concern with supposedly 'core' linguistics, rather as in the neo-Chomskyan approach.

For example, the chapter headings in Dik 1980 (Studies in Functional Grammar) are as follows: 'Summary of Functional grammar, On predicate formation, The Dutch causative construction, Non-verbal predicates, On the subject in ergative languages, Constituent ordering: Variations on a theme, From VSO to SVO, Postverbal Subjects in Bantu languages, Term co-ordination, and Cleft and pseudo-cleft constructions'. In other words, the focus of attention appears to be syntagmatic relations at the level of form, by contrast with the emphasis in systemic functional linguistics on meaning potential, i.e. paradigmatic relations between meanings (cp Berry 1975: 143). And there is rather little, in Dik's 1980 book at least, on 'the instrumentality of language with respect to what people do with in social situations'. However, while I have examined other books of papers by functional linguists, it is certainly the case that I have not read ALL of the recent work. Perhaps there is more that relates syntax out to situations that I am aware of. (But how can you do so satisfactorily without bringing in meaning, quite fully and centrally?)

It would certainly be nice to think that systemic, tagmemic and (increasingly) stratificational linguistics were being joined by a theory that recognised the need to build the social and interpersonal into the heart of our explanations of language.

Editor

A NOTE ON SYSTEM NETWORKS AND LANGUAGE VARIATION

We need to distinguish between the concept that different social groups may have different TRANSITIVITY NETWORKS (Eskimo vs English, English vs French) and the perhaps more subtle concept that different social groups may have different 'favourite' pathways through the SAME network. The network itself is a part of the language or code of an individual or social group (i.e. it defines part of their meaning potential), whereas the different pathways through a network correspond to instances of use (whether potential or actual, if I may add that further twist). It may be that the notion of facilitation, to which I give some space in my 1980 book, is relevant here: I would say that for certain social groups certain pathways become highly facilitated (with some, if they really are never used at all, ceasing to be living parts of the network, effectively), and that, in certain contexts of situation, certain pathways (that are particularly relevant to a given individual or social group) become more highly facilitated. The former, then, is a cognitive approach to dialect and the latter is a cognitive approach to register - and, ultimately, because it lies behind and beyond register, to code, in Bernstein's sense.

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Reference

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THE ROLE OF SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR IN UNDERSTANDING A 'DIFFICULT' LITERARY TEXT

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A grammar is a tool for clarifying language related problems. It follows that one way to evaluate a grammar is to ask: how does the grammar contribute in turning an inchoate research topic into explicit and tractable issues?

A particular difficulty in modern poetics has been the description and evaluation of the work of the American poet, Wallace Stevens (1879-1954). The range of reactions generated by Stevens' poetry is extraordinary - in the judgement of many authorities his poems are equal to, or above, those of his better known contemporaries: Pound, Eliot, Frost . . . But many readers respond to his work with almost moral indignation, charging that his poems are the brilliant products of a trivial aestheticism; or that, with respect to his later verse, the poems are too rhetorical, abstract, difficult, repetitive, and quasi-philosophical. In 1969, Frank Kermode wrote of the impasse in the Stevens literature, noting that 'the enormous effort to explain Stevens has failed'. While many studies have been published since Kermode's judgement, Stevens' poetry remains controversial and full of apparent paradox. As Craig Raine, echoing Chesterton's Father Brown, expressed the situation in a centenary essay on Stevens: 'It isn't that they can't see the solution. It's that they can't see the problem.'

The difficulties and contradictions diminish, however, as one's interpretation gives greater emphasis to the lexico-grammatical patterning within each individual poem. For in verbal art, characteristically, one finds an extra level of lexico-grammatical organization, a level of 'symbolic articulation' (Hasan, 1979) which mediates between the working (the level of 'verbalization') and the deepest meaning (the level of 'theme'). This is not to say that Stevens' language has peculiar features or deviate properties which are laid bare by formal description. Rather Stevens' verse illustrates a point urged by a tradition of functional theorists: what constitutes the aesthetic function is not a special property of language but a 'mode' of utilizing, organizing, and inter-relating properties which are general to the linguistic system. (See Mukarovsky, 1977)

Systemic-functional grammar provides stylistics with a means of explicating the extra level of lexico-grammatical organization. Because the SF approach is oriented to meaning rather than form, and to text rather than sentence, the analyst can make the step from the systems being foregrounded across a work to the kinds of meaning to which the reader's attention is being consistently drawn. The work of Wallace Stevens provides many complex examples of such consistency of foregrounding. Typically, in his poems, the consistencies are inter-systemic as well as intra-systemic. The foregrounding can first appear like a semantic 'drift' in which congruent meanings are displayed across grammatical systems with very different formal realizations. Analysis proceeds to an interpretation that integrates the contrastive as well as the congruent patterns. Access to the deepest level of meaning in a poem, therefore, is through the inter-relationship of the various forms of consistency.

Through such an approach the whole phenomenon of Stevens - including his poems, his own pronouncements on the theory of poetry, and the vehement critical debates - appears more coherent. For example:

1. The semantic consequences of the text patterns clarify Stevens' claim that a 'poet's words are of things that do not exist without the words'. The patterns in a poem create a semantic compound of which paraphrase is so misleading that one needs to view each poem as a partial contribution to one or more of a small set of semantic pre-occupations - tendencies or foci of meaning. These pre-occupations are realized inter-textually as no single poem spans the domain of meanings which constitutes a 'pre-occupation'. (The situation is analogous to the way the theme in an individual poem is not localized in any particular line or stanza, but is the integration of the patterns discussed above.)

In order to avoid citing these pre-occupations merely as (a), (b), (c), and (d), the following unsatisfactory headings are offered: (a) Sight and the dioptrics of experience; (b) Sound, utterance, and the construction of reality; (c) The meaning of process; (d) A 'new text of the world'.

2. The notorious difficulty of Stevens' verse can be described, and hence more easily resolved, in terms of a number of categories. These categories include poems
 - (i) in which the extreme density of clause complexity results from the writing down of forms characteristic of spoken language. Usually such instances reflect the dramatisation of a point of view or argument, giving the poem a dialogic orientation;

- (ii) in which the global structure suggests an argument but one in which there appears to be a non-sequitur. In such cases the development relies on one identifying oblique ties between lexical items, metaphors or elements of culture;
 - (iii) in which a metaphysical bias of Standard Average European languages (e.g. a certain attitude to 'thingness' or agency) is strategically reversed, seemingly to construct experience according to alternative semiotic styles;
 - (iv) in which 'simple' repetition at one level of form involves a significant shift in function at another level.
3. The divisions in the Stevens debate correspond approximately to differences in the interpretation of the relationship between language and reality. Those who fail to comprehend how the signs of a culture construct its truths and reality are unable to see a purpose behind Stevens' project. These critics are suspicious of a discourse which resists being reduced to units with a direct correspondence to elements of their commonsense universe. For such commentators the difficulty of the poems is indicative of obfuscation for the sake of aesthetic effects.

There are those, however, who can conceive of ways in which the world is made through semiosis. For them it is important to observe the semantic consequences of the precise ways in which Stevens elaborates his pre-occupations. These ways constitute a widening of the textual resources of the speech community - textual experiments through which one gleams something of what it may be like to 'live in the world but outside the existing conceptions of it.' (Stevens, 1957, p.164)/

In a stylistics based on systemic functional theory the responsibility for interpretation is not abrogated by the analyst. It has to be shown how the verbal patterns revealed through linguistic description are salient with respect to the overall language system and the context of culture. In the case of Stevens one can argue that the poems prefigured many of the semiotic currents which are now evident across the literature, philosophy, psychology, and even physics of the contemporary world. Stylistic analysis clarifies ways in which Stevens was the harbinger of an equivocal, open universe in which the texts of man are the measure of reality and the activity of poetry is part of the 'daily necessity of getting the world right'.

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