

WORKING PAPERS IN LINGUISTICS, No. 2

by

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TECHNICAL REPORT NO. 68-3

On Work Performed Under

Grant No. GN-534, National Science Foundation

November, 1968

Computer and Information Science Research Center

The Ohio State University

Columbus, Ohio 43210

FOREWORD

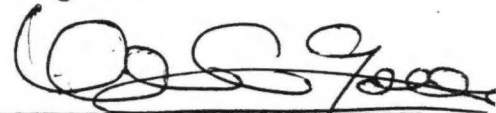
The Computer and Information Science Research Center of The Ohio State University is an inter-disciplinary research organization which consists of the staff, graduate students, and faculty of many University departments and laboratories. This report presents research accomplished in cooperation with the Department of Linguistics.

The work of the Center is largely supported by government contracts and grants. The research which led to this report was partly supported by the Office of Science Information Service, National Science Foundation under Grant No. GN-534.



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List of WORKING PAPERS IN LINGUISTICS, NO. 1

- "The Grammar of HITTING and BREAKING," Charles J. Fillmore, pp. 9-29. (To appear in Studies in English Transformational Grammar, R. Jacobs and P. Rosenbaum, eds., Ginn-Blaisdell, 1968.)
- "The English Preposition WITH," P. Gregory Lee, pp. 30-79.
- "Relative Clauses and Conjunctions," Sandra Annear, pp. 80-99.
- "On Selection, Projection, Meaning, and Semantic Content," D. Terence Langendoen, pp. 100-109.
- "Some Problems of Derivational Morphology," Sandra Annear and Dale Elliott, pp. 110-115.
- "The Accessibility of Deep (Semantic) Structures," D. Terence Langendoen, pp. 118-127. (To appear in Studies in English Transformational Grammar, R. Jacobs and P. Rosenbaum, eds., Ginn-Blaisdell, 1968.)
- "Review of Haim Gaifman, 'Dependency Systems and Phrase-Structure Systems,' Information and Control 8 (1965), pp. 304-337," James T. Heringer, pp. 128-136.
- "Diphthongs Versus Vowel Sequences in Estonian," Ilse Lehiste, pp. 138-148. (To appear in the Proceedings of the VI International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, Prague, 1967).

## INTRODUCTION

One of the purposes of the sponsored-research efforts in the Ohio State University Department of Linguistics is that of determining the nature of lexical information in a generative grammar of English. The ultimate, though probably unachievable, goal of such efforts is the design of a dictionary which will make available to philosophers, foreigners, and computers, everything they need to know about the meanings, uses and forms of the lexical items in our language, and which will provide this information in a usable format.

In a very real sense, all research in generative linguistics is relevant to questions of lexicology. Decisions on the form and explanatory scope of the theory of grammar determine in very direct ways the difference between the general or 'grammatical' facts about a language and the more specific of 'lexical' facts about its individual words. The rules for determining the well-formedness of the abstract underlying structure of sentences are rules which in the end specify acceptable combinations of grammatically organized lexical items; such rules obviously presuppose, and inquiry into the nature of such rules leads one to discover, certain properties of lexical items, in particular those that we speak of as parts of speech. Syntactic rules which permute or delete grammatical constituents identify those constituents, one way or another, in terms of their lexical content; individual lexical items therefore need to bear information relevant to the applicability of such rules to structures containing them. Syntactic and morpho-phonemic rules which modify or replace specific lexical items have the effect of creating among surface-structure forms distinctions which, for that reason, do not need to be recorded in the lexicon as such. Phonological rules, in the extent to which they are detailed and richly structured, make relatively simple the phonological information that is to be registered

with specific lexical items; the strategy of phonological research may in fact be thought of in terms of the discovery and application of principles for minimizing the complexity and degree of specificity of phonological representations of lexical items.

In this volume the three papers by Fillmore address themselves more or less directly to questions about the form and information content of lexical entries. Unfortunately, they fail to offer any serious proposals for formally representing lexical information in a dictionary. This is not merely an oversight, of course; a number of fairly crucial outstanding issues in the theory of grammar need to be resolved before it is worth anyone's time to be concerned in principle with the 'correct' or most usable form of lexical entries. (It is also unfortunate that the three papers by Fillmore have a certain amount of overlap in their content. They were not prepared with the possibility in mind of their appearing together, and the author did not have time to rewrite them in a way that eliminated the overlap.)

Lehiste's paper is a study of the purely syntactic ways in which Estonian structures translatable with 'have' differ from, but are related to, structures translatable with 'be'. Her results, quite apart from their significance as a contribution to the grammatical description of Estonian, may be thought of as lending support to proposals made for English that 'have' and 'be' (in at least many of their typical uses), are merely syntactically introduced 'dummy' verbs that serve only the function of marking certain types of syntactic relations or processes and are thus not semantically relevant lexical items in the usual sense. (See, in this connection, G. Lee's contribution to Number 1 of this series.)

Number 3 of Working Papers in Linguistics will contain papers on English syntax and phonology, the theory of phonology, and experimental phonetics.