

news,
views

NETWORK no. 9

and reviews in systemic linguistics and related areas

Editor: Robin P. Fawcett, Department of Behavioural and Communication Studies, The Polytechnic of Wales, Treforest, Nr. Cardiff CF37 1DL. I.K. Tel (work) 0443 405133 ext. 2594, (home) 0222 842016

Reviews Editor: Martin Davies, Department of English, University of Stirling, Stirling, FK9 4LA, U.K.

Assistant Editors: Olu Adejare and Bisi Afolayan, University of Ife, Nigeria; Jim Benson and Bill Greaves, York University, Toronto, Canada; Margaret Berry, University of Nottingham, I.K., Peter Fries, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, U.S.; Jim Martin, University of Sydney, Australia; Lewis Mukattash, University of Jordan, Amman, Jordan; Erich Steiner, University of the Saarland, Saarbrücken, Fed. Rep. of Germany; Shivendra Verma, Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages, Hyderabad, India; David Young, UWIST, Cardiff, U.K.

EDITORIAL

May 1986

Last year's International System Workshop at Ann Arbor, Michigan was noteworthy for a number of reasons. One was the quality of the papers, so that once again a volume of papers from a North American workshop is being edited by the indefatigable (dare we say 'dynamic?') duo, Jim Benson and Bill Greaves. Another was the lively business session and round table discussion (both fully reported, along with the rest of the workshop, in this issue). Another, sad to say, was the fact that the only participant from the Old Country, where this systemic business all started, was your Editor. He for one, however, feels that his journey to Ann Arbor was richly rewarded.

Does it really matter that so few people crossed the Atlantic? (Other Europeans were there; it was just the UK participation that was missing.) Should it be a cause of dismay that no one else from Britain found it possible to get together the money to cross the Atlantic? Perhaps, in fact, it is a cause for celebration that it is now possible, which it would NOT have been ten years ago, to hold a self-supporting systemic workshop in North America. Bookings for this year's workshop at Canterbury are well up on the usual figure for this stage, and we confidently expect an attendance that will be so large that we shall have severe problems in achieving the genuine 'workshop' atmosphere that we keep trying for. Yet most of those at Ann Arbor will not be there. And in 1987 we shall be holding our workshop in Australia - and I predict that it will be a fine and well attended workshop, but that yet again most of those from Ann Arbor, and this time also most of those from Canterbury, will not be able to find the fare to get there. In other words, there are now so many people in the world who find systemic linguistics useful that we could, if we chose, hold three successful workshops simultaneously - and probably a fourth in West Africa, centred on Ile-Ife, and perhaps a fifth in India. And the bigger systemic workshops are so big that they are about the same size as the smaller meetings of the Linguistics Association of Great Britain or the British Association for Applied Linguistics.

It may be regrettable that we cannot find the money to visit each other's continents every year - how nice it would be if we all could! - but the most important conclusion to be drawn from the picture that I have painted seems to me to be this: that more and more people are discovering that systemic linguistics is useful. What more should we be doing to meet those needs?

Editor

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

THIRTEENTH INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMIC WORKSHOP

Dates : 16 - 18 July 1986
Place : The University of Kent, Canterbury, U.K.
Organizer: Robert Veltman, 13/1SW, Institute of Languages and Linguistics,
Cornwallis Building, University of Kent, Canterbury, CT2 7NF, U.K.

Everyone who receives Network should already have received the First Circular about the Workshop. This includes information about the suggested themes, the ways in which we hope to make the workshop more (Workshoppy and less of a series of monologic presentations, and the fact that Michael and Ruqaiya Halliday expect to be present. In particular we hope that Canterbury's proximity to mainland Europe will encourage those living accross the Channel to attend. If you know of anyone on mainland Europe - or indeed anywhere ! - who might be interested in coming to the workshop, please send his/her name and address to Bob Veltman, at the above address. And please send in your own, if by any chance you have not received the circular.

We look forward to meeting in Canterbury in July.

FOURTEENTH INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMIC WORKSHOP

Advance notice :

The 1987 workshop will be held, following the AILA meeting, at the University of Sydney, August 24 - 28, 1987. For further information contact: Dr. J.R. Martin, Linguistics Department, The University of Sydney, Sydney, N.S.W., 2006, Australia.

NEWS OF RECENT EVENTS

TWELFTH INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMIC WORKSHOP
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, ANN ARBOR, 22-24 AUGUST 1985

We give below two reports on the workshop: one by Jim Benson, one of the most regular attenders, and one by Michael Jordan, whose first(or second?) workshop this was. This is followed (for the first time), by reports on (a) the business session and (b) the final round-table discussion.

THE REGULAR ATTENDER'S PERSPECTIVE

Anyone who has organized anything as quotidian as a child's birthday party knows what it is like to organize a scholarly conference. In order to keep everyone happy you have to open the presents, have a repertoire of games, stick to a timetable, and provide refreshments. The 12th ISW was quite a party, the tail end of a jamboree featuring the Colloquium on English Lexicography, the Dictionary Society of North America, and the American Dialect Society. Dick Bailey led a team (including Peter and Nancy Fries, Barbara Couture, Linda Kendall and others at the University of Michigan) which enabled their guests successfully and in an orderly way to achieve what they came together to do: open presents (papers), play games (discuss the papers both formally and informally), and be refreshed (and then some)--the formal part moving with clocklike precision from 8:30 in the morning till 10:00 at night.

Since there were roughly twice the number of presentations as at Stirling (some of which I missed owing to last minute rewriting of my own), I can't mention, let alone review them all here; in any case many of these will be published in a volume coming out of the proceedings. What I can do, however, is give my impressions, as a seasoned observer, of some of the similarities and differences between this and other workshops. First, some differences. Gone are the days of uncertainty and lack of confidence about the direction of systemics. In the wrap-up session at the end, for example, discussion focussed primarily on the 'packaging' of ideas and dissatisfaction with the genre of the academic conference as a way of furthering knowledge, not on the ideas themselves being of doubtful value. In fact, new and unexpected problems seem to be emerging: how to keep track of all that is going on and how to negotiate the terrain of competing and conflicting terminologies without losing one's way. Another difference (from British workshops), mainly resulting from location, was both positive and negative. We enjoyed the active participation of those such as Eugene Green, David Lockwood, Ruth Brend, and Ilah Fleming, who are not working primarily within the systemic paradigm. At the same time, the British delegation was not as numerous as one could have wished. The most striking difference between this and previous workshops was provided by the Australian delegation, from which we got a good sense of the nature and extent of the work going on there.

The similarities were those which have always made systemic workshops worth attending, such as Robin Fawcett's guiding presence. His opening admonition to reflect on the purpose for which one is drawing a system network as the criterion for evaluating the 'goodness' of a network was taken to heart throughout the workshop. We are now all familiar with the Nigel grammar being developed at the Information Sciences Institute of the University of Southern California by Bill Mann and Christian Mattiessen, but the report by Bob Kaspar on Functional Unification Grammar as an aid to solving problems in Nigel arising from the notational constraints of system networks made clear in a very precise way the interaction between systemic and computational linguistics. It is clear that there are dangers as well as opportunities here, given that FUG is in some, but not all respects, not particularly linguistically motivated. Finally, there was a healthy mix of the producers and consumers of systemic linguistics. Producers, for example, included Guenter Plum and Chris Nesbitt on a corpus-based study of probabilities in the clause complex, Jim Martin on hypotaxis vs. embedding, Ruqaiya Hasan on a highly delicate network with tealization statements for offers and commands, Jan Lemke on heterohlossia and discourse, and Eija Ventola on logical relations in exchanges. All these were strongly theoretical. The interests of consumers were represented, for example, by Linda Rashidi on functional co-occurrence restrictions in the fairy tale, Christine Pappas on learning to read by reading, Niji Oladeji on a Nigerian reading of Tennyson's 'Ulysses', Jim Benson and Bill Greaves on field of discourse, Barbara Couture on interdisciplinary functional approaches to writing, and Michael Cummings' look at nominal group systems in Old and Modern English.

And that's just a sample! You will be able to read about all this in print before too long, if all goes well, and I'm sure that all of the presenters would be more than happy to communicate about their work by post. See you in Canterbury.

Jim Benson, Glendon College, York University, Toronto.

THE NEWCOMER'S PERSPECTIVE

Robin Fawcett's introductory remarks set the philosophical tone for this conference: systemic linguistics turns its back on cliquism, being liberal enough to embrace and actively encourage ideas and analyses in related areas of work at the conference. This proved to be so, not only in the wide variety of approaches taken in the work presented, but also in the attitudes of most of the delegates. Unlike the linguistic scene a generation ago—unfortunately still prevailing at some linguistics conferences—there was no insistence for work to be presented in terms of 'the best theory currently available', and there was no publicly-voiced pressure to 'conform'. Thus, although most papers were concerned with extending and/or using systemic principles, others were unashamedly systematic—but not systemic—studies that were nonetheless made relevant to the common interest of participants.

Questioning was polite - perhaps too polite. I am more accustomed to quite searching questions of linguistic substance from peers and senior scholars at LACUS conferences, where the honest search for accuracy and significance takes precedence over the speaker's possible discomfort. At this conference, many questions seemed couched almost euphemistically to avoid any hint of criticism, and potentially contentious issues were brushed aside for the 'later discussion' which never materialised. Question periods were far too short, and perhaps we could arrange for unscheduled rebuttal presentation/discussions to clarify important matters as they arise.

Like all conferences, the quality of scholarship ranged from exceptionally perceptive and potentially highly significant to the mediocre. Similarly, the presentations themselves ranged from the well organised and presented to a few which even specialists in systemics had to admit they could not follow. But overall the substantive and presentational quality of the papers was of the high standard we would expect. Personal highlights for me were Linda Rashidi's splendid semantic analysis and classification of fairy tales, Jay Lemke's discussion of 'thematic propositions', and Mary Eiler's detailed corpus work on thematic distributions in text.

Several suggestions were made to improve the presentations. These included the availability of summaries (as well as networks or examples), and possible concentration on the central issue with the detail and peripheries dealt with in the later publication. With selected papers again to be published by Ablex (Benson and Greaves eds.), this second possibility could perhaps have been used to greater advantage. Although many worthwhile suggestions were made to improve presentations, counter-arguments were soon made evident, and if there was a loose consensus it was that most of us were happy to leave these matters to the professionalism of speakers.

The conference format came in for some serious reconsideration, both during the conference and at final discussion. While no firm conclusions could be reached from the discussion, several points arose concerning the need for more 'workshop' time in the workshop and the preference for the single-stream format used.

Apart from Carol Mock's impassioned and convincing plea for more work in systemic phonology, I was left with no lasting impression of where systemic theory and practice should be concentrated or directed. This is not an unhealthy sign, of course. Linguists must remain free to develop their own interests and descriptive techniques without feeling that sound scholarship will be refected or criticised merely because it fails to coincide with the current emphasis or approach of leaders in the specialisation. That, at least, we have learned over the last generation.

Planning and arrangements for the conference deserve the highest praise. The quiet rooms and surroundings, the efficiency of the organising staff, and the hospitality of the University of Michigan and their English Language Institute coupled with excellent catering to make this the most enjoyable conference I have attended for many years.

Michael Jordan, Queen's University, Kingston, Canada.

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING AT THE 12th INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMICS WORKSHOP, held in Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA, 23rd August 1985.

- 1 The Conference Chairman, Richard Bailey, opened the meeting with some remarks advocating the formation of an organisation of systemicists. (see further under item 7).
- 2 Robin Fawcett congratulated Bailey on his organisation of the 12th International Systemics Workshop.
- 3 Upcoming Meetings:
 - a) LACUS will be held on August 12th-16th (probably) at the University of Texas at Arlington (a suburb of Dallas, Texas). Abstracts are due in early March. (Send abstracts to LACUS, P.O.B. 101, Lake Bluff, Illinois, USA, 60044). Ilah Fleming, Summer Institute of Linguistics, 7500 W. Camp Wisdom Road, Dallas, Texas, 75236 is in charge of local arrangements and all inquiries about local arrangements should be directed to Ilah. Possible sites for future LACUS meetings:
1988 - Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan;
1989 - Kingston, Ontario.
 - b) The 13th International Systemic Workshop will be held on July 16th - 18th, 1986, at the University of Kent in Canterbury, Great Britain (see page 2).
 - c) The 14th International Systemic Workshop will be held (following the AILA meetings) at the University of Sydney, August 24th - 28th, 1987. For further information contact J.R. Martin, Linguistics Department, The University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW, 2006, Australia. (For further information on the AILA meetings, August 16-21, 1987, contact Ross Steele, French Department, University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW, 2006, Australia).
- 4 Conference papers: The papers from the 12th International Systemic Workshop will be published by Ablex. Jim Benson and Bill Greaves are in charge of the project. (Their address is Glendon College, York University, 2275 Bayview Avenue, Toronto, M4N 3M6, Ontario, Canada.) The deadline for submission of papers is December 1, 1985. They hope that the book will be published by September 1986.
- 5 Publications Announcements:
 - a) Deakin University Course Materials in Language Education are available for sale to the public. Publications by Christie, Painter, Halliday, Hasan, Lemke, Butt, Poynton, Kress and Margin will be available. (Some are already published). For complete information contact: Deakin University Press, Deakin University, VICTORIA 3217, Australia.

- b) Discourse on Discourse, Edited by Ruqaiya Hasan, (Workshop reports from The Macquarie Workshop on Discourse Analysis, February 21 - 25, 1983) has been published by the Applied Linguistics Association of Australia, Occasional Papers Number 7 (for further information contact Distribution Centre: Mr. B. McCarthy, Department of European Languages, University of Wollongong, Wollongong, NSW, 2500, Australia.) (North American readers can obtain a copy for U.S. \$12.00 from Peter Fries, Box 310 Mt. Pleasant, MI, 48858, U.S.A.)
- c) Greaves, W.S., and Benson, J.D., Systemic Perspectives on Discourse has appeared and is available from Ablex Publishing Corp. Authors who have contributed to one volume will receive a copy of that volume, but will need to order a copy of the other volume if they wish to have a copy of it.
- d) The Editor of Word, Ruth Brend, requested submissions and promised a fair hearing from the editorial board. In addition, publication may be a little faster than other journals, perhaps within a year of submission. For further information contact Ruth Brend, Linguistics Department, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, U.S.A.
- e) Benson, Greaves and Cummings are working on Linguistics in a Systemic Perspective with John Benjamins as publisher, Target publication date: 1987.
- f) Michael Jordan is working on a new book, The Clause Relations of English Text. Also watch for Jordan's Fundamentals of Technical Prose from Krieger Publishing Co.
- g) Terry Threadgold is working on publishing the papers presented at the Language and Ideology Conference, held in Australia in 1985.
- h) A request was made that dissertation directors encourage their students to submit their dissertations to University Microfilms in Ann Arbor, so that others may obtain them easily.
- i) Robin Fawcett announced that New Developments in Systemic Linguistics, Volume 1: Theory and Description, edited by Halliday and Fawcett, is scheduled to appear in the Spring of 1986. Volume 2, Theory and Application is edited by Fawcett and Young. Publisher: Pinter.
- j) Language and the Nuclear Arms Debate, edited by Chilton, is now available from Pinter.
- k) Functional Approaches to Writing, edited by Couture, is in press at Pinter.
- l) Mock and Davies are working on Papers on Systemic Phonology for Pinter.
- m) O'Toole and Birch are working on Systemic Approaches to Literature for Pinter.
- n) M. Davies is working on Systemic Applications in Education for Pinter.
- o) Systemic Linguistics: Theory and Application by Butler has been published by Batsford.
- p) Gregory is working on Communication Linguistics for Pinter.
- q) Report on NETWORK: The goal is to publish twice a year, Assistant Editors Benson, Greaves, Fries and Martin were introduced.

6 Financial Report: The kitty has £320.00 of which £150.00 has been approved by the Systemic Workshops Committee as a loan to float Occasional Papers in Systemic Linguistics, which is to be published from the University of Nottingham by Margaret Berry and Chris Butler.

7 Organizational Matters: The question arose as to whether we should create a more formal organization of systemicists. The argument in favour of making such a move was that it would allow a more open participation in the organisation, encouraging others to join and participate and making the organisation less like a small clique. The members of the International Systemic Committee were introduced: Chairman, Fawcett; Treasurer, Hillier; Australian Representative, Martin; North American Representative, Fries; Student Representative, Riley; and Current Workshop Chairman Representative, Bailey. Some people felt that creating an organization would create more work. Members were already too busy and had too much management in their lives. People might run for office as a status symbol. The dangers of a formal organization were discussed. A straw-vote was taken and fifteen people voted that we did not need a formal organization. None were in favor of a formal organization. It was suggested that we should 'collect unhappinesses' at the annual business meetings. Several new participants at the workshop said that they had difficulty breaking into the group. The Systemic Workshop was compared to LACUS where it is difficult for new people even when there is an organization. NETWORK should be used for communication. It was suggested that one of our problems is a lack of visibility. As a result we should make a more concerted effort to advertise the existence of NETWORK, of OPSL, and of the workshops. For example, we should be sure that the international bibliographical services (e.g. the Linguistic Bibliography and The MLA Bibliography) are aware of the existence (and contents) of The Nottingham Linguistic Circular and OPSL. A member of the local organizing committee mentioned that the transfer of positions from one person to the next is much easier if there is a constitution which describes the positions people may hold and a term of office for them.

- 8 Electronic Mail was discussed. A significant number of people indicated that they were interested in using electronic mail. Greaves was asked to chair a committee to investigate further use. BITNET was mentioned as a possibility. It may be easy to send computer 'mail' internationally. Greaves will report in NETWORK.

Nan Fries.

THE ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

At the end of the Twelfth Workshop, Peter H. Fries (Central Michigan University) convened a panel to address the question: 'What are the problems that systemicists should address in the immediate future?'

J.R. Martin (Sydney U.) suggested that we should be more sensitive to the ways in which we 'package our ideas', that some conference papers were too dense or too ambitious, and that handouts were often unclear (though he also mentioned some prominent exceptions to that judgment). Barbara Couture (Wayne State U.) presented a series of issues for subsequent discussion: the need for definitions that do not 'slip'; the pitfalls of adapting systemic descriptions to different problems from those their designers addressed; The need for more studies of non-literary prose texts; and the problem of differing judgements of 'value' in academic writing. Ruqaiya Hasan (Macquarie U.) asserted that descriptive statements should be pushed to the greatest degree of delicacy to identify problems of great interest (e.g. the role of polarity in 'offers' such as You won't have a cup of tea, will you? vs. You'll have a cup of tea, won't you?). Robin Fawcett (Polytechnic of Wales) said that we need to keep pushing out the boundaries of our studies. One way to do so is to focus on realization relations in systems; another to show connections between language and other semiotic systems. Alluding to Martin's statement, he urged a 'win-win' approach to argumentation rather than the usual competitive tone of academic meetings. Christian Matthiesson (USC Information Sciences Institute) listed five areas of great interest, particularly in the field of text generation: the process of actualization of systems; boundary and interface problems across strata; breadth (the range of structures accounted for); delicacy; and the need to work upward to higher level strata.

This array of ideas, presented with admirable brevity by the panelists, spurred other participants (among the thirty-six people remaining) to add more. Jay Lemke (Brooklyn College) urged the need for more than token acknowledgement of 'context of situation' (both text-internal and text-external). Carol Mock (Independent Scholar) argued for more studies in phonology and against what she saw as an excessive interest in paradigmatic (rather than syntagmatic) relations. Niji Oladeji (U. Of Ife) invited more attention to the pedagogy of language in non-native environments, while Eija Ventola (U. of Jyvaskyla) felt that too much systemic work concerned English rather than other languages.

Discussion returned to the nature of academic meetings and Martin's criticisms. Terry Threadgold (Sydney U.) disputed Martin's attack on 'the pathology of academic papers'; constraints on time and space make relatively formal sessions inevitable. Fawcett recalled that he had chosen the term 'workshop', when setting up the first of our meetings in the hope of evoking an informal and collaborative atmosphere. Ruth Brend (Michigan State U.) felt satisfied with the emphasis on English but hoped for meetings based on a few topics or central problems. Couture agreed in principle, suggesting that some set of questions (like the one on realization rules that Fawcett had earlier mentioned) might be included in the call for papers without necessarily limiting speakers to them.

Returning to the more general theme of the round-table, Ilah Fleming (U. of Texas, Arlington) invited speculation on what motivates terms in a system network. Marilyn Cross (Macquarie U.) expressed approval for standards of validation and tools for testing hypotheses, especially those involving automatic text generation. Fries thought that systemicists ought to pay more attention to text consumption: What do people get out of texts they read or hear?

A series of comments on the format of workshops then erupted. Many conferences profit from a mixture of 'celebrity' and seminar' presentations (Martin). Prior distribution of papers would allow for informal and informed conversation at the meetings (C. D. Jeffery, U. of Port Elizabeth). A common text for analysis might produce fruitful results (W.S. Greaves, York U.), but 'muddling along' may be the best that can be hoped for (James D. Benson, York U.). Everyone in the audience needs to be made aware of the background and lines of argument (Hasan). There is a genre, described by Michael Gregory, in his well-known 1967 paper, called 'written to be read' and paper-givers ought to master it (Guenther Plum, Sydney U.). Longer time slots (Ventola) and adequate question and discussion time (Greaves and Fawcett) are both needed. A prosodic look at the rhythm of the conference should suggest a mixture of genres and themes; monologic modes are privileged and bespeak power, authority, and expertise, but dialogic modes ought to predominate (Lemke). Papers are often written in anticipation of publication and publications are required for academic success; one solution would be for speakers to define the problem to be discussed in three minutes and then address only one portion of it in the oral presentation (Couture). We should establish our own context; if funding sources require participants to present papers, we could present them all simultaneously and get on with the Workshop! (Lemke). Various speakers during this portion of the round table explained why most of the proposed ideas would not work or would have bad consequences.

Martin asked people to identify questions for the 1987 Workshop (to be held in Sydney) with this result: What is the influence of the higher order social semiotic? (Threadgold); What influences choice in a system network? (Lemke); How does choice arise (or disappear) in the history of a language? Why do some people have choices and others not? (Eugene Green, Boston U.); How can a system network account for register and genre? (Plum and Hasan); How do people respond to texts? (Threadgold [pace Fries' earlier comment]); How can we explain that different choices have different social valuations (Lemke [pace Couture's opening]).

The round table, and the Workshop, concluded with expressions of thanks to the organizing committee and the conference staff.

Richard W. Bailey, The University of Michigan

Conference on English Linguistics

The University
of Michigan
Ann Arbor

August 18-24
1985

A Conference on⁹
English Linguistics
Composed of
Four Related
Sessions:

The meeting of the
Dictionary Society
of North America

A colloquium on
English Lexicography

The Summer Meeting
of the American
Dialect Society

SYSTEMICS
The 12th Inter-
national Systemics
Workshop

Twelfth International Systemic Workshop

Systemic linguistics, the theory articulated by J. R. Firth and M. A. K. Halliday, provides the framework for a great variety of theoretical and empirical work in the study of English and of other languages around the world. It is broadly interdisciplinary in scope and ranges from speculations in the nature of language as social semiotic to inquiry into the structure of individual languages. The twelfth workshop is the second to be held in North America and the first in the United States. The program committee for the workshop included Richard W. Bailey (The University of Michigan), Barbara Couture (Wayne State University), and Peter H. Fries (Central Michigan University.)

The newsletter *Network* provides "news, views and reviews in systemic linguistics and related areas." Subscriptions can be ordered from Robin P. Fawcett, Department of Behavioural and Communication Studies, The Polytechnic of Wales, Cardiff CF37 1DL, U. K.

8:00-
10:00 PM *Systemic
Workshop*
Robin P. Fawcett (The Polytechnic of Wales). "What Makes a 'Good' System Network Good?: Four Pairs of Concepts for Such Evaluations."

Thursday 22
8:30-
10:00 AM *Systemic
Workshop*
SYSTEM APPROACHES TO CLAUSE RELATIONS
Guenter Plum and Christopher Nesbitt (The University of Sydney). "Probabilities in a Systemic Grammar: The Clause Complex in English."
James R. Martin (The University of Sydney). "Hypotaxis and Embedding: Logical and Experiential Perspectives on Subordination."

10:30-
Noon *Systemic
Workshop*
REGISTER AND GENRE
Karen Malcolm (York University). "A Systemic Approach to Casual Conversation."
David L. Martin and Ivan Lowe (Summer Institute of Linguistics). "Dominance and Attention in Sikaritai Discourse."
Linda S. Rashidi (Central Michigan University). "Functional Co-occurrence Restrictions in the Fairy Tale."

1:30-
3:00 PM *Systemic
Workshop*
PHONOLOGY
Cate Poynton (The University of Sydney). "The Realization of 'Attitude': Prosodic Structures in the Nominal Group."
Carol C. Mock (Southwest Missouri State College). "Systemic Phonology and Linguistic Universals."

3:30-
5:00 PM *Systemic
Workshop*
APPLIED SYSTEMICS
Christine C. Pappas (The University of Kentucky). "Learning to Read by Reading: Learning How to Extend the Functional Potential of Language."
Terry Threadgold (The University of Sydney). "System and Process Again: Rhetoric, Register Disjunctions, Discursive Formations, and Possible Meanings."

8:00-
10:00 PM *Systemic
Workshop*
Ruqaiya Hasan (Macquarie University). "Message Function: Context and Lexicogrammar."
Jay Lemke (Brooklyn College, CUNY). "Discourses in Conflict: Heteroglossia and Discourse Analysis."

Friday 23
8:30-
10:00 AM *Systemic
Workshop*
LITERARY ANALYSIS
Gordon Fulton (York University). "Systemic Linguistics and Literary History."
Niji Oladeji (The University of Ife). "English Literature in Non-Native Contexts: A Nigerian Reading of an English Poem."

10:30-
Noon *Systemic
Workshop*
SYSTEMIC THEORY
James D. Benson (Glendon College), Barron Brainerd (The University of Toronto), and William S. Greaves (Glendon College). "A Quantificational Approach to Field of Discourse."
Erich Steiner (The University of Saarland). "From Activity through Cognition to Language: Another Attempt at Relating Language Outwards."

1:30-
3:00 PM *Systemic
Workshop*
FILIIATIONS
James E. Copeland (Rice University). "Systemic Linguistics and Cognitive-Stratificational Linguistics: Two Distinct Relational Approaches to Textual Analysis."
Benjamin Colby (The University of California, Irvine). "Problems to be Considered in Developing a Systemic Anthropology."
Barbara Couture (Wayne State University). "Research in the Functions of Writing: Bridging Theory and Empiricism."

3:30-
5:00 PM *Systemic
Workshop*
THE GRAMMAR OF THE SENTENCE AND BELOW
Michael Cummings (York University). "Systems Describing the Nominal Group in English."
Fred Bowers (The University of British Columbia). "Direct Topicalization of Propositional Arguments."

8:00-
10:00 PM *Systemic
Workshop*
FORMAL PROPERTIES OF GRAMMAR
Robert T. Kasper (USC Information Sciences Institute). "Systemic Grammar and Functional Unification Grammar."
William Mann and Christian Matthiessen (USC Information Sciences Institute). "Systemic Grammar in Text Generation: Notational Issues."

Saturday 24
8:30-
10:00 AM *Systemic
Workshop*
TEXT ANALYSIS
Mary Ann Eiler (American Medical Association). "Thematic Distribution as a Heuristic for Written Discourse Function."
Jean M. Bear (Hawaii Pacific College). "Textuality in Written Text."

10:30-
Noon *Systemic
Workshop*
SYSTEMIC THEORY AND RELATIONAL MEANING
Michael P. Jordan (Queens University, Canada). "Advances in Clause-Relational Theory."
Eija Ventola (The University of Jyväskylä). "The Logical Relations in Exchanges."
C. D. Jeffery (The University of Port Elizabeth, South Africa). "How to Analyse Polysemous Words Using Firthian Principles."

First, we welcome the first introductory textbook in systemic linguistics to be published for eleven years (assuming Margaret Berry's INTRODUCTION TO SYSTEMIC LINGUISTICS VOLUME 1 to be the last). Offers to review it to Martin Davies, please.

AN INTRODUCTION TO SYSTEMIC GRAMMAR

G.D. MORLEY

M Macmillan

ISBN 0-333-38261-7



First published 1985

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This book is designed as a concise introductory survey of systemic theory expounded by M.A.K. Halliday and other major systemic grammarians, with particular reference to the syntactic and semantic dimensions of the grammar. It is intended for undergraduate students of linguistics, postgraduate students of applied linguistics, as well as for those in education concerned with language and language teaching. It is divided into two parts: Part 1 outlines the scale and category framework and the basic principles of systemic syntax; Part 2 then presents the reorientated multifunctional model and considers each of the components comprising the semantic dimension of the grammar.

Prakasam, V., 1985. THE LINGUISTIC SPECTRUM. Patalia, India: Publication Bureau, Punjabi University. (vi +120 pages)

This little book, by one of India's foremost systemic linguists, offers a systemic linguistic description which is unique in at least the following three ways. First, it seeks to combine ideas from the ancient Indian linguist Panini with modern systemic linguistics. Second, it includes three chapters on the phonology of the language in question. And third: for once, the language is not English! It is in fact Telugu, and it is particularly valuable to have a systemic description - and moreover one that is specifically a systemic-FUNCTIONAL description - for a language so relatively unlike English. It has the great virtue, which is not as common as it might be in the writings of systemic linguists, of including a good number of system networks. (Would anyone interested in reviewing this book contact Martin Davies? The reviewer keeps the review copy, of course!).

NEWS OF FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

OCCASIONAL PAPERS IN SYSTEMIC LINGUISTICS

Unfortunately there were some typing errors in the notice in NETWORK no. 8 about OPSL, as Margaret Berry has kindly written to point out.

- 1 Under 3: 'This does now preclude the possibility of...' should read 'This nos not preclude the possibility of....'
- 2 Item 5 has acquired an exclamation mark where there should have been a 1, i.e. 'See 1 above'.
- 3 Items 6 and 7 got detached from the others, with pages of other matter appearing in between.

We are sorry about this clear lack of adequate proof-reading; we hope you can resurrect from the above what should have been written.

We underatand that the first issue of OPSL really is on its way now; the editors, Margaret Berry and Chris Butler have been very busy with other and more pressing things - but they do of course recognise that this too is pressing! We all need more time to do the many things that need our attention....

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN SYSTEMIC LINGUISTICS is appearing in two volumes. Volume 1, THEORY AND DESCRIPTION (edited by Halliday and Fawcett), is with the publisher, and Volume 2, THEORY AND APPLICATION (edited by Fawcett and Young), is likely to be ready to go to the publisher by August. The publisher is Pinter.

LEVELS OF GRAMMAR, edited by W.D. D'Addio, A. Ciliberti and J. McRae, includes two papers by systemic linguists: Robin Fawcett's 'An overview of cognitive systemic functional linguistics; in which the author offers a revised overview of the ground covered by Chapter 5, 'Where discourse comes from: towards a sociolinguistic "grammar" of discourse', of his 1980 book COGNITIVE LINGUISTICS AND SOCIAL INTERACTION, and a paper on the quantity-quality group (formerly 'adjectival' and 'adverbial' groups) in English, which offers some revisions of the treatment proposed in Fawcett's 1981 edition of SOME PROPOSALS FOR SYSTEMIC SYNTAX (1981). The book is expected to appear in 1986, but it is not known at the time of going to press who the publisher is. Inquiries to Department of English, University of Basilicata, Potenza, via Naples, Italy.

RECENTLY COMPLETED THESES

JOHN A. BATEMAN, 1985. 'Utterances in Context: Towards a Systemic Theory of the Intersubjective Achievement of Discourse.' Ph.D. Thesis, University of Edinburgh.

The objective of this thesis has been to begin the development of a theoretical framework for the analysis and generation of certain aspects of extended stretches of naturally-occurring, informal, task-oriented dialogues. Particular attention is given to the fact that dialogues both cohere internally as well organised wholes and are relevant and appropriate to their contexts of use. The linguistic resources responsible for these features must be identified before the organisation of genuinely 'natural' multi-utterance texts can be satisfactorily understood and modelled. In contrast to previous computational research in this area, which has come to assume that the questions at issue are primarily ones involving a speaker's knowledge and assumptions concerning a hearer's state of knowledge, beliefs, intentions, etc., I draw upon the results obtained in the fields of ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis and develop an account which remains faithful to the view of discourse as an essentially interactional achievement. This places the emphasis upon the shared context of interlocutors and the all-important role that language itself plays in the creation and maintenance of that context.

The formalism I adopt for describing the linguistic resources which provide for the achievement of interaction is based upon that provided by an established large-scale computational systemic grammar. This formalism, the 'Nigel' grammar developed by William Mann and Christian Matthiessen, offers a well-defined and extensive notation for the construction of systemic-type 'grammars' in general. I undertake an investigation of those features necessary for an extension of the formal stratum of that system (which has traditionally consisted solely of a syntactic component) so as to be able to handle dialogue in a manner wholly compatible with the interactional principles that I accept.

Two possible sources for the organisation of discourse are examined in detail. The first, which follows from the Hallidayan-bias of the linguistic theory I adopt, is provided by the consequences that context has for the deployment of linguistic features and vice versa; this amounts to an extended formal treatment of the notion of 'register'. The second extends Halliday's framework to incorporate a form of 'exchange structure' - which can be considered a formalisation of the notion of the 'adjacency pair' - and provides a set of formal linguistic resources involving the organisation and 'structuring' of stretches of language larger than sentences or turns of single speakers. The fine details of the organisational principles for discourse that I propose are then developed on the basis of an analysis of protocols elicited in a co-operative game situation.

I am about to begin a two year research project at the University of Kyoto concerned with the construction of a systemic computational grammar of Japanese and its possible use with similar grammars of English for the purposes of machine translation. The basic formalism to be adopted throughout is that of the Nigel system of William Mann and Christian Matthiessen. I will be considering both the application of this framework to the Japanese language and the possibility of discourse presented in my doctoral dissertation.

I would be very pleased to hear about any recent work by systemicists that has been concerned with the translation problem and also about systemic analyses of Japanese that have been attempted.

Address: Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Kyoto, Kyoto, Japan.

KAREN MALCOLM, 1985. The Dynamics of Casual Conversation: from the Perspective of Communication Linguistics. Ph.D. Thesis, York University, Toronto.

Casual conversation cannot be described by the static codal consistency characteristic of such discourse focused registers as service encounters and literary genres. The reason for this are two-fold. For one, it lacks experiential and functional consistency. And for another, it is a message focused register. This implies that what is actually verbalized of the intentionally

communicative behaviour manifested does not account for the complete interpretation of the intended message. Situational and gnostological exophora place contextual and cognitive demands on the interlocutors involved that make the register more of an active experience than ritualized and formulaic discourse focused registers which are relatively complete in themselves and predictable to the decoder.

Communication Linguistics has proved an effective framework with which to describe the metafunctional dynamism inherent in casual conversation and the interplanal interrelations between the discourse and its situation, in light of the interlocutors' gnostology. It differentiates between the instantial planes of experience: situation, discourse, and manifestation, and the non-instantial realizatory, codal strata: semology, morphosyntax and phonology. It also recognizes the gnostological interface, where the encoder/decoder's linguistic and non-linguistic knowledge is stored. Phase, the dynamic instantiation of registerial consistency, has been a particularly useful concept in describing how interpersonal and experiential message components are 'packaged' in a way that simplifies decoding. And phasal strings capture how registers such as casual conversation, which have only a minimally predictable discursal schema, are organized in a discontinuous or continuous fashion to facilitate decoding.

In this dissertation eight conversations have been analyzed: four by six and seven year old children, two by adult 'strangers' and two by adult 'friends'. Phasal analysis has allowed a preliminary characterization of casual conversation to be reached by describing the effects of varying interpersonal relationships and different temporal provenances on casual conversation. Contrastive descriptions of experientially and functionally specified discourse have also shed light on the unique character of casual conversation.

Address till August 1986: Department of English, University of International Business and Economics, Beijing, P.R.C. Thereafter: Department of English, Glendon College, York University, Toronto, Canada.

PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES - ARTICLES AND GUEST EDITING

WORD, the journal of the International Linguistic Association, is currently seeking articles on any subject of interest to linguists, from any theoretical perspective. (Although in arrears in the past, the journal is now up to date, and should continue to appear regularly.) Assurance is given that manuscripts will receive prompt attention and, if accepted, publication should be within one year of receipt. Final acceptance is decided jointly by the Editorial Board. Manuscripts, in three copies, should be sent to the Managing Editor, Professor Ruth M. Brend, at the Department of Linguistics and Languages, Michigan State University, Wells Hall A-615, East Lansing, MI 48824-1027, USA. A style sheet was published most recently in the April 1984 issue, and may be obtained from the Managing Editor.

The Managing Editor would in addition be interested to discuss with any interested person the possibility of guest editing a single or double issue.

Unsolicited reviews are generally not published, but persons wishing to submit a review should correspond in advance with the Review Editor, Professor John Costello, Department of Linguistics, New York University, 10 Washington Place, New York, NY 10003, USA.

Membership in the International Linguistic Association (currently \$35 a year) includes a subscription to WORD, which appears three times each year. Authors of manuscripts submitted to WORD are not, however, required to be members of the association.

The Annual Meeting of the association is held regularly on the second Saturday and Sunday of March, usually in New York City.

NEWS OF READERS' ACTIVITIES

NEWS OF MEMBERS IN TORONTO Jim Benson

MICHAEL GREGORY's absence from the ISW in Ann Arbor was occasioned by his departure to Beijing for a year, from August 1985 to July 1986. (He and others will, however, be at the Canterbury workshop.) Michael is leading a team, which includes DAVID and MARGOT WATT, ELISSA ASP and Dr. KAREN MALCOLM. They will be engaged in a project at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing, and may be reached c/o the English Faculty there. The group will continue their work in Communication Linguistics, as well as conducting an institutional study of English in the Beijing municipality, and giving a course to the language teaching faculty on how to use Communication Linguistics in a TESOL setting.

Address: English Department, University of International Business and Economics, Beijing, People's Republic of China.

MICHAEL CUMMINGS, in addition to presenting a paper in Ann Arbor, has given papers at the Twelfth LACUS Forum in Saskatoon, 'The Stylistics of Heightened Emotion in Joyce's Portrait of the Artist' (co-authored with Anthony Hopkins), and at the Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing Conference held in Nice, 'Analysis of Old English Text through Logic Programming'.

JIM BENSON and BILL GREAVES (together with Barron Brainerd of the University of Toronto) also spoke at the ALLC meeting in Nice on 'A quantificational Approach to Field of Discourse'.

Benson, Cummings and Greaves are currently in the process of editing a collection of new papers, Linguistics in a Systemic Perspective, to be published by John Benjamins.

GORDON FULTON has just moved to Victoria, British Columbia, where his wife Kathy is teaching in the University of Victoria English department and where he continues to work on his thesis.

At the applied end of the scale, LE CAMP, a French Immersion summer project of the Applied Linguistics Research Working Group, has completed a third season. JONATHAN FINE at Bar-Ilan University in Israel has joined JIM BENSON and BILL GREAVES in the analysis of a considerable amount of bilingual discourse collected by JANINE SCHULZ.

Israel-Canada communication is via BITNET--not without bugs, but proceeding more and more smoothly.

Anyone wishing to experiment with BITNET should send a cheerful message to JIM or BILL whose "address" is GL250012@YUVENUS. Try as hard as you can to get your local computer people to get you through. Be sure in your message to give your return electronic address so we can try to get back to you. It's a great facility--but all a bit amateur at this stage.

ROD HADEN writes:

'I'm just completing the difficult transition from specializing in Russian and Linguistics to being an Applied Linguist in an English Department (British Council Lecturer), but I've got plenty of scope here to go my own way and I would very much like to do some Systemic Linguistics while here.'

Address: Instytut Anglistyki, University of Warsaw, Krakowskie Przedmiescie 26/28, 00-325, Warsaw, Poland.

LYNNE POULTON writes (10.12.85):

'I'm currently working at ISI with RILLMANN and CHRISTIAN MATTHIESSEN, where I have a job for a year, working on the NIGEL grammar. Under the circumstances (like having to actually work for a living) I don't see myself getting to Canterbury next year (unfortunately) but I hope to see you in Sydney in 1987.'

Address: Institute of Information Sciences, University of S. California, Marina Towers Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey, California, U.S.A.

CATE POYNTON writes (4.8.85):

'I'm now based in Adelaide - I took up a position as lecturer in Communication Studies at the South Australian College of Advanced Education in mid-May. This term I have been teaching two core units, both of which are substantially functional-systemic. 'The Structures and Meanings of Language' uses Halliday's functional grammar to provide the linguistic descriptions for a course which attempts to deal with function in terms of metafunction (using Halliday's tri-functional model) and also to explore ideological structures in texts. 'Language and Interpersonal Communication' draws substantially on work done on register and genre especially by the Register Working Group at the University of Sydney, in looking at linguistic interaction and taking up questions concerning the construction of identity through language.

At the moment, these two ten-week units together with a unit offered by another lecturer on 'Language and Reasoning', are it as far as language/linguistics is concerned. There is scope to develop further optional units that build on this essentially introductory work, but the structure of the whole course (B.A. In Communication Studies) is to change fairly substantially in 1987, and this will inhibit the development of new units until the new structure is in place. I will probably be involved next year in the introductory unit on 'The Interpretation of Culture' and I'm hoping to do more work on language and gender, particularly attempting to amalgamate current feminist theory in this area with what I have already been doing from a systemic perspective. This should all keep me pretty busy, together with the alas-unfinished-as-yet thesis on tenor and vocation in English.

I'm enjoying working with Communications students, particularly for the variety of perspectives they bring to bear on language work, and likewise the challenge of designing and teaching courses that I hope are appropriate and stimulating as part of a Communications degree. I've become acutely aware, however, of the dearth of systemic material written for the beginner in an applied context. I'm awaiting further volumes from Fran Christie's new M.Ed. courses at Deakin University with high hopes that a good number of them will be usable in my own courses.

Regards to you - I haven't heard whether you are planning to go to Ann Arbor or not. I was intending to go to the Workshop at Ann Arbor and had a paper accepted, but have decided not to go now. I've been too busy to work on my paper and having shifted interstate less than three months ago, find the thought of racing around America less attractive than if I were more settled here. I've been living in a friend's flat, with most of my possessions in storage, and intend using a fair bit of the term break to find a house - after correcting assignments from around 100 students! Maybe I'll see you at next year's Systemic Workshop.

The most of this was written with Network in mind, whenever the next one is being prepared. Now that I'm no longer in Sydney, Network plays an absolutely crucial role in keeping me in touch with what's going on in systemics.'

Address: Communication Studies, S.A.C.A.E. - Magill, Lorne Avenue, Magill, S.A. 5072, Australis.

JANINE SCHULZ writes (29.11.85):

†Linguistics at the University of Nice is fun - not too far from being systemic - I haven't seen any system networks but the 'meaning is choice' idea is there. The big names here are, of course, Saussure and André Martinet. They've hung on to 'old' semantics with 'pragmatics' as a subdiscipline, but that was no surprise. But the phonology and syntax side of things isn't bad.

Studies and bureaucracy are keeping me on my toes, so much that I don't know if I'll be able to do the French intonation study that I talked to you about in Ann Arbor. Even if I don't manage to give a paper in Canterbury, I'm planning to attend the workshop.†

Address: 25 Avenue des Bosquets, Lotissement de la Pastorelle, 06200, Nice, France.

EIJA VENTOLA, of the University of Syvaskyla, Finland, and formerly of the University of Sydney, Australia, spent the Autumn Term 1985 with ROBIN FANCETT at the Polytechnic of Wales, Nr Cardiff, and is spending the Spring and Summer Term 1986 with MARGARET BERRY and CHRIS BUTLER at the University of NOTTINGHAM. Eija, who is supported by a British Council grant, is continuing her studies and working on the adaptation of her Ph.D. thesis on service-encounters for a book for the Frances Pinter Open Linguistics Series.

ERICH STEINER in May 1985, joined the project on Machine Translation (MT) of the European Community (EUROTRA D) to work there half time, while continuing on a half time position in the English department of the university of the Saarland 1985. EUROTRA-D, which is mainly based on dependency theory, has since received quite a bit of Systemic input. Erich would be very happy to exchange experiences with other Systemicists working in MT. His own work has involved him in visits to a conference on MT at Colgate University, New York (prior to the Ann Arbor Systemic Workshop) and a workshop on machine translation to the Greek island of Kreta.

Address: Institut für Angewandte, Informationswissenschaft (IAI), Projekt EUROTRA - D, Martin Luther Str., D-6600 Saarbrücken, W. Germany.

SHIVENDRA VERMA writes (29.1.86):

As a new year gift the Government of India asked me to take over the office of the Director, CIEFL on 1st January 1986. Since then I have been trying to work out a system in terms of which I would like to handle the academic and organizational problems. It has also meant moving into a new house. All these activities have kept me away from my research work.

Address: Professor S.K. Verma, Director, Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages, Hyderabad-500 007, India.

REVIEWS

We review below two recent textbooks in literary stylistics; both of which will have been used by NETWORK readers. As it happens, we have two reviews of Cummings and Simmons' The Language of Literature, and the two show an interesting complementarity to each other. This is in fact the second review of Leech & Short's Style in Fiction to appear in NETWORK; we included a review-notice when it first appeared, in NETWORK no. 4, pp. 7 - 8. We also review two more general works: Bolinger's Meaning and Form, where Chris Jeffrey brings out, interestingly, the common ground between Bolinger and Firthian linguistics, and Tomori's Morphology and Syntax of Present Day English. It is good to be reminded that in Third World countries there is a thriving indigenous publishing industry, and we hope to bring some of these publications - especially those by systemic linguists such as Verma and Prakasam in India, and Adejare, Afolagan and Oladefi in Nigeria, to the attention of a wider readership. Authors (in all parts of the world) please ensure that Martin Davies receives review copies!

Review of Leech, Geoffrey N., and Short, Michael H., Style in Fiction: a Linguistic Introduction to English Fictional Prose. pp. xiii + 402. Longman, 1981. £6.95 in paperback.

'The elements of style can be stated in linguistic terms.' - J.R. Firth

This book is a welcome and much-needed guide to the stylistic study of prose fiction. Leech and Short present a wide variety of linguistic techniques and make many insightful critical comments on works selected from more than two hundred years of English fiction. Although the authors do not claim to have covered the field completely, several of their chapters may be read as introductions to specific areas of it. The book as a whole has several features characteristic of a good textbook: it does not assume prior knowledge of its subject, it has an extensive section of exercises, and its bibliography of suggested reading will guide readers to other studies. Most importantly, Style in Fiction persuades its reader that the stylistic study of fiction is a coherent subject. The range of texts studied is wide enough to dispel any notion that linguistics has been applied selectively to literature, and the book's length (necessary for its success) is welcome in a field where too many studies have been brief introductions and not often related to one another.

As the development of prose often lags behind the development of poetry in a literary tradition, so this book was published twelve years after Leech's A Linguistic Guide to English Poetry. Interestingly, much of the linguistic work on which this study depends has been published since 1969. Not so many years ago, when linguists were confident of their ability to describe grammatical structures' attempts to assess the significance of linguistic patterns identified in texts tended to be seen as the 'literary' part of stylistics. Leech and Short demonstrate that by paying attention to texts as well as sentences and by taking account of recent developments in linguistics, stylistics can bring more precise linguistic technique to the assessment of literary significance. The days when the relevance of linguistics to literary studies had to be argued in the face of hostility and misunderstanding seem to be over, and the large number of recently published works suggests that stylistics is at last getting a fair hearing, if not a permanent place in most curricula. There are two main reasons for this. The most strident claims for 'linguistics' in English studies are now being made by proponents of self-reflexive philosophy and post-structuralism. Although innocent of general linguistics in all but metaphor, these studies present a more pressing threat to prevailing critical practices and consequently they draw most hostility to change. At the same time, there is less use of TG in stylistics, which means that fewer studies refer themselves to a complex theory being developed independently with limited concern for the study of text. It is noticeable in the work of Leech, and in that of systemicists generally, that theoretical insight and the study of texts develop simultaneously. This complementarity makes their stylistics a positive alternative to a deconstructionist philosophy unwilling to specify how we should discuss text and a linguistics uninterested in discussing them.

Leech and Short begin by developing a view of style, one which systemicists should find congenial for its emphasis on choice and its concern to reconcile linguistic description and artistic appreciat-

ion by attention to those linguistic features of texts which seem artistically motivated. While firmly reflecting the view that style is an optional extra ('the dress of thought'), Leech and Short allow for the dualistic view that an author makes choices of content and choices of expression separately, style residing in the choices of expression. In order to combine insights from monist, dualist, and pluralist approaches 'in a multilevel, plurifunctional view of style which will be applicable to the practical study of texts' (p.38), they state principles which form the basis of their view of style rather than define style dogmatically. They suggest that concepts of style may depend on the purposes of stylistic investigation and their open-mindedness should make the book a useful addition to reading lists for courses in which various approaches to style are considered.

Leech and Short are similarly open-minded about the use of statistical evidence, feeling that it should be adapted to the needs of the study and suggesting it be used as a way of presenting the linguistic evidence of texts rather than as an end in itself. Statistics can be useful in confirming hunches or in bringing to light significant features that might otherwise be overlooked, but 'nothing can be deduced from, or proved by, statistics alone' (p. 51), because the relation between statistical frequency, psychological prominence, and the literary relevance of textual features is an ordered one—literary relevance depending on, but not explicable solely in terms of, psychological prominence; psychological prominence depending on, but not explicable solely in terms of, statistical frequency.

In a discussion that draws on Mukarovsky (1964), Jakobson (1960), and Halliday (1971), literary relevance is associated with the Prague School concept of foregrounding, which may be qualitative or quantitative, as the deviation we notice is from some rule or convention of the linguistic code or from some expected frequency of linguistic features in texts. Leech and Short suggest that the context within which we place a text depends on our responsiveness to a set of norms, norms which collectively give us our bearings for responding to a style. Following Halliday, 'primary (relative) norms which determine our general expectations of language' (p.57) are distinguished from secondary norms created by consistency within a text. 'Internal deviation' can be recognized as features in a text deviating from a norm the text has led us to expect, and this concept 'explains the prominence, not uncommon in prose fiction, of an ordinary, even banal piece of language which seems to gain its impact from the context in which it is found.' (p. 55). The artistic effectiveness of 'ordinary' language in fiction can sometimes be demonstrated through reference to Grice's notion of implicature, which Leech and Short use to discuss conversation in fiction and the relations between authors and readers. Two papers not mentioned but which should be added as suggested reading on foregrounding are Hasan (1971) and (1975).

Following Quirk and Greenbaum (1973) for grammatical terminology, and traditional poetics for terms to describe foregrounding (metaphor, onomatopoeia, and so on), Leech and Short present a checklist of potential style markers, not as a definitive guide, but as an aid to the linguistic survey of texts. These linguistic and stylistic categories are used in analyses of passages by Conrad, Lawrence and Henry James. As an informed survey of possibilities, the checklist stands out as a laudable attempt to provide a framework for investigation in a field where partial studies have been the rule. The checklist should be particularly useful to anyone teaching stylistics or beginning to practise it, and the grammar presented should allow a teacher to move easily from the study of 'literature' to the study of 'language'. Another use of the checklist might be to help students become more aware of the qualities of their own writing. Along with the communicative principles developed in Chapter Seven, the list makes an excellent basis for the study of non-fictional prose. Leech and Short's discussion of loose and periodic sentence structure as two poles between which English sentence structure varies is admirably clear, conducted with reference to the nature of the linguistic medium and the process of written communication rather than to the ghosts of Cicero and Seneca, and it should help students to make sensitive reading an integral part of their own persuasive writing. Style in Fiction can also make the transition from analysis of literary texts to analysis of other kinds of text easier.

Such a statement as :

To a large extent, it is only the greater complexity, multiplicity and subtlety of the novel as discourse which separates it from the most commonplace conversational transactions (P. 316)

might seem reductive, but it is intended to remind us that literary texts have important relations to non-literary texts as well as to other literature. Rephrased, it might remind linguists that literature is an instance of language in use, and that one of the legitimate goals of stylistics ought to be to make it possible for the study of literary texts to reveal more general linguistic problems.

Halliday's functions are used to organize the second part of the book. The ideational function is discussed with reference to the concept of 'mind style' - taken from Fowler (1977) - and Leech and Short apply it to a variety of texts, ranging from three 'normal' mind styles (in passages from Steinbeck, Joyce, and Henry James) to three in which semantic categories are more obviously re-arranged (in passages from Hardy, Faulkner and John Cowper Powys). Finally, the distinction between mind style as a particular view of a fictional world and the fictional world itself is made clear through analysis of lexis, syntax and textual relations in a style now familiar to stylistics, that of Benjy in The Sound and the Fury. This movement from relative normality to pronounced deviance demonstrates the flexibility of the technique and gives a sense of relation between styles not demonstrated often enough in stylistic studies. Were an explicitly systemic framework used in the investigation, such relations could be brought into clearer focus still, as systemic theory would allow a functional account of how patterns of choice differ from one another.

Leech and Short prefer to discuss the textual and interpersonal functions as matters of pragmatics and rhetoric. They unify the study of point of view, irony, theory and Grice's concept of implicature to bear on the study of conversation and the presentation of speech and thought in novels. Their summary of Searle and Grice is necessarily more concise than Mary Louise Pratt's in Toward a Speech Act Theory of Literature (1977), but it leads to more insightful criticism than Pratt makes and it can be supplemented with Leech's considerable work on the subject. Their concluding treatment of the large discussion that has followed Bally's description of style indirect libre shows again that much is achieved by a systematic approach, relating (in this instance) varieties of speech (direct, indirect, free direct, free indirect) and narrative report of speech acts. It is not clear, however, whether Halliday's functions really do unify the second part of the book. It will be necessary for a teacher with a systemic approach to language to supplement Leech and Short considerably in order to use their checklist of style features on work on pragmatics in stylistics. It is by no means clear exactly how grammatical and lexical studies can be integrated with other analytic techniques unless the place and function of lexis and grammar within a larger model of language is made explicit. Although Leech and Short introduce the linguistic levels of semantics, syntax, and phonology/graphology, and the processes of encoding and decoding to clarify their distinction of 'sense' and 'significance' and to discuss the rhetoric of text, more work on the concept of realization will be needed if all their approaches are to be made fully compatible with systemic linguistics. Such work might be especially rewarding for pragmatic analyses: the speech act (the unit of pragmatic analysis) does not correspond to easily recognizable units of grammatical and lexical analysis, yet it seems clear that speech acts realize various semiotic codes within culture and that pragmatic analysis should aim to relate texts to the understandings between individuals that act as socially cohesive forces in the cultural context.* Anyone wishing to teach stylistics from a thoroughly systemic perspective may be interested in Cummings and Simmons's The Language of Literature (1983) as a textbook, because besides introducing stylistics, it makes an extensive introductory survey of the systemic model.

Something else the systemic framework might allow for (if not demand), is the consideration of a single text from several perspectives, in the light of all the functions of language. Although it is not a fault in this study that Leech and Short do not analyze a single text with all of their techniques, readers may wonder how they would relate their various analytical techniques to one another if they were to apply them successively to the same text. Making explicit the sense we have of several valid ways of analyzing literary texts and of simultaneous exploitation in literature

of multiple modes of meaning remains a great challenge for stylistics. Being able to consider simultaneous realization of various functions in coexisting structural patterns in texts can help stylistics meet that challenge and allow us to study the poet as (in Wordsworth's formulation) a man speaking to men. Then we could see literature as intervention in social process - not merely as specialized aesthetic experience, but as part of 'the noises we make with our faces to live'.

* Whether pragmatics is compatible with the systemic model is another question. At times, in studies other than this one, it seems as if the sense/force distinction allows a fresh approach to tackling meaning, coming to the rescue of overly 'syntactic' treatments of grammar. When she introduces pragmatics, Viola Herman says J.S. Austin 'introduced the notion of the "performative" and thus opened up the possibility of viewing language not as description alone, but as action.' (1983: 111) This remark suggests more needs to be done to make Firth's work known. The goal-directed pragmatics Leech is now developing is exemplified in his study of Samuel Johnson's 'celebrated letter' to Lord Chesterfield. Leech's emphasis on communicative goals can perhaps be related to Jim Martin's use of functional tenor 'in a deeper "stratum" underlying field, personal tenor and mode and giving rise to the schematic structure of text' reported by Michael Gregory (1982: 70).

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Review of Cummings, M., and Simmons, R., The Language of Literature: a stylistic introduction to the study of literature.

Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1983, xxiv + 235 pp. £6.95 in paperback.

Books about style come in two forms: discussions of given pieces of literature which have little to say about the methodology employed, and discussions of methodology which may not have much to say about literature. This book is more in the second category, though the authors have tried to avoid some of the shortcomings of their approach by fixing their eyes firmly on literary material. Nevertheless, I am not convinced that they have found the right solution to a textbook of this sort. The problem lies in the fact that we assume most students are ignorant of grammar; and if they do know any grammar it is likely to be traditional grammar, which modern linguists and stylisticians prefer not to employ. Hence writers of introductory books about style are faced with the problem of explaining to their potential readers how the language of a given text operates in a grammar with which they may not be familiar. One solution to this problem would be to refer the reader to a grammar and then to get on with the business of explaining how language operates in literature. There is after all no shortage of introductory grammars. But most writers of introductory textbooks on style follow the safer course of explaining the whole grammatical model they choose to employ. This is how Cummings and Simmons operate. This book explains in some detail how a systemic grammatical model works and this grammar is illustrated by the use of literary texts. This in its turn creates a further difficulty: how much of a grammatical model does a student of literature need to know in order to be able to understand the operation of language within texts which he may read? Once an author starts to explain the grammatical model, that explanation generates its own momentum towards completeness so that a fairly comprehensive grammar is provided. This is very much the case with this book. Indeed, it may be said that this book is as much an introduction to systemic grammar (which happens to use literary examples) as it is an introduction to style. To say, as Michael Halliday does in a stimulating foreword, that the first step to becoming a stylistician is to recognise that literature is made of language need not imply that readers of literature have to become fully fledged grammarians in order to read literature. Many readers of this book may well assume that they are being turned into linguists and so be turned away from the study of the language of literature. The authors have not really asked themselves the important question as to how much grammar a student of literature needs and is prepared to assimilate for his particular requirements.

The first chapter provides, for example, a fairly comprehensive account of phonology and phonetics which is both interesting and informative. It is not certain, however, that a student of literature needs to know where all the sounds in English are made in the mouth and what the technical name for each group of sounds is in order to be able to appreciate many of the sound effects in poetry or prose. So much detail is provided that not all of it can be made relevant to the pieces of literature which are quoted, and so some readers may well put the book aside because they find it too technical and insufficiently informative at a literary level.

The book deals with sounds, graphology, grammar, lexis and context, and is good of its kind. The question is whether this is the right kind of book to write. Can we not assume that students either know sufficient grammar or will be prepared to consult a grammar if they are interested in the language of literature? What is important now is to persuade them that the study of literature through language does yield new and important insights, and this can hardly be done within the framework of providing a grammatical model. It is time the two approaches to style were united.

N.F. Blake, University of Sheffield.

Review 2 of Cummings, M., and Simmons, R., The language of literature: a stylistic introduction to the study of literature. Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1983. xxiv + 235pp.

Linguistic stylistics has endeavoured to make more precise descriptive statements about the set of texts which a society calls 'literature'. The focus of this endeavour has remained a fairly unproblematic concept of the 'literary text', with the consequence that the division between literary and non-literary language is maintained. Linguistic stylistics purports to offer the literary critic a more rigorous and defined set of analytic procedures derived from modern linguistics, but it has rarely attempted to call into question the object of enquiry itself (i.e. the category of 'literature'). One effect of this has been to reinforce the division of labour between the highly specialised reading practices reserved for a privileged set of (literary) texts in our educational institutions and the less specialised practices with which instances of 'ordinary' language are frequently presumed to be read. The emphasis on the scientific basis of stylistics has in the main contributed to the valorisation of literature as a privileged body of texts differentiated from 'ordinary' uses of language.

This book is the first, as far as I am aware, to offer to the student of literature a fully integrated systemic-functional approach to the study of literary texts. The authors are to be warmly congratulated on their clear and orderly presentation and also for making the systemic-functional model of language more available to students of literature in a systematic way. The language of literature is an introductory text which serves an admirable dual purpose. It both explains in a readerly fashion many (if not all) of the key concepts of systemic functional linguistics, and it demonstrates their application to a range of poetic and narrative works. The book, which is introduced by a foreword by Michael Halliday, is divided into eleven teaching units. These are framed by five chapter headings which present the different components of the systemic model of language: phonology and phonetics; graphology; grammar; lexis; context. Each teaching unit is organised according to a four-part division into (1) a preliminary Analysis, which introduces each new linguistic concept and applies it to the analysis of a particular text; (2) a Framework, which provides a more thorough technical explanation of the new concept; (3) an Application, which provides the student with a literary text and some introductory background material and invites him/her to apply the newly learned analytic concept; and finally (4) Questions for Review, which tests the student's knowledge of new technical terms and makes further suggestions for applying the basic concepts of the systemic functional model.

The authors introduce their approach with the notion of text as a 'literary artifact' (p. 1). Further on they see language as 'a social phenomenon because of its highly conventionalised nature' (p. 3). The second claim is entirely consistent with the systemic functional conception of language as a 'social semiotic'. Unfortunately, the potential for developing a truly social semiotic perspective on literature within the systemic functional model is not realised, although it is gestured at throughout the book. Of all the currently available models of language, the systemic model offers, in my view, the greatest potential for achieving this. It is therefore somewhat disappointing that this book fails to make the leap from text to social semiotic. I shall use the rest of this review to show why I think this has occurred and to make some suggestions for developing stylistics within a properly social semiotic framework.

The problem starts in the introduction, for the authors never seriously question their definition of a text as a 'literary artifact' which can be related to a literary tradition. This means they are merely endorsing the conventional categorisation of literature, and therefore the conventional contexts within which we interpret literary texts. In conferring a more scientific status on the descriptive procedure, their approach tends to re-confirm a strongly formalistic literary criticism which characterises literary texts as valorised objects which make 'extraordinary use of the possibilities of language design'. (p. 1). The emphasis is on the text-as-object - the literary

text as a special kind of text producing special effects. Their approach can say little at all about the specific ways of reading the specific conditions in which meanings are assigned to texts, because it uncritically accepts its own way of reading as a given. What is required, I believe, is a more critical questioning of the assumptions and procedures underlying their approach.

This is confirmed by the authors' step-by-step introduction of the linguistic categories used. This has two main consequences. First, a tendency to assume that pre-given literary meanings can be read-off from features of the lexico-grammar. Some feature of the grammar is used to give descriptive validity to some already assumed literary meaning. It refuses to ask how or from where these meanings arise. Second, the focus on one lexico-grammatical feature at a time does not allow the authors to show how it is the interrelations among features on different levels which are globally co-patterned across a text which enables the reader to construct a meaning for the text. There is a sound pedagogical principle in the authors' approach, for it is important to introduce new material in a clear and orderly way. However, I feel the authors could have gradually developed a systematic framework which would have led the student to a greater awareness of this global co-patterning of features in texts. This is certainly implicit in their discussion of linguistic foregrounding, but is never fully drawn out. The development of this awareness in the student would help to instill in the student's own developing descriptive procedures an awareness that textual meaning is built up from many features, either working together or against each other, in the text. Further, this awareness can provide the student with a more powerful tool for testing hypotheses about a text's meaning that is possible from concentrating on features of just one type. It seems odd that the authors' concern with the scientific description of language does not lead to a greater sense of the importance of constructing an hypothesis about a text's meaning, and then testing this hypothesis. This is one of the key ways in which the relations between a particular reading, the text, and the social norms which produce these can be tested.

The authors are rightly concerned with the question of levels of analysis, as we see in their concern with the relations among elements up and down the rank scale. Textual analysis is always required to make choices about the level of analysis which will be most useful in a given instance. With the exception of lexical analysis, it is a pity the authors did not try even more to relate elements of linguistic structure to larger-scale structures like plot, narrative point of view, speaker - hearer relations, and character. This would help to show how structures above the level of clause complex are, in part, organised by features at lower levels. In this regard, the absence of any discussion of transitivity and modality seems curious.

For the authors the intricacy of this global co-patterning of meaning relations is, in literary texts, a 'special use of language...which brings with it a feeling of pleasure' (p.2). The emphasis remains on the functions of linguistic features and their differences from 'normal' uses of language. What is not considered are the ways in which the categories and conventions according to which we organise our social reality are themselves made problematic in literary texts. The social semiotic perspective I am emphasising must not take the text alone as its object of analysis, but rather the text in its communicative situation - the framework of social functions, purposes and conventions within which meanings are always produced and consumed, the social conditions of this process, and the uses the text is put to.

The emphasis on the text as literary artifact implies a similarly empirical notion of the reader. This is striking, given the range of literary texts and historical periods covered throughout this book. This neglects to show that the 'reader' is a textual category inscribed in texts, and can have different functions according to differing generic conventions and differing social/historical norms. The authors continually invoke an empirical, external reader throughout.

This fails to show that the category of 'reader' is functionally modified according to change the social context of reading.

Cummings and Simmons claim that 'it is this isolation from context that makes poetry the formal "art" of language' (p.197). The emphasis on literature as artifact abstracts the text away from its social context. The great value of the systemic functional model of language is that it offers the possibility of a fuller conception of the text within the social semiotic systems which assign texts their value and their functions. It is not a question of looking at formal lexico-grammatical features of texts in themselves, but of taking into account the relations of these features to the social semiotic norms within which texts are written and read. This does not merely depend on the assigning of textual features according to the demands of a pre-given register-type, since textual meanings and social registers are themselves co-patterned in larger systems of social practices which regulate the uses and interpretations of texts. These questions go beyond literary stylistics and should be the concern of any linguistics which seeks to be socially relevant.

It is disappointing that the authors have not taken fuller advantage of the systemic functional model to explore the dynamical relations between text and social semiotic. Instead, a conservative ideology of the text as literary artifact takes both text and reader to be autonomous entities. The resulting emphasis on internal linguistic patterning does not adequately demonstrate the full advantage of the systemic functional approach over traditional linguistic stylistics as it was formulated during the nineteen-sixties. This should not detract from the book's many merits. It remains an excellent, clearly written introduction to the application of systemic linguistics to literary texts.

Paul J. Thibault, University of Bologna/University of Sydney.

SYLLABUSES

(Or should it be 'syllabi'? No; 'syllabus' is now an English word and so should have an English suffix!) A number of readers have expressed the wish to see in NETWORK outlines of syllabuses with a systemic orientation. No readers have yet actually sent one in, but perhaps you will be encouraged to do so by seeing this one from the University of London. Perhaps you should send us yours for publication in the next NETWORK, or all of the students may go to Royal Holloway and Bedford....

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Syllabus

The course offers the opportunity to study the English Language in relation to English Literature. The syllabus is designed to provide both a theoretical framework for stylistic approaches and a descriptive framework for the linguistic analysis of texts, both literary and otherwise.

There is a compulsory core component, *'The language of literature'* which explores a variety of modern approaches in stylistics in relation to a range of texts drawn from different genres and periods. The second component consists of a choice between a course on the history and development of the English Language, or a course on the English Language at the present day. Further specialization is allowed for in a third paper, chosen from a range of eight options. The dissertation provides an opportunity for the application of approaches developed in the three taught components to the study of the language and style of a particular work or works of literature of the student's own choice. (Combination of papers and dissertation topics is subject to departmental approval.)

The course caters for the needs of those, in Britain or overseas, whose research and/or teaching interests lie in the language of English literature. It is of particular relevance to those teachers of English literature who are

interested in consolidating their background in English language studies.

Bedford and Royal Holloway Colleges' English Departments have recently come together on the Royal Holloway College campus at Egham in Surrey, where the combined English holdings of the two Libraries are now available.

The joint computing facilities of both Colleges are available to students. These include not only a concordance package for textual analysis, but also access to sophisticated word processing resources for the preparation and production of a student's own dissertation. In both cases full instruction and demonstration is provided.

Residential places are available for students either in the Royal Holloway College Founder's Building or in pleasantly situated modern blocks near by. Alternatively, there are regular train and bus services from and to Central London (Waterloo/Victoria-Egham 40 minutes). There is easy access to Heathrow Airport. Links with other Colleges of the University of London are maintained and students are encouraged to make use of inter-collegiate and research facilities in Central London.

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Pattern of the Course

MICHAELMAS AND LENT TERMS

- 1 A weekly lecture and seminar course on the core paper *The Language of Literature*. In the first term a combination of close textual analysis with the discussion of different methods of approach to the definition and analysis of style, and attitudes towards literary language in different periods, including the present. In the second term, concepts in current work in stylistics will be considered in detail in relation to specific literary genres.
- 2 A weekly lecture or seminar course on either:
 - (a) **Modern English Language** or
 - (b) **The Development of the English Language to 1900**Course (a) is concerned with formal and semantic structuring within the grammar and vocabulary of present-day English, together with an introduction to the sound system of the contemporary language. Course (b) outlines the development of the English Language on all levels from Old English to 1900, including the evolution of the standard dialect.
- 3 A weekly seminar or lecture course on *one* of the following options from either Group A or Group B:

Group A

(i) *Discourse Analysis*

This course focuses primarily on the analysis of non-literary texts, both spoken — in terms of recent work on the structure of spontaneous conversation and of the language used in the classroom — and written texts, in terms of work on 'cohesion' and within text linguistics. Notions of different kinds of meaning in a text will be explored.

(ii) *Modern English Lexicology and Semantics*

This course is concerned with the structure of the English vocabulary. Topics include word formation; collocation; homonymy; synonymy and antonymy; types of opposition; problems in dictionary-making and definition.

(iii) *Modern English Grammatical Theory*

This course concentrates on issues of the relationship between form and meaning in language in use, with reference to present-day English. The aim is to explore certain key problems in depth, using, as a starting point, a critical outline of the theoretical framework



provided by 'Systemic Grammar' (as developed in the work of Halliday, Sinclair and others), while not confining discussion to that approach. Topics selected from normally include: speech acts; negation; modality; transitivity and case; reference; deixis; focus, theme and emphasis.

(iv) *Modern English Dialectology*

This course basically consists of an introduction to modern methods in dialectological investigations, of both the 'traditional' and more recently evolved types, and the results — in phonology, morphology, syntax and lexis — obtained from them, taking into account both rural and urban dialects. To some extent, both this course and that in *Historical Dialectology* may be adapted to suit individual interests.

Group B

(i) *Germanic Philology*

This course traces the development of Primitive Germanic from Indo-European and the interrelationships of the various early Germanic languages that arose from it. It will include study of texts in at least two of these languages.

(ii) *Old English and Middle English Philology*

This course traces in detail the development of the pronunciation and grammar of the English language from its continental origins to the first emergence of the standard language at the end of the 14th century.

It will include the study of texts illustrating Old English and Middle English dialects.

(iii) *Early Modern English Philology*

The course deals with the history of sounds, spelling, inflexions, syntax and vocabulary in the Early Modern English period.

(iv) *Historical Dialectology*

This course gives historical depth to present-day English dialects, by a study of their development from Old English onwards. There will be some consideration of the use of dialect in literature.

SUMMER TERM

During this term the student will receive individual tutorials relating to the research and composition of the dissertation.

Duration of Study

Full time: one academic year. *Part time:* two academic years.

Method of Examination

Three written papers; a dissertation not exceeding 15000 words exclusive of appendices, bibliography, etc., on an approved topic, and assessment of course work. The student may, with the permission of the Department, substitute a portfolio of one or more pieces of work, to a total of three, prepared in the student's own time and amounting to approximately 8000 to 12000 words, for one of the written papers. An oral examination may also be given.

Date of Examination

	<i>Full-time</i>	<i>Part-time</i>
Written papers	June	One or two papers in June of the first year. One or two papers in June of the final year.
Portfolio	By 1st June	By 1st June either year.
Dissertation	Between 1-7 July	Between 1-7 July of the final year.
Assessment of course work	June	June of final year.

Entry Requirements

Normally a second-class BA degree in English or its equivalent; other subjects, or combined studies, will be considered, as appropriate. Some knowledge of elementary linguistic theory, and/or the development of the English language, would be desirable.

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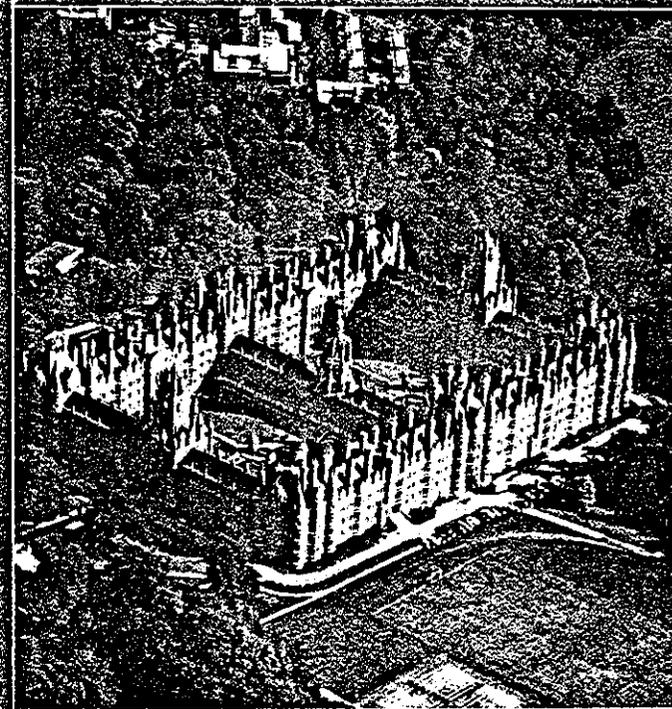
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