

ANALYTIC SYNTAX

62-89

OTTO JESPERSEN

ANALYTIC SYNTAX

BY

OTTO JESPERSEN

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By the same author

**LANGUAGE: ITS NATURE, DEVELOPMENT
AND ORIGIN**

Fourth Impression

HOW TO TEACH A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

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CHAPTERS ON ENGLISH

AN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE

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A SYSTEM OF GRAMMAR

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO ANALYTIC SYNTAX

- P. 15, l. 7 from bottom *after unit. add* Cf. p. 102.
- P. 17, l. 7 from bottom *read* G. Die sterne, die begehrt man nicht.
- P. 18, l. 2 from bottom *add* G. German.
- P. 20, l. 11 from bottom *read* ein vetter von mir.
- P. 27, l. 20 *read* A red-hot iron 2(2-2) 1; a blue-green dress 2(3-2) 1.
- P. 29, l. 12 *primary read* secondary.
- P. 35, l. 13 *read* Er nimmt teil an dem gespräch.
- P. 39, l. 7 *read* forstanden.
- P. 39, l. 2 from bottom *add* Cf. 12.5.
- P. 45, l. 9 from bottom *read* Die sterne, die begehrt man nicht.
- P. 47, l. 5 *add* Cf. 23.5, p. 81, addition.
- P. 53, l. 21 *read* Ces dispositions prises.
- P. 68, l. 5 *add* L. memoria nostri tua X 2(O²) 2(S²).
- P. 81, l. 6 *add*
He speaks as he did yesterday SV 3(3° SV 3).
- Tom is as big as John, F. Louis est aussi grand que Jean. G. Max
ist ebenso gross wie Hans SVP 3(32 3° S₂).
- I hate him just as much as he me SVO 3(543 3° S₂ O₂).
- P. 82, l. 15 *socoro read* socorro.
- P. 102, l. 10 from bottom *An exact read* A more explicit.
- P. 104, l. 12 from bottom *read* they do not, however, constitute
"parts of speech", but like V are included on account of their
syntactic value.
- P. 104, l. 1 from bottom *are certainly read* may be considered.
- P. 107, l. 13 *read* For it is, indeed, curious that, etc.
- P. 110, Case. Reference should be given to *Linguistica*, p. 322 ff.
(= *System of Grammar*, p. 23 ff.).
- P. 111, l. 17 *read* nebenordnung.
- P. 127, l. 9 *read* Black-blue dress 2(3-2) 1.
- P. 128, l. 14 from bottom *read* F. une partie du vin, un grand
nombre de nos amis.

ABBREVIATIONS OF BOOK-TITLES

My own Books.

- GS = Growth and Structure of the English Language (Leipzig 1939).
Lang. = Language, its Nature, Development and Origin (London 1922).
Lingst. = Linguistica (Copenhagen 1933).
Mank. = Mankind, Nation and Individual (Oslo 1925).
MEG = Modern English Grammar (I—IV Heidelberg, V Copenhagen 1909—1940).
PhilGr = The Philosophy of Grammar (London 1924).

Other Works.

- Bally LV = Bally, *Le Langage et la Vie* (see 1,3).
Diez Gr = Fr. Diez, *Grammatik der romanischen sprachen* (Bonn 1876).
EStn = *Englische Studien* (Leipzig 1877 ff.).
ESts = *English Studies* (Amsterdam 1919 ff.).
Frey Fautes = H. Frey, *La Grammaire des Fautes* (Paris 1929).
Grammont Phon. = M. Grammont, *Traité de Phonétique* (Paris 1933).
Havers HES = W. Havers, *Handbuch der erklärenden Syntax* (Heidelberg 1931).
Meillet LH = A. Meillet, *Linguistique Historique et Linguistique Générale* (Paris 1921).
MSL = *Mémoires de la Société de Linguistique* (Paris).
PBB = *Beiträge zur Geschichte der deutschen Sprache* (Halle 1874 ff.).
Prague = *Travaux du Cercle Linguistique de Prague* (Prague 1929 ff.).
Vendryes I. = J. Vendryes, *Le Langage* (Paris 1921).

CONTENTS

PART I

SYMBOLS AND EXAMPLES

	Page
PREFACE	9
CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION	13
CHAPTER 2. SYMBOLS	16
2.1. Capitals.—2.2. Small Letters.—2.3. Numerals Indicate Rank.—2.4. Brackets.—2.5. Kinds of Sentences.—2.6. Auxiliary Signs.—2.7. Languages.	
CHAPTER 3. JUNCTION	19
3.1. Ordinary Adjuncts.—3.2. Secondary or Tertiary.—3.3. Genitival Adjuncts.—3.4. Prepositional Phrases or Adverbs.—3.5. Equipollent.—3.6. Irregular Junction.—3.7. Implied Predicatives.—3.8. Unclassifiable.—3.9. Secondaries that have become Primaries.	
CHAPTER 4. APPPOSITION I	23
4.1. Limits.—4.2. Regular Cases of Apposition.—4.3. With Prepositions.—4.4. Apposition with <i>of</i> .—4.5. French Appositions with <i>que</i> .	
CHAPTER 5. QUANTIFIERS	25
5.1. Adjectival.—5.2. Substantival.—5.3. Genitival.—5.4. With Prepositions.	
CHAPTER 6. COMPOUNDS	26
6.1. The Ordinary Type.—6.2. Equipollent Compounds.—6.3. Genitival Compounds.—6.4. Prepositions and Adverbs.—6.5. Adjuncts with Compounds.—6.6. Adjunct + Substantive Compounds.—6.7. <i>Blue-eyed</i> .—6.8. Dissolved Compound.—6.9. Isolated First Part.	
CHAPTER 7. INDEPENDENT NEXUS	30
7.1. The Ordinary Type.—7.2. Indirect Object.—7.3. Object of Result.—7.4. Object or Tertiary.—7.5. Prepositional Group.	
CHAPTER 8. VERBAL SENTENCES CONTINUED	33
8.1. Bracketing.—8.2. Reflexive.—8.3. Special Cases.—8.4. Reciprocal.—8.5. Complex Verbal Phrases.—8.6. Stars.—8.7. Passive.—8.8. O/S.—8.9. Lesser Subject.	

Contents

	Page
CHAPTER 9. PREDICATIVE	38
9.1. Ordinary.—9.2. Predicative of Result.—9.3. Adverbs and Prepositional Groups.—9.4. Subjunct-Predicatives.—9.5. Predicative after a Particle (Preposition).—9.6. Predicatives without a Verb.—9.7. O/P.—9.8. No Predicative.	
CHAPTER 10. TERTIARIES, ETC.	41
10.1. Tertiaries.—10.2. Quaternaries, etc.—10.3. Prepositional Groups.—10.4. Place of Preposition.—10.5. 3/s.	
CHAPTER 11. RECIPIENT	43
11.1. R.—11.2. Dative of Various Languages.—11.3. Continued.—11.4. Final Examples.	
CHAPTER 12. EXTRAPOSITION AND APPPOSITION	45
12.1. Extraposition.—12.2. Transition to Predicative.—12.3. Sentences with Apposition.—12.4. Special Cases.—12.5. <i>As</i> .—12.6. Restrictive Apposition.—12.7. Vocative.—12.8. A Whole Idea.	
CHAPTER 13. VARIOUS KINDS OF SENTENCES	48
13.1. Request.—13.2. Question.—13.3. "X-Questions".—13.4. Request in Form of a Question.—13.5. Exclamation (Wonder, Emotion generally).—13.6. Wish.	
CHAPTER 14. DEPENDENT NEXUS (NOMINAL)	52
14.1. Object.—14.2. Junction Virtually Nexus.—14.3. Various Instances.—14.4. Nexus after a Preposition.—14.5. Nexus Tertiary.	
CHAPTER 15. DEPENDENT INFINITIVAL NEXUS	53
15.1. Object.—15.2. Continued.—15.3. After Preposition.—15.4. Bracketed Infinitives.—15.5. Infinitive-Nexus as Subject.—15.6. Infinitive-Nexus as Tertiary.	
CHAPTER 16. SPLIT SUBJECT OR OBJECT	55
16.1. Passive.—16.2. Active.—16.3. Split Object.—16.4. In Relative Clauses.	
CHAPTER 17. INFINITIVE	58
17.1. Subject and Predicative.—17.2. Object.—17.3. Infinitive as Secondary.—17.4. Passive Import?—17.5. After <i>have</i> , etc.—17.6. Passive as Secondary.—17.7. After Adjectives.—17.8. Analogous Cases.	
CHAPTER 18. INFINITIVE CONTINUED	62
18.1. Infinitive of Purpose, etc.—18.2. Infinitive of Reaction, etc.—18.3. After <i>too</i> .—18.4. After Various Prepositions.—18.5. Infinitive Understood.—18.6. Infinitive in Compounds.—18.7. Substantives from Infinitives.	
CHAPTER 19. GERUND	65
19.1. Ordinary.—19.2. Passive Meaning?—19.3. With Adjectives and Adverbs.—19.4. Gerund in Compounds.—19.5. Concretes from Gerunds.	
CHAPTER 20. NEXUS-SUBSTANTIVES	67
20.1. Various Examples.—20.2. With Adjectives and Adverbs.—20.3. Nexus-Substantives in Compounds.—20.4. Nexus-Substantive in Apposition.—20.5. Concrete.	

Contents

	Page
CHAPTER 21. AGENT-SUBSTANTIVES AND PARTICIPLES ...	69
21.1. Agent Substantives.—21.2. Participles, etc.—21.3. Apposition.—21.4. Adjectives, etc.—21.5. Y in Compounds.	
CHAPTER 22. CLAUSES AS PRIMARIES ...	72
22.1. Content-Clauses.—22.2. Continued.—22.3. Dependent Questions (Interrogative Clauses).—22.4. Infinitive in Dependent Questions.—22.5. Relative Clauses as Primaries.	
CHAPTER 23. RELATIVE CLAUSES AS SECONDARIES ...	75
23.1. With Pronouns.—23.2. Continued.—23.3. Relative Adverbs.—23.4. <i>That</i> .—23.5. <i>As</i> , <i>Than</i> , <i>But</i> .—23.6. Relative Contact Clauses.—23.7. Concatenated Clauses.	
CHAPTER 24. CLAUSES AS TERTIARIES ...	78
24.1. Simple Conjunctions.—24.2. Composite Conjunctions.—24.3. <i>So that</i> , etc.—24.4. Prepositions and Conjunctions.—24.5. Various Combinations.—24.6. Word-Order.—24.7. Comparison.—24.8. Indifference.—24.9. Abbreviated Clause.	
CHAPTER 25. PARENTHETIC CLAUSES ...	82
25.1. Ordinary Parenthetical Remarks.—25.2. Referring to a Whole Sentence.—25.3. Symbolization of <i>it is</i> .—25.4. Cleft Sentences.—25.5. Criticism.—25.6. Symbolization.—25.7. With Tertiaries.—25.8. German and Scandinavian.—25.9. Speaker's Aside.	
CHAPTER 26. AMORPHOUS SENTENCES ...	89
26.1. Introduction.—26.2. Half-analyzable Sentences.—26.3. Answer.—26.4. Retort.—26.5. Amorphous Combinations.—26.6. Clauses.—26.7. Deprecation.	
CHAPTER 27. COMPLICATED SPECIMENS ...	92
27.1. From Samuel Johnson.—27.2. Brother Juniper.—27.3. From a German Newspaper.—27.4. From Cicero.	

PART II COMMENTS

CHAPTER 28. GENERAL ...	97
28.1. Previous Attempts.—28.2. Brøndal.—28.3. My Own.—28.4. Meaning of the Small Letters.—28.5. What not Symbolized.	
CHAPTER 29. FORM—FUNCTION—NOTION ...	105
29.1. Morpheme.—29.2. Morphoseme.—29.3. Notion, Extralingual and Intralingual.—29.4. Meaning of Our Symbols.	
CHAPTER 30. CASE ...	110
30.1. Recent Treatments.—30.2. Latin.—30.3. Finnish.—30.4. Comparison.—30.5. Genitive.	
CHAPTER 31. RANK ...	119
31.1. General Theory.—31.2. Quaternaries, etc.—31.3. Specializing.—31.4. Coordination.—31.5. Subordination.—31.6. Genitive.—31.7. Used as Primaries.—31.8. Compounds.—31.9. Results.	

Contents

	Page
CHAPTER 32. QUANTIFIERS	127
32.1. Quantifier and Quantified.—32.2. Difference from Qualifier.—32.3. Partitive.—32.4. Symbols.	
CHAPTER 33. NEXUS	130
33.1. Predication.—33.2. Junction and Nexus.—33.3. Diagram.—33.4. Rank in Nexus.—33.5. Objection.—33.6. Specializing.	
CHAPTER 34. SUBJECT	135
34.1. Definition.—34.2. Case.—34.3. No Subject.—34.4. <i>Plsit</i> .—34.5. Infinitives, etc.—34.6. The Weak <i>There</i> .—34.7. Introductory <i>There</i> .—34.8. Subject Indefinite.—34.9. Analogous Expressions.	
CHAPTER 35. SUBJECT AND PREDICATIVE	142
35.1. <i>S</i> is <i>P</i> .—35.2. Hammerich.—35.3. Rank of Predicative.—35.4. Case of Predicative.	
CHAPTER 36. OBJECT	147
36.1. Ordinary Objects.—36.2. Complex Verbal Expressions.—36.3. Doubtful Cases.—36.4. Case of Object.—36.5. Indirect Object.—36.6. Two Direct Objects.—36.7. <i>O</i> without <i>O</i> .—36.8. <i>F. & E. to</i> .—36.9. <i>Sp., Pg. e.</i>	
CHAPTER 37. PASSIVE	154
37.1. Symbols.—37.2. Infinitive.—37.3. Participle, etc.	
CHAPTER 38. REGIMEN. RECIPIENT	155
38.1. Regimen.—38.2. Recipient.	
CHAPTER 39. VERBIDS	157
39.1. Infinitive.—39.2. <i>Y</i> .—39.3. Gerund.—39.4. Nexus-Substantive.	
CHAPTER 40. CLAUSES	161
40.1. <i>That</i> .—40.2. Contact-Clauses.—40.3. Various Remarks.	
CHAPTER 41. CONCLUSION	162
41.1. Latent.—41.2. Possible Extension of the System.—41.3. Notes on "The Philosophy of Grammar".	

PREFACE

This book may be considered the crowning effort of many years' occupation with grammatical problems and thus forms a kind of supplement to my "Philosophy of Grammar" (abbreviated PhilGr) and "The System of Grammar". I sincerely hope that fellow-students will not let themselves be deterred by the look of my seemingly abstruse formulas, but will study them closely enough to realize their value in making it possible to gain a deeper insight into grammatical constructions in general. My system forces one to consider many things and enables one to express them succinctly; let me mention only two examples: the difference between *usually* and *unusually* in 10.2, and that between the infinitives after *promise* and *allow* 17.2. It should also prove useful in comparing the grammatical structure of languages not considered in this volume.

I want to thank some friends who have assisted me in various ways. Dr. F. Ohrt has aided me with what I say about Finnish—a language which I studied with Vilh. Thomsen more than thirty years ago, but have since then nearly completely forgotten. Mr. F. Y. Thompson, M.A., has kindly read parts of my book and has suggested some improvements in my English style. The greatest debt of gratitude, however, I owe to some young Danish linguists, to whom I have shown my system, or parts of it, at various stages of its completion, Poul Christophersen, Niels Haislund, Louis L. Hammerich, Aage Hansen. Not only has their kind criticism saved me from some pitfalls into which I might otherwise have fallen, but on some points they have even suggested things which I have been glad to embody in my system. To Niels Haislund I owe special thanks for the care with which throughout the whole of my work he has transcribed my notes, checked my analyses and finally read the proofs—not always an easy task. Finally, I am greatly obliged to the Directors of the Carlsberg Foundation for their support of my scientific work.

And now, with apology for some inconsistencies which I have not been able to avoid, I may say with one of my quotations:

Libro completo, saltat auctor pede laeto.

Lundehave, Helsingør.

O. J.

[illegible]

PART I

SYMBOLS AND EXAMPLES

Language-makers, that is ordinary speakers, are not very accurate thinkers. But neither are they devoid of a certain natural logic.

Phil. of Gr. 81.

PART I

SYMBOLS AND EXAMPLES

When a symbol is used in this book, it is intended to represent a specific concept or object. The symbols used in this book are as follows:

CHAPTER 1.

Introduction.

An attempt is made in the present volume at devising a system of succinct and in part self-interpreting syntactic formulas. By means of letters, chiefly initials of ordinary grammatical terms, numerals, and a few more or less arbitrary signs it has been made possible to denote all the most important *interrelations of words and parts of words in connected speech*, even some which are hardly touched upon in ordinary grammars.

It will be seen that what is aimed at is to some extent similar to the well-known symbols used in chemistry, C standing for Carbon and H₂O for water (two atoms of hydrogen to one of oxygen), etc. In phonetics my own Antalphabetic (formerly called Analphabetic) system¹ provides analogous means for symbolizing the formation of speech-sounds, in which Greek letters stand for the active organs of speech (lips, tip of the tongue, etc.), numerals for the degree and form of the opening, if any (0 = closure, 1, 2, 3, etc. for gradually more open sounds), small Latin letters for the place of articulation, so that, for instance, the vowel in E. *full* is analyzed as $\alpha 3^b \beta_{,,} \gamma 4^i \delta 0 \varepsilon 1$.

The symbols here introduced also to some extent resemble the wonderful system of symbols which during the last few centuries has contributed so much to make mathematics (and in some degree logic) exact and more easy to manage than was possible with the unwieldy word-descriptions used formerly. My system aims at providing linguists with some of the same advantages; but it cannot pretend to the same degree of universality as either the chemical or mathematical symbols. This is precluded simply because of the fact, which it is no use shirking, that *language is everywhere socially*

¹ See *Lehrbuch der Phonetik* (E. G. Teubner, Leipzig) and *Essentials of Phonetics* (to be published by G. Allen & Unwin, London).

conditioned: even those things which to a superficial observer would seem to be absolutely indispensable in any language used to express human thought are not found everywhere in the same way. The more the so-called primitive or "exotic" languages are studied, the more we have come to realize that much of what we are accustomed from our schooldays and from the best-known languages to consider inherent in all human language is totally foreign to other types of language, which nevertheless are wonderful instruments to express the ideas and feelings of the peoples brought up in them. My system was at first devised with special regard to the grammatical structure of English and still preserves traces of this, more particularly through the disproportionate number of English examples, though I have afterwards tried to apply it to some other languages. Now it is my hope that others will find it useful, possibly with some alterations and extensions, even to analyze languages with whose structure I am not at all familiar.

The book is divided into two parts. In Part I (Chapters 1—27) is given, besides an enumeration of the symbols employed, a series of examples without much comment (except towards the end) according to a principle which I quote at second hand:

Nur das Beispiel führt zum Licht;

Vieles reden tut es nicht.

Part II (Chapters 28 ff.) contains Comments, discussing at some length the chief debatable points and forming in some respects a supplement to and correction of the author's "Philosophy of Grammar".

Something must be said here of the character of the examples given in the following chapters. Some are taken from my reading, some from standard grammars, but not a few are made-up sentences, which I have endeavoured to make idiomatic and terse without much regard to variety in real contents. In spite of all the pains bestowed upon them it may be feared that they have not avoided a certain monotony and even now and then approach that kind of sentences which I have often ridiculed when found in books for teaching foreign languages. My excuse is that this book is not written with a pedagogical purpose in view, but presupposes a previous knowledge of the language from which the example is taken, as well as a theoretical interest in grammar as such. The important thing, therefore, was to find short unambiguous sentences suitable to illustrate the employment and utility of formulas in a multiplicity of grammatical constructions.

Let me add that the elaboration of the present system has opened my eyes to the real character of many things even in the languages I was most familiar with: the complexity of human language and thought is clearly brought before one when one tries to get behind the more or less accidental linguistic forms in order to penetrate to their notional kernel. Much that we are apt to take for granted in everyday speech and consider as simple or unavoidable discloses itself on being translated into symbols as a rather involved logical process, a fact that is shown, for instance, by the number of parentheses necessary in some of the examples.

Many of the sentences I wanted to analyze have been far from easy, and I do not claim to have always found the best solution of the difficulties. Still I thought it better to give my own attempts for what they are worth than to shirk the task. As a matter of fact I have pretty often hesitated and changed the transcription of the same sentences over and over again, and consequently cannot expect that my readers will always agree with my final decision.¹

It has also been rather a difficult task to find the best order in which to present the material of this book.² In some cases it has been found inevitable in early chapters to use symbols the purport of which, though mentioned in Ch. 2, cannot be fully appreciated till a subsequent chapter; but on the whole it is hoped that this will cause no serious inconvenience to the readers, who after all cannot be treated as mere tiros.

The idea is to follow the sentence or word-combination that is to be analyzed word for word. Such combinations, however, as *the man, a man, has taken, will take, is taking*, etc. (generally also *to take*), even *can take*, are reckoned as one unit.

¹ Sometimes the analysis has not been carried out to the bitter end, as when *my mind* has been written 1 for simplicity's sake instead of 1(1¹). Thus also with some passives, when e.g. *F. était fermé* is written Vb or V P(Yb) without distinction.

It might, for instance, have been better to collect in one place everything concerning Apposition instead of distributing it among several chapters.

CHAPTER 2.

Symbols.

2. 1. Capitals.

S Subject.

V Verb (finite).

O Object (direct).

O Object (indirect).

E.g. He gave her a ring S V O O.

P Predicative: he is angry S V P.

W Composite verbal expression: She waits on us S W O.

I Infinitive.

G Gerund.

X Nexus-substantive, e.g. work, kindness.

Y Agent-substantive or participle, e.g. admirer, admiring, admired.

R Recipient: F. Cela m'est désagréable S R V P.

Z Whole sentence.

If there are in the same sentence two or more subjects, etc., the second (third) may be numbered by a small _s (s) below.

E.g. I consider this a lie S V O(S_sP).

S_x (read cross, not the letter) Reciprocity.

E.g. They hate one another S V O(S_x).

2. 2. Small Letters.

p Preposition.

pp Composite preposition, e.g. on account of.

s "Lesser" subject: It is a pleasure to see you s V P S(IO).

o "Lesser" object.

o "Lesser" indirect object.

v "Lesser" verb (separated from the main verb): Will he come
v S V.

The reason for these symbols is given in Ch. 28.4.

The following small letters are placed above as indices:

^a Active, e.g. S^a what is subject in an active sentence.

^b Passive.