

2. Il n'est pas juste non plus de chercher de subtiles intentions stylistiques derrière chaque emploi „atypique“ d'une forme verbale dans la Chanson de Geste. Parfois les exigences de la versification ou la „variatio“ formelle en sont la seule explication.

3. Certaines particularités de l'emploi des temps dans l'ancienne poésie épique sont dues à la technique de narration caractéristique de l'époque qui ne se soucie guère de marquer les liens logiques et l'hierarchie des différentes parties de l'action, mais les présente comme indépendantes les unes des autres en adoptant pour chacune d'elles un point de vue temporel différent. Le peu d'attention accordé à l'enchaînement, à la hiérarchisation de l'action explique en partie notamment l'emploi relativement rare de l'imparfait.

4. En ancien français, le passé simple était un temps passé non-marqué par excellence, ce qui explique son utilisation dans toutes les fonctions possibles et sa grande fréquence.

En conclusion, on ne peut que recommander la lecture de ce bel et intéressant ouvrage. La seule chose que l'on puisse lui reprocher, c'est l'extrême prudence dans la formulation des conclusions. Mais c'est peut-être encore une vertu.

Růžena Ostrá

Studia Anglica Poznaniensia. An International Review of English Studies, Vol. 1, Uniwersytet im. Adama Mickiewicza w Poznaniu, Poznań 1968, 139 pp.

Under the above title the University of Poznań has issued the first volume of an international review of English studies. The journal is designed to 'carry original articles on English linguistics and American and English literature as well as book reviews. Preference, however, will be given to linguistic contributions which will occupy three quarters of its contents'.

The first volume, edited by J. Fisiak, contains ten papers by both Polish and foreign contributors, six of them dealing with linguistic problems and four with literature.

The first paper *Prevocalic Consonant Clusters in the History of English* by J. Fisiak from the University of Poznań presents 'the development of prevocalic consonant clusters from Old to Modern English in terms of distinctive features' and outlines 'the development of combination rules of the permitted sequences of consonants throughout the history of English'.

After arriving at the rules of distinctive feature combinations of prevocalic clusters in Old English, the author reinvestigates the phonemic status of the graphemic sequences [wl, wr; hn, hl, hr], which do not follow these rules, and gives further reasons for their monophonemic interpretation.

The investigation of Middle English prevocalic clusters reveals no changes in morpheme structure rules, only three new clusters due to the appearance of some Old French and Latin loanwords are added.

More serious innovations have affected these combination rules in Modern English. This is due both to borrowing and to internal tendencies displayed in the course of the development of English. The number of consonant clusters in Modern English has been almost doubled, which demonstrates 'that the structure of the phonemic component of English underwent more serious changes in the fifteenth century than has so far been expected'.

The aim of the study *Double-Object Verbs in English* by S. P. Corder from the University of Edinburgh is to establish criteria for a subcategorization of the so-called double-object verbs. The category of the double-object verb is defined on the basis of the deep structure categories of case as suggested by C. Fillmore in *A Case for Case (E. Bach and R. T. Harms (eds.), Universals in Linguistic Theory, New York, London 1968, pp. 1-88)*. His case categories are characterized semantically and do not correspond to the categories of subject, object or indirect object in surface structure. The double-object verbs discussed in S. P. Corder's study function in sentences that might be expressed by the formula Verb + Agentive + Dative + Objective, Agentive being 'the case of the animate responsible source of the action identified by the verb', Dative being 'the case of the animate being affected by the action or state identified by the verb', and Objective being 'the case of anything representable by a noun whose role in the action or state identified by the verb is identified in the semantic interpretation of the verb itself'.

Thus defining the category of the double-object verb, the author proposes four syntactic criteria for its further subcategorization.

1. Transformational deletion of Dative or Objective case elements, or neither, or both.
2. Subjectivizability of Dative or Objective case categories, or neither, or both.
3. Prepositional marking of Objective and Dative case categories.
4. Possibility of an embedded sentence on Objective case category, and choice of complementizer.

Employing the above criteria, the author arrives at a list of some 18 subcategories of double-object verbs, giving, in form of a dictionary entry, the syntactic features of each of them.

The paper *The Field of Creole Language Studies* by D. DeCamp from the University of Texas attempts to 'outline the current issues on creole studies, to summarize the progress so far, and to suggest approaches... to creole linguistic problems'. It may also serve as a bibliographic guide to any student of the English language or of general linguistics interested in further study of creole.

The paper deals with two kinds of languages, pidgins and creoles. A pidgin is 'an auxiliary contact language' which is 'not the native language of any of its speakers' and it is used in situations 'requiring communication between persons who do not speak each other's native languages. A pidgin is characterized by a limited vocabulary and a simplification or elimination of many grammatical devices'. A creole is also related to one or more other languages but, unlike a pidgin, it is 'the native language of most of its speakers. Therefore its vocabulary and syntactic devices are ... large enough to meet all the communication needs of its speakers'.

The author gives a survey of the distribution of creoles and pidgins and discusses the development of the various theories of their origin from the polygenetic up to the monogenetic ones, assuming a divergent relexification of a single proto-creole.

In a separate chapter the author discusses the importance of sociolinguistics in pidgin-creole studies. Thus the development of a pidgin toward creole status and beyond it 'depends entirely on its role in the society'. In this connection he draws attention to the special situation in Jamaica, where, besides 'a great deal of geographical dialect variation', there is also 'a socio-economically oriented linguistic continuum'. For Jamaica and similar areas he suggests the term 'post-creole communities' and points out the social conditions necessary for reaching the post-creole status. Finally, he outlines the problems still to be solved in sociolinguistic studies of post-creole communities.

The last chapter, dealing with descriptive linguistics in pidgin-creole studies, discusses some works in this field and suggests a new approach to the description of the great variety of grammatical structures existing in a post-creole continuum. Stress is laid on the importance of co-operation between the various branches of pidgin-creole studies and general linguistics.

The contribution *Equivalence and Congruence in Transformational Contrastive Studies* by W. Marton from the University of Poznań attempts a more precise definition of some notions essential for transformational contrastive studies. The author proposes a definition of equivalence on the basis of identical syntactic function within sentence structure. The definition of the term congruence demands the identity of syntactic function for each pair of equivalent items and the identity of word order in two sentences under investigation. Further, the author proposes definitions of identity and similarity of two corresponding transformations. All the definitions 'have been worked out particularly for a contrastive study of Polish and English and have been based on certain specific assumptions'. The conditions necessary for recognizing the defined relations 'are very strict and not easily fulfilled'. For these reasons the author does not claim that they 'will necessarily be of universal value' but hopes 'that they may stimulate discussion leading to better and more precise definitions'.

Though the paper by R. Nagucka from the University of Cracow is entitled *An Interpretation of the BECAUSE Construction in Middle English*, it may be regarded as a successful attempt at an interpretation of the present-day *because* constructions on the basis of the latest achievements of transformational grammar, taking into account the linguistic manifestation of the relation of cause and effect both in Modern and Middle English. 'The simplest relation between cause and effect can be expressed by the following string: NP₁-V-NP₂ where NP₁ is a cause, NP₂ an effect, in other words it means that NP₁-causes-NP₂ ... If, however, the relation is reversed with the effect considered from the viewpoint of its cause, then the relation in question can be expressed only by the passive construction, or its equivalent, in other words by the transformation of the basic string with the marker for passivization.' Assuming that the passive construction is *caused by* = ME *by cause* (ModE *because*), the author arrives at the conclusion that 'the sentences with *because* constructions are represented in the deep structure as a nominal phrase with S', whose function is that of the subject of S'. Since it is assumed that there exists one deep structure for the relations of cause and effect, the difference between the sentences *He is not going for a holiday because he has no money* and *He is not going for a holiday because he wants to finish writing his book* (the latter containing some syntactic and semantic surplus) cannot be sought for on this level.

The concluding paper of the linguistic part of the volume, *A Linguistic Analysis of English Composition Errors Made by Polish Students* by J. Arabski from the University of Poznań, discusses the sources of mistakes made by Polish students of English. It concentrates on linguistic interference as the main source of errors, dividing it into external interference, in which the mother tongue is responsible for the students errors, and internal interference or analogy, due to wrong application of rules existing in the target language. The author further distinguishes between active

and passive external interference, the former consisting in the use of the native tongue habits in the target language, the latter being the result of the non-existence of a category in the native language or of different ways of expressing the category in the two languages. Thus he arrives at a number of groups into which lexical and grammatical errors may be divided. The paper is designed as an introduction to a detailed study of mistakes, the results of which may be useful for English teachers and textbook writers.

All the contributions concerned with English and American literature come from the University of Poznań. In the first of them, entitled *Some Notes on the Structure and Imagery of Shelley's 'Ode to the West Wind'*, H. Zbierski shows the basically structural part spatial imagery plays in Shelley's poetics. The analysis of the five stanzas of the *Ode to the West Wind* reveals the striking regularity and closeness of the poem. The author finds a remarkable symmetry in the first three stanzas, each of them presenting the spatial imagery of movement on a different level. The starting point is the earth surface level of the first stanza and the other two levels, the sky and the above-the-earth level of the second stanza and the bottom of the ocean level of the third stanza form a kind of parallelism. 'These three levels symbolize the highest reaches of human experience and of the poet's thought ... This gives a sort of unity to the first three stanzas and, on the other hand, ... a sense of contrast with stanzas IV a V', which both 'deal with the poet's human problems and with his feelings'. While stanza IV presents 'the reality of the poet's predicament', stanza V by presenting the level of volition, aspirations and commitment provides 'the sense of the highest level of being for Shelley as a romantic poet'.

The paper *Poe's Philosophy of Composition* by A. Kopcewicz deals with the structural theories expounded in *The Philosophy of Composition* and studies their application in the poem *The Raven*, trying to account for the discrepancy between the skilfully executed piece of structural analysis and the practical results in the poem itself. One of the reasons for Poe's failure to transform his material into a symbolic form, as suggested in his essay, is 'his romantic ontology ... his dual perception of reality', which 'urged him towards creating a symbol but also held him back'. Though the poem studied against the essay 'is a failure because it does not fulfil its theoretical assumptions ... viewed independently ... it is one of the most successful romantic statements of its time'. The value of the essay lies in its importance 'for understanding the theoretical lines along which poetry moved from the romantic assumption to the symbolic poetry of the new century'.

The paper *Poetry in the Prose of IN THE AMERICAN GRAIN* by William Carlos Williams by M. Sienicka points out the affinity between Williams's prose in the book *In the American Grain* and his poetry. In the book Williams intended to use to the poet's imaginative 'insight to grasp the meaning of American history'. Both in his poetry and in his prose, the historical sources and comparable materials 'undergo a poetic process of creative transformation ... The "abstract" meaning is conveyed indirectly through concrete dramatization of experience'. A great part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of Williams's concept of wholeness and the most important theme which contributes to its exploration, namely 'the relationship between the male and female principles'. The idea of 'perfect wholeness, a unity of male and female elements in one person', is reflected both in Williams's prose and in his poetry. A further affinity lies in the comparable imagery. Flower imagery, which is very frequent in Williams's poetry, is also employed in *In the American Grain* 'to charge the prose statements emotionally and symbolically'. Though aware of the differences between Williams's prose and poetry, the author points out that they both display an identity of the metaphoric and symbolic cast of thought and language.

In the concluding paper of the volume, *An Interpretation of Some Images and Metaphors of the Songs of Innocence and of Experience*, K. Kapitulka interprets and traces the development of some of the images and metaphors in the two series of Blake's songs. The image of a child is 'a symbol of a child of God'. The unity between the world of God and that of men finds its expression in the image of the Lamb which is Godlike but also manlike. It undergoes an evolution from the symbol of Christ through the embodiment of some features of human insight to the essential features of lamb — the animal. Among others the author interprets some of the metaphors and images of the poem *Night*. The image of 'the river of life, the sacred waters of which wash away evil and dirt, ... predicts the future progress of *The Songs of Innocence* into *The Songs of Experience*'. The poet stresses that innocence itself is not enough, the child must learn experience. 'Blake's heroes will undergo various tests in ... the physical world, ... split between Good and Evil', and 'after this they will learn to follow a greater innocence, and to follow it by choice, not by chance'.

Besides the above papers the volume contains five book reviews.

The above lines were intended to provide but brief information about the contents of the first volume of the new Polish periodical, which promises to become a regular asset to English studies.

Helga Breithutová