

## Preface

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## P R E F A C E

The present Volume Four of the Brno Studies in English wants to develop, in an organic manner, some of the ideas put forward in Volume Three of the same series. Guided by the ideas of the Prague Linguistic group, the authors present here some more contributions to what Vilém Mathesius, the founder of the Prague group, called the linguistic characterology of English, i. e. to the establishment of those features which appear to be particularly important and fundamental for the structure of English. As in Volume Three, the basic method employed for attaining this purpose is that of analytical, synchronistic comparison, coupled — whenever it was feasible — by the diachronistic, historical analysis.

The authors are in full accordance with M. A. K. Halliday's belief (voiced during the discussion at the Ninth International Congress of Linguists at Cambridge, Mass.), urging that "taxonomic" models of language may have the same explicative force as transformational ones. The effort of the Prague group has been very aptly denoted, by a most competent American linguist, as striving after a kind of model, the 'Means-Ends' model of language. The modest aim of the authors of the present volume is to show that the conception of the said model, lying also at the basis of their studies, may prove its usefulness by pointing out some of the important aspects of the structure of English that until now have failed to be duly appreciated.

Brno, January 1963.