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NEWSLETTER

SLIN

n. 11 February 1996

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1. SLIN Conferences

Having happily filed up the 7th SLIN Conference we are eagerly expecting the publication of its proceedings to be carried out, under Giovanni Iamartino's solemn promise, by the end of this year and may confidently look forward to our next appointment. As repeatedly announced and in conformity with a largely shared decision to alternate foreign-guest haunted National Conferences with more domestic, specialist seminar-format meetings, all colleagues working in HEL or in kindred areas are warmly invited to join David Hart in Rome on **April 26-27 next** to engage in an informal discussion on "Teaching HEL in Italian Universities". Short papers, brief reports, descriptions of experiences may be concisely communicated to the organizer (**Prof. David Hart, Dipart. di linguistica, Via del Castro Pretorio 20, 00185 Roma. Tel. 06-4957354. Fax 06-4957333. Home phone 06-5758112**) not later than 15 March. Following the 1994 seminar in which the state of research in this area was revised, it is proposed this time to look at teaching approaches in the various universities and see, consequently, how they tie in with research activities. The meeting will start in the premises of the Dipartimento di Linguistica at 11 a.m. on Friday 26th April, and will be closed at lunchtime on the following day. Those who will certainly participate are required to inform David who, in return, will provide information on hotel booking and a program of the seminar. A social evening is also being planned.

2. Other international linguistic Conferences

§ Prof. Jacek Fisiak, organizer of 9 ICEHL assures that the Conference is well in hand and will be held at Slesin, a lake resort 100 km. from Poznan (Poland), on 26 to 31 August this year. The conference cost covering all expenses including accommodation, meals and coach commuting is as cheap as US\$ 210 not to be paid in advance. The deadline for sending abstracts was postponed to 28 February. Please write to Ms. Joanna Kaczmarek, School of English, A.Mickiewicz University, Al. Niepodlegosci 4, 61-874 POZNAN (Poland). Tel. 48 61 528820; fax 48 61 523103.

§§ The 29th Annual Meeting of Societas Linguistica Europaea will take place at Klagenfurt (Austria) on 4 to 8 September, 1996, dealing with *Universals versus Preferences (in synchrony and diachrony)*. Proposals for papers can be accepted until 29 February. Kindly find all information in the enclosed leaflet. I would personally suggest to make plans for a two-week study and leisure holiday in Poland and Austria, filling the gap - say - in Hungary for a breathing pause!

§§§ The XVIII A.I.A. (Italian Association of Anglists) Congress will be held in Genoa on 30 Sept. to 2 Oct., 1996 on the general topic of comparative studies in the customary three separate fields of literature, culture and language. Those who are interested to submit a one-page abstract for a 30-minute paper for, presumably, the language workshop including such subareas as translation, teaching problems and theoretical and/or applicative contrastivity should apply by 15 March to Prof. Gabriele Azzaro, Dipartimento di lingue e letterature straniere, P.zza S.Sabina 2, 16124 GENOVA.

§§§§ For a better preparation for the 4th ESSE Conference to be held in Debrecen in 1997, associates are invited to submit by 15 February (but I trust some respite may be allowed) proposals for a. sections, b. lectures, c. panels, d. round tables, suggesting topics, aims, names and addresses and name conveners. For Italy the addressee is Prof. Carla Dente, Via Montelungo 27, 57128 LIVORNO.

3. Conference reports

Here are some extended notes on international Conferences and national or local meetings having occurred last year - R.Mines on 12 ICHL, Manchester, 13-18 August; G.Mazzon on Palermo, 8-9 November; D.Hart on Rome, 19-20 October - for which hearty thanks are given to our contributors.

Conference Report: Twelfth ICHL Rachel Mines (King's College London)

The Twelfth International Conference on Historical Linguistics (ICHL) was held this year in Manchester, 13-18 August 1995. Over 100 papers were read in four parallel sessions over four days, as well as an additional eighteen papers given in the three workshops on the final day of the conference. As well, there were nine plenary lectures given by Alice Harris ("The mechanisms of syntactic change"), Ian Roberts ("Markedness, creolization and language change"), Theo Vennemann ("Sprachbünde and language families in prehistoric Europe"), Barry Blake ("Verb affixes from case markers: some Australian examples"), Aditi Lahiri ("Pervasion, simplification and optimization in language change"), Susan Herring ("From nominal to verbal predication in Old Dravidian"), Paul Kiparsky ("The development of ergativity"), Anthony Kroch ("The time course of language change"), and Elizabeth Traugott ("The role of the development of discourse markers in a theory of grammaticalization").

Obviously constraints of space, time, and the author's inability to attend more than a small fraction of these events allow me to comment on only a few papers. I shall therefore limit myself to discussion of the papers which I attended in my own field of interest, which is English historical linguistics, particularly Old English. I shall discuss these in the two broad categories of phonology and syntax.

Aditi Lahiri, one of the plenary speakers, spoke of optimization in the diachronic process of phonological change, using as evidence the West and North Germanic languages. What is the process of language change, and how is this related to language acquisition? How are constraints (on the

basis of which optimal linguistic outputs are chosen) ranked, and what encourages the reranking that could be seen as the basis of language change? Dr. Lahiri discussed these and related problems in a wide-ranging and challenging presentation.

Narrowing the field somewhat, Seiji Suzuki discussed "the decline of the foot as a supersyllabic mora-counting unit in early Germanic." Arguing that, while in early Germanic languages, the foot served as the domain of stress in word phonology, the foot as a mora-counting unit was replaced by the syllable in the later languages. Also speaking in the field of Germanic phonology was John Hutton, who presented a paper on "the development of secondary stress in Old English." This, I believe, is an important paper for those working in the field of Old English poetic meter, in which debate about secondary (and even tertiary) stress in certain word classes is ongoing. The author would also like to thank the organizers of the conference for allowing me the opportunity to present a paper in my own current field of research, which is the development of a generative theory of Old English poetic meter.

Moving into the area of Middle English phonology, Donka Minkova spoke on "constraint ranking in Middle English stress shifting." Dr. Minkova discussed both leftward stress shifting, which is restricted to Romance loanwords and prefixed words of either native or Romance origin, and rightward stress shifting occurring in words of Germanic origin. Evidence comes from the two types of poetic meter, syllable-counting and alliterative, used in Middle English. Also speaking in the field of Middle English phonology was Robert Murray, who presented a paper on phonological quantity in early Middle English, using as data the *Ormulum*, in which the poet Orm's idiosyncratic orthographic practice of using double graphs to indicate vowel shortness provides some indication of vowel quantity.

Also in the area of English historical phonology, Christopher McCully discussed the transition from the "left-strong" word stress system of Old English to the "right-strong" stress pattern of Middle and Modern English, arguing that there is some evidence for the retention of the earlier stress system, alongside the new system, in Modern English. Finally, Ricardo Bermúdez-Otero reviewed the evidence for ambisyllabicity in

English, concluding that the evidence in favour of ambisyllabicity is slight and that the concept should be abandoned.

In the area of English historical syntax, three papers dealt with the vexing question of word order in Old English. First, Masayuki Ohkado argued for the existence of verb raising in Old English, claiming that the rightward movement of heavy elements accounts for what has been argued to be verb projection raising, which, he claims, does not exist in Old English. Susan Pintzuk discussed postposition in Old English, one of the phenomena which triggered reanalysis of the underlyingly verb-final order of Old English to the verb-object order of Middle and Modern English; she examined evidence from a number of Old English prose and poetic texts as to whether or not this reanalysis was already starting to take place during the Old English period. Ans van Kemenade presented a paper on "topics in Old and Middle English negative sentences", arguing that the negative adverb *ne* occupies topic position in Old English, but loses its topic position in Middle English, becoming a weak negative prefix.

Workshops, held on the final day of the conference, were entitled "Changes in numeral systems"; "Syntactic change in cross-linguistic perspective"; and "The influence of the Hansa and Low German on European languages."

The social calendar, among other events, included a reception for conference delegates at the residence of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manchester and a civic reception hosted by the Lord Mayor in Manchester's beautiful City Hall. Finally, delegates were entertained by the auction of the last-remaining and highly coveted bright red conference T-shirt, which took place at lunchtime on the final day; the T-shirt, after strenuous bidding, and amidst enthusiastic applause, went to Dr. Theo Vennemann.

(Rachel Mines)

Conference Report: "La lingua inglese e il suo sviluppo nel tempo e nello spazio" (Palermo, 8-9 November 1995)

Gabriella Mazzon (Napoli)

This short but fully-packed conference organized in Palermo juxtaposed two rather different lines of research in English historical linguistics: studies on (mainly extraterritorial) varieties and philological studies on texts from the earliest stages of the language.

If Italian "filologi germanici" and specialists of "English linguistics" are indeed coming any closer to each other, as other recent occasions seem to show, here they really starting building a bridge across two partly overlapping domains kept apart by widely differing methodologies. Thanks to the enthusiastic, positive and open-minded attitude held by the organizer, Prof. Patrizia Lendinara, as well as by the participants and the rather large audience, this conference constituted a wonderful occasion to "peer into the neighbour's garden".

The first two sessions of the conference (8th Nov) were devoted to (mainly synchronic) varieties of English. Prof. Alessandro Monti (working in Palermo since last year) spoke about Indian English (dia)lects; his talk was centred on the literary works in English produced by Indian writers, but also showed a profound knowledge of Indian life and customs. He emphasized the gap between superimposed varieties and varieties spontaneously emerging from prolonged contact, and discussed several intriguing examples.

The next talk, given by Dr. Eleonora Chiavetta, illustrated some examples of Nigerian English from the works of a contemporary lady novelist. After commenting on the uneasiness generated in some African writers by the cultural gap between their mother tongues and English, Dr. Chiavetta proceeded to exemplify the pragmatics of Nigerian English through greetings, conversational formulae, proverbs etc., in a lively and humorous style of presentation.

The present writer's talk discussed some aspects of conservation and innovation in Extraterritorial Englishes, questioning some widespread and commonplace statements such as those about the alleged "Elizabethan" character of U.S. English. Examples were brought from both L1 and L2 varieties.

After a short break, Dr. Augusto Lamartina enthralled us with his presentation of a multimedial atlas of Englishes. This huge project, still work-in-progress, involves the display of main varieties of English for teaching and reference purposes through the use of maps, diagrams, bits of audio-recordings and film sequences, all available "at a click of the mouse"; needless to say, such work could do wonders to enhance students' awareness of dialects and accents of English, and could provide immediate access to appealing materials, it would be a great help for all those working to destroy the traditional, monolithic and prescriptive way of teaching English.

The session was closed by the newly-graduated Dr. Sonya B. Adamo, who brought examples of the use of discourse markers such as *well, oh, so* illustrating their different functions in conversational exchanges drawn from film dialogues.

In the evening, most speakers convened at a typical Sicilian restaurant where, besides tasting the local cuisine, we had the opportunity to meet informally other colleagues from the Istituto di Lingue, which provided a nice combination of the regional (cf. the tasty *panelle*) and the cosmopolitan (cf. the limerick toasts provided by the Russian professor).

The next morning, the topics addressed led us into diachronic studies. Prof. Carmela Nocera provided an interesting analysis of a 1576 English version of the *Galateo*, giving a full-rounded cultural contextualization of Renaissance translation activities and of the author's character, as well as specific examples of the translation techniques involved.

Prof. Carla Morini of the Università della Calabria plunged with briskly *verve* into a still highly controversial issue: that of Scandinavian influence on Old English. She illustrated and discussed the views of several scholars, as well as some methodological points, and gave numerous examples of different types of loanwords, emphasizing the different relative weight of Scandinavian influence on different lexical fields.

Dr. Rosa Zaffuto, also a recent graduate from the department, gave a detailed and circumstantial account of the history of the two English words *bird* and *fowl* and of their competition for the same "semantic space".

After the mid-morning break, our hostess Prof. Lendinara outlined the history of the verb system in English, stressing the problems roused by the classification of strong verbs and by their recent re-labeling as

"irregular" verbs. Her talk emphasized the difficulty of bringing into the right perspective a phenomenon which is no longer productive, and she also took the opportunity to criticize hasty and "under-carpet-sweeping" explanations that attribute all exceptions to the "peculiarity of the poetic language" and such over-generalizations.

Dr Carmela Rizzo, the next speaker, also illustrated some interesting grammatical points, this time from the contrast between the few Umlaut plural left vs. the large number of *-s* plurals to which some from the former category have now been added (e.g. *boc-bec* now *book-books*). She also took the opportunity to touch on various wider issues such as the Umlaut phenomenon in general, its dating and its spread, as well as the existence of competing paradigms at any stage in the history of the language.

The closing talk was left to another neo-graduate, Dr M. Antonietta Leone, who traced the history of the highly productive *-ness* suffix, thereby raising some more general problems of Old English *Wortbildung* and pointing at very specific constraints on the application of the suffix to OE words.

With this came the closing of the conference (if one doesn't consider the very informal lunch gathering that ensued), which left all of us with the one regret that the tight schedule did not allow for any question-time after the papers. Leaving a conference with the feeling of having exchanged a lot, but that there would be more to share if time permitted, is one of the best clues to the successfulness of a conference; this is certainly one of such cases.

(Gabriella Mazzon)

Seminar with Terttu Nevalainen (Rome, 19-20 October 1995)

David Hart (Rome)

As part of an agreement established between the Department of English of Helsinki University and the Department of Linguistics of the University of Roma III, Professor Terttu Nevalainen was in Rome last October. She is the author of the chapter on lexis in the long-awaited third volume (1460-1700) of the Cambridge History of the English Language, a major contributor to the Helsinki Corpus, and author of numerous writings on the Early Modern period. She is also at present engaged on an ambitious research project funded by the Academy of Finland, in the area of sociolinguistics and language history. This study of the process of linguistics in social interaction in Renaissance England, using a computerized corpus of personal letters was illustrated in a seminar which she held on the 19th and 20th of October. The corpus, including texts ranging from 1420 to 1680, will eventually contain over two million running words representing all the literate society of the period. The scholarly precision of her demonstration and analysis of the rich material available was quite impressive. This seminar was preceded on the 18th by a lecture aimed mainly at students, entitled "Issues in Early Modern English and Semantics: the Latinization of the English Vocabulary".

Colleagues who made the trip from outside Rome (Gabriella Di Martino, Maria Teresa Fabbro, Maria Lima, Adriana Mattei, Gabriella Mazzon, John Meddemen, Laura Pinnavaia, and Massimo Sturiale) went away feeling that they had not wasted their time, particularly thanks to the generous way Terttu Nevalainen made herself available with bibliographical information and advice on research topics during her stay. We hope to see her again in 1997.

(David Hart)

4. Reviews and bibliographical information

A very broadly conceived and usefully updated bibliographical discussion by Richard Dury on **phraseology** - a subject especially investigated by Rolando Bacchielli in Italy -, its origins and latest developments included, opens this section. There follow two reviews by Antonio Bertacca on a recent publication in English phonology and by Richard Dury on Barber's revised edition (1993) of his handbook on the history of English. I end up with a few notes on our Gargnano guest-speaker's Anglo-Saxon thesaurus and a remoter SLIN orator and kind reader, David Burnley's fascinating computerized projects.

* Phraseological studies - a historico-bibliographical outline.

Listings of phrases are first found in the sixteenth century - at the same period, therefore, as the first vernacular dictionaries and grammars. The first phrasal lexicons were intended as aids to Latin poetic composition, starting with the *Thesaurus Synonymorum Epithetorum et Phrasium Poeticarum*, published by Johannis Baccherius of Cologne in 1580. Other similar lists were published in Cologne in 1593, Antwerp 1597, Frankfurt 1606, etc. Chastillon's collection, published in Paris in 1666, was given the title *Gradus ad Parnassum*. The OED (under GRADUS) mentions a Cologne edition of 1687, and a London edition of 1691, and the title becomes a standard one for this kind of work.

The first phrasal lexicon of a modern European language is Montméran's *Synonyms et épithètes* of 1645. Similar lists for other European languages followed, although no dictionary of epithets has yet been discovered for English.

My information on phrasal lexicons here ends and perhaps some kind reader(s) of these words will be able to send some additional information via the ever-welcome *Newsletter*.

Early linguistic studies on phraseology include those devoted to alliterative phrases (Grimm's 1816 study) and to 'binomial phrases' Kurt Bruchman's *Psychologische Studien zur Sprachgeschichte*, published in Leipzig in 1888, devotes over thirty pages to 'deutsche Sprachformeln'. The

following year another German study devoted to the formulas of Old German poetry, Richard Moritz Meyer's *Die altgermanische Poesie nach ihren formelhaften Elementen beschrieben* has a long section on binomial phrases ('Zwillingsformeln').

The first modern scientific study of phraseology in general was by Charles Bally. His 1909 *Traité de stylistique française* devotes space in the first volume to what he calls 'locutions phraséologiques'. Later in 1924 Jespersen made the distinction between 'free expressions', which are created in each case, and 'formulas', which are drawn from memory.

From the 1930s there has been an important series of Russian linguists who have worked in the area of phraseology, particularly V.V. Vinogradov from 1946 onwards.

In America and Europe, however, the problem of phraseology (often considered in terms of 'idioms') did not fit in well with the structural concerns of Saussure or the rule-based paradigm of TG grammarians. Their problem is discussed by Chafe (1968), Weinreich (1969), and Fraser (1970), and again by Lipka (1974).

Leaving any remaining formal grammarians to worry about the problem on their own, others from the end of the 1970s have seen phraseology as an important linguistic level between syntax and lexis. The idea was put forward (heresy for TG grammarians) of the possible mental storage of very large numbers of preformed phrases (Bolinger 1976). At the same time, interest in the context of language-use led to important studies of routine and speech-act formulas by Ferguson (1976) and Coulmas (1979). The relevance of a developing phrasal lexicon to the language-learner has also received attention, especially in a series of publications by R. Alexander from 1978 onwards.

The Russian contribution slowly became available through translations and through the work of East-German linguists and through Vinogradov (1977).

The 1980s saw the publication of some important one-volume monographs in German (on phraseology of the German language or taking their examples from that language) which have helped to make more accessible the Russian contribution to this area of studies: Eckert (1976); Häusermann (1977); two works by Klaus Dieter Pilz (1978, 1981), a comprehensive overview by Burger-Buhofer-Sialm in 1982; in the same

year another phraseological study of German by Fleischer, and finally a work devoted to English phraseology, Rosmarie Gläser's *Phraseologie der englischen Sprache* (1986).

In English, apart from Arnold (1973) and Akmanova (1974) (both published in Moscow, so difficult to get hold of), there are a couple of monographs devoted to 'idioms' alone: Sträßler (1982), and Wood (1986). Useful brief overviews of 'phraseology' and 'formulaic language' (with a bibliography) are provided by Cowie and Coulmas respectively in Asher (1994).

There is a 1993 bibliography of phraseological studies by Pavel, published in Canada, but I have been so far unable to locate a copy.

A growing interest in this area of language-study is also attested by the publication of phraseological dictionaries, for examples by Cowie, Mackin and McCaig (1983), Benson, Benson and Ilson (1986), and Kjellmer (1994).

Historical phraseological studies seem to be more than rare; the turn of the nineteenth century saw some studies of alliterative phrases (Willert 1897, 1911); Malkiel (1959) made an important study of 'irreversible binomials' with some historical depth; the phrasal verb has been the object of historical study on its own (e.g. Hiltunen 1983); and individual fixed phrases have been traced in isolated studies. However, there is no historical phraseological dictionary of English, and the OED treats phrases unevenly: the same phrase is often dealt with in two different entries, there is often no attempt to give a range of quotations across the centuries, and there are only rare notes on possible origin or on cognate phrases in related languages.

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(Richard Dury)

** Charles Jones, *A history of English phonology*, Longman, London 1989

To anyone accustomed to the traditional treatment of English historical phonology, Charles Jones' *A history of English phonology* (Longman, London 1989) will certainly turn out to be a challenging as well as stimulating reading.

Based on the theoretical tenets of *Dependency Phonology*, Jones' work analyses phonological development mainly in terms of articulatory phonetics using a highly comprehensible transcription and constantly supplying the reader with abundant exemplification, generally organized in clear and easily readable tables, where for the early English period indispensable comparative examples from other languages (both Germanic and non-Germanic) are given.

After an introductory chapter on "Aims, methods and models", the book is arranged according to the usual division into the "Early English period" (ch. 2), the "Middle English period" (ch. 3) and the modern period - which is further subdivided into "the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries" (ch. 4) and the "eighteenth century to the present day" (ch. 5). In spite of this traditional organization, the *leit motiv* of the book is that phonological changes are generally limited to a very small number of operations, and that innovations which are usually considered to be typical of a period are on the contrary "repetitions", "re-enactments" of processes which have already taken place in the history of the language and which may occur again in future. Just to give an example, vowel lengthening in open syllables, generally ascribed to Middle English, could rather be seen as a repetition or "re-enactment" of Old English *back mutation* - an instance of *vowel harmony*. In particular, a sonorant (that is, relatively low) vowel in the second syllable of disyllabic words would have increased the sonority component of the vowel in the first syllable, thus bringing about the latter's lowering as well as its lengthening.

As a matter of fact, writes Jones, "phonological mutations are, on the whole, not to be regarded as unique, novel, once only events" (p. x), and therefore "the treatment given to phonological change in this volume will be ahistorical" (p. 2), since "phonological change is, in fact, non-periodic-

specific" (p. 2); rather, it is "recurrent, even directed and perhaps also largely predictable in its general nature" (p. 4).

Jones also insists that the application of phonological processes is not rarely 'patchy' (*break, great, steak* and *yea* being of course the best-known instances in support of this claim), but can this be explained only on phonetic/phonological grounds? For example, how are we to account for the co-existence of [ɛ:], [e:] or even [i:] realizations of late ME ē in *meat*, etc, in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century evidence?

It seems therefore inevitable to remark that when sociolinguistic factors are completely overlooked, we are bound to give a partial (though philologically unexceptionable) picture of language evolution. Dobson was far too right to stress that the selection or elimination of variant pronunciations among the great many existing ones in early Modern English was not a matter of chance (or merely of phonetic processes, it can be safely added), but rather the consequence of an arbitrary choice made, among others, by teachers and schoolmasters, which also casts some doubts on the possibility of predicting linguistic change in general.

The book, which is completed by an exhaustive bibliography, is undeniably to be recommended to anyone interested in English historical linguistics, since it is definitely a major contribution in a field where there is still room for exploration and debate.

(Antonio Bertacca)

*** Barber, Charles (1964). *The Story of Language*. London: Pan (also published as: *The Flux of Language*. London: Allen & Unwin, 1965; and as: *The Story of Speech and Language*. New York: Crowell, 1965). Second edition: 1972. Third edition: *The English Language: a Historical Introduction* (1993). Cambridge: CUP.

'Barber' has long been appreciated as an excellent short introduction for students and has now been re-issued in a revised edition by Cambridge University Press for a series (Cambridge Approaches to Linguistics) edited by Jean Aitchison (guest of our Association in Naples a few years ago).

The new edition still retains the *voice* of the original: one has the impression of being spoken to by a kindly and sensible tutor - much of our perception of personal communication coming from his frequent use of disjuncts and comment clauses. For example, on the first page of chapter one (boldly entitled like the beginning of a catechism 'What is Language?') we still find: *hardly, admittedly, even, in fact, it is true, at any rate, basically*. In the course of the text, however, some of these forms have now been edited out to make the discourse more serious.

The text also still retains the great clarity and simplicity of explanation of the original; and the division into chapters and sub-sections, even better in this edition, is done so well as to almost appear natural and inevitable. I am sure these aspects must have played an important part in Jean Aitchison's decision to include it in her series, since her own works are notable for the same qualities of clarity and communicative effectiveness.

Some changes have been made for political correctness ('man' in the first sentence becomes 'humankind'), others to make the implied context of communication more up-to-date or the discourse more terminologically rigorous. As a linguist one welcomes all the latter changes, though as a human being one may be allowed a sigh to see that one's 1950s 'playmates' are now a 'peer-group' (41).

Nevertheless, the attentive reader will still find a few nostalgic reminders of the world before the Lady Chatterley case and the Beatles' first LP: new cultural concepts requiring new names, for example, are described as 'human inventions just as much as steam engines or aircraft [1964: acroplanes] or nylon' (48).

Sections have naturally been suppressed that corresponded more to the original title of the work, and there have been many small-scale changes and additions of sections to make the work more linguistically rigorous and more suitable for an audience of university students. The term 'RP' is now used and defined; phonetic symbols, introduced in 1972, are now used throughout. 'Resonant consonants', for example, becomes 'sonorant consonants', 'rising melody' becomes 'rising tone', ' a line over them' becomes 'a macron (short horizontal line) over them'; 'had the sound' becomes 'was realized as'; 'hwa and hwile ... were mainly used for asking questions' becomes 'were indefinite or interrogative pronouns, not relatives' (124).

The work of revision has also extended to the addition of new paragraphs and whole sub-sections. In the first chapter, the outline of the essential features of language now includes a section of 'words and morphemes' (20); 'lexical words and grammatical words' (20-22); a new third of a page in the 'syntax' section on sentential word-order (22, with new paragraphs on changes of word-order in English inserted in later chapters); and new sections on 'language types' (27-30) and 'language universals' (30-31).

The second chapter starts with a section called 'linguistic change in English' (33-39) which would make a magnificent introductory lesson to any course of English language history. This is the section where Barber presents versions of the same Bible passage from 1961, 1611, c1380, and c1020 and comments on the linguistic features showing change. These comments have been all up-dated: there is a fuller explanation of *thou* and *you* usage; an additional comment about the use of *have* and *be* as auxiliaries; the letter *yough* is now used in the Wycliffe transcription and there is a note on its phonetic value; there is a closer explanation of the use of the letters *i/j* and *u/v*; a whole half-page on word-order changes; and many other minor changes, all to be welcomed.

The same pervasive revision has been made to the next section on 'the mechanisms [1964: causes] of linguistic change'. Here I personally would have welcomed more drastic revision or omission on the introductory paragraphs on geographic, biological and racial hypotheses (40-41); the paragraph devoted to the idea that children imitate with different vocal organs and so might cause change has an added quarter of a page refuting

this hypothesis (42-43), where it might have been better to omit it altogether. However, we are back on an even keel with the main discussion of 'minimization of effort' and 'the necessities of communication' (43-50). Here again, numerous changes have been made in the interests of completeness and terminological rigour: whereas in 1964, for example, we were 'all naturally lazy', in 1993 you will be glad to hear that we 'all try to economize energy in our actions'.

Skipping to chapter 5 'Old English', one must point out that the CUP editor or compositor have frequently confused roman and italic thorn, eth and ash (and the roman versions are slightly heavier than the rest of the font). Again there are numerous and pervasive corrections and additions (and these may be partly due to David Denison, thanked in the preface). We now have a paragraph (114) on the formation of weak verbs and the consequent front-mutation of the stem vowel; a long paragraph (115-116) on the diphthongization vowels in OE dialects; new sections on 'Old English morphology' (116-118) and 'Old English syntax' (118-120); and substantial additions in the vocabulary section on word-formation. The chapter ends with 'specimens of Old English' and commentary: Ælfric's colloquy in OE (with a new note that points out that it is put together from an interlinear gloss), and Byrhtwold's speech from *Maldon*.

I have not looked in detail at the chapter on Middle English, but those interested in Scots will be pleased to know that there is now a whole new section (172-174) on Middle Scots together with a text and commentary.

For a final glance at differences introduced in the new edition, we can look at chapter 8 'Early Modern English'. Here the additions are even more numerous: about a page more on Latin loans, English used for previously Latin text-types and purist reaction; and a totally new section on word-formation (182-183). The 'specimen of early modern English' has been totally rewritten: the original text, Parson Haben's sermon to the thieves from Awdleys's *The Fraternite of Vacabondes*, is replaced by an extract from *Henry IV* part 1 and all the comments on morphology, syntax, and use of *thou* and *you* are new. We may suppose that this comes from Barber himself, author of the comprehensive *Early Modern English* (1976). There are numerous changes to the section on 'The dummy auxiliary', and even greater changes to 'Changes in pronunciation'. In 1964 the Great Vowel

Shift was presented as a series of simultaneous changes, now it is presented as a pull-chain and is accompanied by a much clearer diagram. This is practically a totally new section covering the main pronunciation changes (not just the long vowels) and is followed by a new page on 'Strong and weak forms'. Apart from the mixing of fonts for the OE letters, the new volume is well-produced: handsomely designed and robustly bound, with clear typeface and uncrowded impagination.

The date of original composition (apart from those references to a changed world mentioned above) can be seen in the presentation of language-history in terms of temporary defeat and eventual inevitable victory of English. So we have 'the triumph of the English language over French' and 'the defeat of Latin and the final establishment of English' (175). However, this battle-metaphor occurs only rarely and should not damage the user's health. Manfred Voss (*Studia Anglica Posnaniensia* 29 (1994): 218) complains of Barber's retention of the concept of the phoneme, but this is the point of view of a formal grammarian. I might agree that, for example, the presentation of allophonic OE [v, f] might be explained more subtly in terms of the feature of voicing/non-voicing, but to present sounds always in terms of bundles of phonetic features would make things rather complicated in what is after all an introductory text.

In conclusion, I find this new edition an excellent introductory survey of English language-history on account of the extensive revisions, the clarity of explanations and the ordering of the exposition. Short (278 pp.) but compact, it would make an excellent text to adopt for students to prepare individually for an examination (it is unfortunately on the expensive side, so, if adopted, I would also recommend buying one or two copies for the University library). Especially valuable are the sample texts and accompanying commentaries. The Bibliography (238-291) will be found useful for checking the contents of University libraries with the aim of filling any gaps in basic texts. There is also now (high praise from an Anglo-Saxon) an index! Bravo Barber!

(Richard Dury)

**** *A Thesaurus of Old English* written in two volumes by Jane Roberts and Christian Kay, a quite long expected scholarly achievement made up out of a database of over 50,000 entries, is available for sale in the King's College London Medieval Studies Series, XI, hard-back, at the price of £47.50 and may be ordered, hoping in a discount for SLIN readers, writing to Professor David Hook, Department of Spanish, King's College, London, Strand, LONDON WC2R 2LS, England.

***** Professor David Burnley, fresh Dean of the Department of English language and linguistics, University of Sheffield, kindly informs me, on my request, that he is finishing a book for Longman headed *Courtliness in Medieval England* which exploits Middle English and Anglo-Norman source material to provide a panorama of medieval literature and history of ideas with adjacent lexical analysis. Moreover he is working on a multimedial History of the English Language recorded on two CD-ROMs, respectively concerning Old, Middle and Early Modern English, and Modern English, English Dialects, World English. Finally he is working on a Chaucer database. While wishing David all the best for his prestigious commitment and editorial projects I promise to keep the readers informed on any further stage of his work in progress.

(Nicola Pantaleo)

5. An updated list of HEL posts in Italian Universities

The following list originates in the information of linguistic disciplines in Italian universities provided in *Bollettino della Società di Linguistica Italiana*, XIII, 1995, 3. Apologies for possible omissions and mistakes are offered in advance.

- Bari:** Nicola Pantaleo, *Facoltà di Lingue e letterature straniere*, Via Garruba, 6/b, 70122
- Bergamo:** Maurizio Gotti (suppl.), *Facoltà di Lingue e letterature straniere, Dipartimento di Linguistica e letterature comparate*, P.zza Vecchia 8, 24129. Tel. 035.277421
- Brescia:** Paola Tornaghi (suppl.), *Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Facoltà di Lingue e letterature straniere*, Via Trieste 7, 25121. Tel.030.24061
- Cagliari:** Paola Piras De Plano, *Facoltà di Magistero, Dipartimento di linguistica e stilistica*, Sa Duchessa, 09100. Tel.070.2002
- Catania:** Carmela Nocera Avila (suppl.), *Dipartimento di Filologia Moderna*, P.zza Università, 95124. Tel.095.7102631
- Genova:** Ermanno Barisone, *Facoltà di Lingue e letterature straniere, Dipartimento di Lingue e letterature straniere moderne*, P.zza S.Sabina 2, 16126. Tel.010.2099554
- Milano (Stat.):** Giovanni Iamartino, *Facoltà di Lettere e filosofia, Istituto di Anglistica*, P.zza S.Alessandro 1, 20123. Tel.02.86339/351/366
- Milano (Catt.):** Giovanni Iamartino (suppl.), *Facoltà di Lingue e letterature straniere moderne, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore*, Largo Gemelli, 20100
- Milano (IULM):** Ermanno Barisone, *Facoltà di Lingue e letterature straniere*, Via Filippo da Liscate 1.2., 20143
- Napoli (I.U.O.):** Gabriella Di Martino (suppl.), *Dipartimento di Studi letterari e linguistici dell'Occidente*, P.zza S.Giovanni Maggiore 30, 80134. Tel.081.7605428

- Palermo:** Patrizia Lendinara (suppl.), *Facoltà di Magistero, Istituto di Lingue e letterature straniere*, P.zza I.Florio 24, 90139. Tel.091.6956111
- Pavia:** John Meddemen, *Facoltà di Lettere e filosofia, Dipartimento di Lingue e letterature straniere moderne*, Strada Nuova 66, 27100. Tel.0382.21389
- Potenza:** Lucia Sinisi (suppl.), *Facoltà di Lettere e filosofia, Dipartimento di Scienze storiche, linguistiche e antropologiche*, Via R.Accrenza 12, 85100. Tel.0971.474525
- Roma (III):** David Hart, *Facoltà di Lettere e filosofia, Dipartimento di linguistica*, Via del Castro Pretorio 20, 00185. Tel.06.4959354
- Torino:** Peter Chandler, *Facoltà di Magistero, Dipartimento di Scienze del linguaggio e letterature moderne e comparate*, Via S.Ottavio 20, 10124. Tel.011.889983; 8174741
- Trento:** Carla Sassi (suppl.), *Facoltà di Lettere e filosofia, Dipartimento di Scienze filologiche e storiche*, Via S.Croce 65, 38100. Tel.0461.881753
- Trieste:** Silvana Cattaneo (suppl.), *Facoltà di Magistero*, Via Tigor, 34134. Tel.040.6763646
- Urbino (PS):** Rolando Bacchielli, *Facoltà di Magistero, Istituto di Lingue*, P.zza Rinascimento 7, 61029. Tel.0722.2953
- Venezia:** Silvana Cattaneo, *Dipartimento di Letterature e civiltà anglo-germaniche*, Dossoduro 3246, 30123. Tel.041.2578263

I have no direct information about Vercelli, where P.Chandler had a temporary post, and Udine which should have a SLIN post too, according to the *SLI Bulletin*. Here are, however, details of 4 posts of English linguistics and 1 of English philology which may be helpful to know about:

- Chieti:** Maurizio Gotti, *Facoltà di Lingue e letterature straniere, Dipartimento di Scienze linguistiche e letterarie*, Viale Pindaro 42, 65127. Tel.085.4537837

Feltre (BL) (IULM): Gabriele Azzaro, Via Luzzo 13, 32032.
Tel.0439.83605

Napoli (I.U.O.): Jocelyn Vincent, *Dipartimento di Studi letterari e linguistici dell'Occidente* (same address as above).
Tel.081.7605428

Roma (III): Serena Ambroso, *Dipartimento di Linguistica*, (same address as above)

Bologna: Claire Catalini Fennell, *Dipartimento di Lingue e letterature straniere moderne*, Via Cartoleria 5, 40124