DIACHRONICA
International Journal for Historical Linguistics

Edited by
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with the assistance of
Sheila Embleton, Brian D. Joseph

and an
International Advisory Board

Volume XV, No. 2 (Fall 1998)
PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

OUVRAGES REÇUS  EINGEGANGENE SCHRIFTEN

Note: This listing acknowledges the receipt of recent writings in the study of language, with particular attention being given to those concerned with the history and the mechanisms of language change, comparative-historical philology, and language typology. Only in exceptional instances will a separate acknowledgment of receipt be issued; no book can be returned to the publisher after it has been analyzed in this section. It should be pointed out, moreover, that by accepting a book, no promise is implied that it will be reviewed in detail in *Diachronica*. Reviews are printed as circumstances permit, and offprints will be sent to the publishers of the works reviewed, including those items briefly commented upon in the present section.

Benware, Wilbur A. 1998. *Workbook in Historical Phonology: Sound change, internal reconstruction, comparative reconstruction*. Lanham, Md.–New York–Oxford: University Press of America, ix, 100 pp. [Contained within this volume are 48 problems in historical phonology, 21 dealing with sound changes from one stage of a language (often a reconstructed form) to a later stage, 12 providing practice in internal reconstruction, and 15 involving comparative reconstruction. The difficulty of the problems varies from quite straightforward to rather challenging, and range of languages covered, in terms both of geography and genetic affiliation, is most impressive. There is a bibliography, as well as an appendix with IPA symbols and notes on various common types of sound change and their usual directions.]

Crowley, Terry. 1997. *An Introduction to Historical Linguistics*. Third edition. Auckland & Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 342 pp. [This third edition of C's successful introductory textbook contains some new material not included in previous editions, e.g., with regard to grammaticalisation and to certain aspects of language contact, and augmented discussion of other topics, e.g., glottochronology, word order change, lexical specialization, etc. In addition to correcting errors present in the earlier editions, C has refined the exercises and added more references to further reading. Users will also benefit from the expanded index. C decided to "maintain the Pacific bias in exemplification" (p.10), in part to better serve the book's original audience but also "to show students that the comparative method has universal applicability" (ibid.). The volume ends with a bibliography and general and language indices.]

Fisiak, Jacek, ed. 1996. *Linguistic Reconstruction and Typology* (= *Trends in Linguistics: Studies and Monographs*, 96). Berlin & New York: Mouton de Gruyter, x, 368 pp. [This volume contains several papers from the April 1993 International Conference on Linguistic Reconstruction and Typology (Rydzyna, Poland), as well as two that originated as conference discussion: "Toward a history of linguistic typology" by E. F. Konrad Koemer; "Lan-

guage typology and linguistic reconstruction" by Thomas V. Gankrelidze; "Typological and areal issues in reconstruction" by Lyle Campbell; "Diminutive plural inflexion and the 'West Franconian' problem" by Carol Chapman; "Long syllabic consonants in Proto-Indo-European" by Piotr Gasiorowski; "Typology and evaluation of linguistic reconstruction" by Jadranka Gvozdanovic; "The typological shift to configurational syntax in Indo-European languages" by John Hewson; "Sound change and typological shift: Initial mutation in Celtic" by Raymond Hickey; "Reconstruction, typology, and the 'original homeland' of the Indo-Europeans" by Peter R. Kitson; "Typological paradoxes in phonological reconstruction: The case of Polabian reduced vowels" by Hans Christian Lutschützky; "Linguistic reconstruction, typology, and criteria of truth" by Witold Maitczak; "On typological plausibility and natural sound change" by Marc Picard; "Typology and reconstruction of numeral systems: The case of Ausonean" by Jürgen Rieschel; "Typology and the diachronic evolution of German morphosyntax" by Elke Ronneberger-Sibold; "Syntactic reconstruction and reconstructibility: Proto-Indo-European and the typology of null objects" by Wim van der Wurff. An index of names and an index of languages and dialects close out the volume.]

Giorgi, Alessandra & Fabio Pianesi. 1997. *Tense and Aspect: From Semantics to Morphosyntax*. (= *Oxford Studies in Comparative Syntax*, [unnumbered]). New York & Oxford: Oxford University Press, xv, 319 pp. [In this work, drawing primarily on data from Germanic and Romance languages, but especially English and Italian, and working within a Chomskyan minimalist framework, G & P explore the ways in which different morphosyntactic expressions of tense and aspect interact with semantic interpretation. They are thus particularly interested in interface issues involving syntax and semantics. In seeking an explanation for cross-linguistic variation in morphology, the authors develop two key notions: syncretic and hybrid categories, both types of "structural realisation, in X-bar theoretic terms, of a bundle of features" (p.xiv), and for interface issues in semantic interpretation, they propose "some interface conditions which might also have import for a Sequence of Tense theory" (ibid.) There is a good bibliography, as well as indices by subject and by author.]

Haiman, John. 1998. *Talk is Cheap: Sarcasm, alienation, and the evolution of language*. New York: Oxford University Press, x, 220 pp. [Starting from the observation that "language is replete with clichés and commonplaces" (p.3) and then adding a lot of places" (p.10). His starting point for this investigation is sarcasm, where "the speaker is overtly meaningful and saying the opposite of what he or she ostensibly claims to be saying" (ibid.), but he goes on to discuss irony, lying, parody, affective insinuations, politeness, ritualization in language, understatement, polite self-abasement, and numerous other uses of language in which insincerity can be detected. H draws heavily from modern American culture (literature, movies, comic strips, etc.) but deals with what is at least in the way of cross-linguistic and cross-cultural comparison. He ties the development of such uses of language in with the emergence of the concept of a "divided self" in recent decades, and ultimately sees "the transformation of ordinary language [...] into ritual alienated language [as] a very plausible model for the transformation of prelinguistic symptoms into the signs of human language" (10-11). There is a substantial bibliography but only a fairly perfunctory index.]

search "on universals of distinctive nasalization since the 1970s" (p.1), H sets out in this work to reassess "the numerous conflicting claims which have been made by universalists about the purportedly universal effects of specific factors [on nasalization], such as N[asal] place of articulation", to integrate "the continuing advances in experimental phonetic research" into this reassessment (p.1), and to explore how changes in the formalism and the theoretical architecture phonologists use might alter and enhance the understanding of nasalization. Taking his data mostly from developments in Northern Italian dialects, H works within a Lexical Phonology framework in his interpretations and analyses, but at the same time considers sound change to be "at least in the first instance, a phonetically gradual phenomenon, determined by the inherent constraints of the speech mechanism" (p.2). Issues of naturalness in sound change and in synchronic phonology and of the relationship between phonetics and phonology, synchronically as well as diachronically, thus play an important role in this work. The book is a substantial (20-page) bibliography and indices of languages, authors and Latin words.

Heine, Bernd. 1997. Cognitive Foundations of Grammar. New York & Oxford: Oxford University Press, x, 185 pp. [In this work, H discusses various linguistic phenomena — numerals, spatial orientation, indefinite articles, possession, and comparison, respectively, in successive chapters — from the perspective of a modified "Typological Universal Grammar", one which "rests on the claim that language structure in many of its manifestations can be best understood with reference to the conceptual foundation on which it rests" (p.16). Although H specifically argues that "the synchronic/diachronic distinction derives from the perspective adopted, rather than from the facts considered" (p.4), there is nonetheless much of potential interest here to the historical linguist, including a wide range of languages used to illustrate H’s points. The book closes with a bibliography, separate language and author indices, and a somewhat sparse subject index.]

Hickey, Raymond, Merja Kyto, Ian Lancashire & Matti Rissanen, eds. Tracing the Trail of Time: Proceedings from the Second Diachronic Corpora Workshop. (= Language and Computers: Studies in Practical Linguistics, 18). Amsterdam & Atlanta: Rodopi, viii, 241 pp. [Drawn from a May 1995 Workshop at New College, University of Toronto, the papers in this volume all discuss various aspects of the form, interpretation, and use of corpora from different stages of English. After an introduction by Merja Kyto and Matti Rissanen, there are 14 papers in two sections. Under "Corpus Developments" are: "The diary of Henry Martyn: An incorporating new text" by Richard W. Bailey & Anne Curzan; "Wood-gatherers and cottage-builders: Old words and new ways at the Dictionary of Old English" by Antonette diPaolo Healey; "Learning from the Early Modern English Dictionaries Corpus" by Ian Lancashire & Katharine Patterson; " Editorial problems in electronic corpus work: Towards a computerized corpus of Middle English prose" by Manfred Markus; "Ongoing work on the Corpus of Early English Correspondence" by Terttu Nevalainen; "Annotating the Helsinki Corpus: The Brooklyn-Geneva-Amsterdam-Helsinki-Parsed Corpus of Old English and the Penn-Helsinki Parsed Corpus of Middle English" by Susan Pintzuk & Ann Taylor; " Incorporating sociolinguistic information into a diachronic corpus of English" by Helena Raumolin-Brunberg; "Classifying text or genre-variation in the Lamberti Corpus of Early Modern English Texts" by Josef Schmied and Claudia Claridge; and "Lexicography and corpus-tagging: Enhancing The Dictionary of Old English Corpus in Electronic Form" by Nancy Spears. Under "Studies Based on Corpora" are: "The vocabulary of ZEN: Implications for the compilation of a corpus" by Udo Fries; "The computer analysis of medieval Irish English" by Raymond Hickey; "Toward a theoretical foundation of text type" in diachronic corpora: Investigations with the Helsinki Corpus" by Thomas

Ouvrages reçus / eingegangene Schriften

Horvat, Julia and Paul Wexler, eds. 1997. Relexification in Creole and Non-Creole Languages: With special attention to Haitian Creole, Modern Hebrew, Romani, and Rumanian. (= Mediterranean Language and Culture Monograph Series, 13.) Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 211pp. [This edited is actually a collection of essays by the editors, individually and jointly, with one additional paper by another scholar. The main focus is the presentation of various aspects of relexification, defined (p.1), following Muysken (1981), as "the process of vocabulary substitution in which the only information adopted from the target language in the lexical entry is the phonological representation", and the application of this notion to the analysis of history of a few particular languages. The introduction, "Relexification and Linguistic Theory" is by Julia Horvat, and the remaining chapters are: 1) "Relexification: Prolegomena to a research program" by Julia Horvat and Paul Wexler; 2) "On the cognitive process of relexification" by Claire Lefebvre; 3) "The case for the Relexification Hypothesis in Romani" by Paul Wexler; and 4) "The case for the Relexification Hypothesis in Rumanian" by Paul Wexler. These richly documented papers are filled with provocative and potentially quite controversial claims and intriguing data. The volume closes with a detailed and substantial 22-page bibliography.]

Jin, Koichi. 1997. Aspects of English Syntax and Style: A comparative study. Tokyo: Shubun International Co., xvi, 524 pp. [This interesting work treats a number of topics in English syntax, covering both Old English and Modern English, with ample reference to parallel developments in other Germanic languages, especially Gothic, Icelandic, and Danish, and other Indo-European languages, most notably Greek, Latin, and Sanskrit. In seven substantial and detailed chapters, J discusses time reference in substantives, the value of various phenomena (including the simple past, the perfect, and the progressive) in the complex clause. There is a bibliography but no index.]

Keydana, Gotz. 1997. Absolute Konstruktionen in altindogermanischen Sprachen. (= Historische Sprachforschung Ergänzungsheft, 40.) Göttingen: Vandenhoek & Ruprecht, xv, 353 pp. [A reworking of K’s 1995 dissertation at the Westfälische-Universität Münster, this volume starts with a lengthy discussion of the theory of absolute constructions, drawing on the formalism of symbolic logic to characterize this construction. Detailed and equally lengthy treatments follow of the syntax and semantics of absolutes in Vedic Sanskrit, Greek, and Latin, with brief analyses of Hitite, Gothic, Old Church Slavonic, and Old Lithuanian. In the last chapter, K discusses the so-called ‘nominative absolute’ of Sanskrit, Greek, and Latin. The volume ends with a bibliography and indices by quote and subject.]

Kwaakmaak, Erik. 1996. Grammatik im Fremdsprachenunterricht: Geschichte und Innovationsmöglichkeiten am Beispiel als Fremdsprache in den Niederlanden (= DEUTSCH: Studien zum Sprachunterricht und zur interkulturellen Didaktik, 1.) Amsterdam & Atlanta: Rodopi, 473 pp. [In this contribution to the ongoing scholarly debate on the nature of second-language instruction in a school setting, K examines various aspects of the teaching of grammar, using the teaching of German in the Netherlands as the basis for his discus-
sion. K devotes a long and detailed chapter to a survey of the history of attitudes on and practices in grammar instruction, followed by chapters on possible innovations, and finally a study of case-marking in language production. There is a bibliography as well as a very brief index.

Luschützky, Hans Christian. 1997. *Synchrone und diachrone Aspekte der phonologischen Prozesstypologie (= Dissertationen der Universität Wien XX.)* Wien: WUV-Universitätsverlag, ix, 208 pp. [A revision of his 1993 University of Vienna dissertation, L in this volume studies the nature of phonological processes both diachronically and synchronically. After an introductory chapter outlining key concepts in phonological theory that he draws on, L presents discussions of phonological naturalness, paradigmatic processes, processes in relation to parameters, and processes in relation to articulatory gestures. There is a bibliography but no index.]

Mayrhofer, Manfred. 1998. *Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Altindoarischen. III.Band, Lieferung 23 (= Indogermanische Bibliothek II. Reihe. Wörterbücher, [unnumbered].) Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag C. Winter*, 80 pp. [The next in the series of fascicles in which M is reworking his own earlier *Kurzgefasste Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Altindoarischen*, this one is the third to appear, covering pp. 161-240, in the second part of the overall work in which he considers the evidence of the “Jüngere Sprache”, covering words attested only in Classical, Epic, or later Sanskrit, after the Vedic period. Thus there are a good many loan words, onomatopoeia, and words for natural flora and fauna. The items covered run from grījana- to tājika-. M continues here in the fine tradition of his previous fascicles; all the entries are of considerable interest and provide judicious summaries of any relevant literature on each word.]


Pani, Pandeli. 1997. *Die Diathesen im Albanischen und ihre indogermanischen Grundlagen, (= Balkanologische Veröffentlichungen, 31.)* Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, xii, 146. [Although Albanian has long been recognized as an Indo-European language, there is still much about it that has not been clearly explained in terms of an inheritance from or a transformation of material from Proto-Indo-European. In this work, P investigates the development of the system of verbal voice in Albanian, and in particular the morphology of the nonactive forms. Despite P’s concern with historical origins, he gives a lot of attention to a purely synchronic description of the Albanian verb, including modern dialectal variants (going well beyond the main Geg-Tosk division to some dialects of these two.) He presents material also from the earliest Albanian sources (especially Gjon Buzuku’s *Missal* of 1555), thus providing a perspective on more recent developments within the historical Albanian period. There is an extensive (23-page) bibliography, but no index.]

Philips, Susan U. 1998. *Ideology in the Language of Judges: How judges practice law, politics, and courtroom control,* (= Oxford Studies in Anthropological Linguistics, 17.) New York & Oxford: Oxford University Press, xviii, 205 pp. [In this work, P analyzes “the way ideological diversity is organized in legal discourses” (p.iii) and “Taking the approach of an anthropological linguist “interested in how speakers create realities through language use” (ibid.), she views judicial speech as a type of courtroom behavior, and focuses on “the guilty plea as a distinct procedure and bound discourse unit” (xii). Ultimately, P argues that even though judges’ avowed ideology is that they are not ideological, nonetheless, “their speech is, to the contrary, very ideologically laden, and plausibly so” (p.xv). This most interesting study is augmented by some 40 pages of transcripts of pleas in open court. A bibliography and a modest index round out the volume.]

Pujol Berçh, Mercè & Fermín Sierra Martínez, eds. 1996. *Las lenguas en la Europa Comunitaria II: La adquisición de segundas lenguas y/o de lenguas extranjeras, (= Dialogos Hispánicos, 17).* Amsterdam: Rodopi, 281 pp. [This volume covers the papers on second language acquisition at the II Coloquio Internacional Las Lenguas en la Europa Comunitaria, held in Barcelona, 2-5 November 1994, forming a set with the next three items. Under the section entitled “Conferencia Plenaria” is “El rol de la interacción en la adquisición de una lengua estrangère” by Pierre Bange. Under “Comunicaciones” are “Mode d’appropriation des langues et traitement psycholinguistique” by Cas de l’arabe marocain et du français” by Mohamed Bamhamed & Michèle Kall; “El orden de palabras en la interlingua española de anglofonos y francocfonos” by Marta Baraló; “Against theory in SLA” by David Block; “Transactions interculturales avec des arabophones” by Florence Casolari; “De l’intérêt psycholinguistique d’une langue minoiaire: Le cas du grec” by Kleopatra Diakogiorgi & Michèle Kall; “Las gramáticas de la interlingua española” by Lourdes Díaz & Juana Liceras; “Construcciones modales en el euskera y el castellano de niños bilíngues” by María José Ezeizabarrena; “Observation de la mise en place de la compétence argumentative en L2 chez de apprenants arabophones” by Alain Giacomini; “Revisión crítica de la terminología y metodología utilizada en la análisis de errores” by Rosa María Jiménez Catalán; “Revisión crítica del principio una persona = una lengua en la adquisición simultánea de dos primeras lenguas” by Mercer Pujol Berçh; “Tiempo y aspecto en la adquisición del español como segundo idioma” by Beate Kierner; “La adquisición de lenguas extranjeras mediante contenidos de la ESO” by Christopher Scott-Tennent Basillote. Under “Informe”, there is “Diversity in language acquisition research” by David Block. Each paper contains its own bibliography. There is no index.]
Pujol Berché, Mercè & Ferrán Sierra Martínez, eds. 1996. *Les lenguas en la Europa Comunitaria II: La enseñanza de segundas lenguas y/o de lenguas extranjeras*. (= Dílogos Hispánicos, 18.) Amsterdam: Rodopi, 431 pp. [A companion to the previous item and the two that follow, this volume presents papers on the teaching of second languages from the II Colloquio Internacional Las Lenguas en la Europa Comunitaria, held in Barcelona in November 1994. In the “Conferencia plenaria” section, the paper is “Teoría de los actes de lenguage y enseñanzas de la L2. Un exemple de transposició didàctica” by Jean-Paul Bronckart & Iziar Plazola Giger. Under “Comunicaciones” are “Student responses to autonomous reading in the foreign languages classroom” by Eva Alcón Soler; “Helping learners build general awareness in the pronunciation class” by Amilia Alonso Marks; “Planteamiento discursivo e integrador de un proyecto de educación trilingüe” by Rosa Mari Arana, Elena Beraza & Iziar Idizalab; “L’aprentatge del castellà en un context catalanitzador” by Josep Manel Ballarín i Garaota; “Self-access: Taking stock” by Lewis Barnet; “Literatura en aprendizaje del español extranjero” by Carmen Cano; “¿Por qué el subjuntivo es un problema para el anglofón?” by Mª Luisa Blanco Blanco; “Las lenguas extranjeras en la Administración Pública española” by Rafael Blasco Jiménez; “El debate como escenario de prácticas discursivas en la clase de lengua” by Josep M. Cots, Clara Lorda & Luis Nussbaum; “Acústicos e componentes culturais en l’adquisició e enenyament de llengües” by M. Josep Cuena & Julià Todoli; “Les techniques d’auto-apprentissage et leur application dans l’enseignement des langues étrangères” by Elio-Jaume García López; “Le discours de spécialité et le non-dit: quelques réflexions” by Mª del Mar García López; “Séquences marco en conversaciones telefónicas de índole transaccional” by Carmen Guzmán; “Josep Maria Gómez: ‘Le grec moderne: besoins spécifiques, autonomie et interaction dans une perspective interculturelle’” by Efthymia Gouna; “La pédagogie de l’oral dans l’enseignement précoce” by Catherine Kiguithsiogou; “Los organizadores textuales: Elementos para la didáctica del texto argumentativo” by Luis M. Larrigón Arana; “El uso de la lengua catalana en escuelas de inmersión” by Carme Mena i Cortés; “Nueva frontera en la enseñanza de las lenguas” by Alba N. Paz Framil; “Interferencia escrita entre L1 y L2 en un proceso de inmersión lingüística: Aplicación de la TDS” by Manuel Pelegrín del Río; “Análise do contexto do enriquecimento de habilidades de linguagens estrangeiras” by Gentil Puig & Moreno; “Pour un enseignement ‘en compréhension’ des langues proches” by Jean-Michel Robert; “Manuals de la lengua frances: approche interculturelle” by Andreu Roca Colomer; “Oral communication skills in science and technology” by Ana Luz Rubio Moreda; “Interferencias léxicas y semánticas en una situación de contacto entre dos lenguas, catalán y castellano” by Mª del Carmen Serrano Vásquez; “What can research on speech acts offer now to the communicative language classroom? Pedagogical thoughts on a descriptive study” by Mireia Trench; “El cómo y el por qué del tiempo y del espacio en la introducción temprana del idioma” by M. Pilar Tresaco Belío. Under “Informe” is “Resumen presentación de las comunicaciones sobre enseñanza de lenguas en el II Colloquio Internacional” by Paz Batteran. Each paper has its own bibliography; there is no index. (CH)]

Pujol Berché, Mercè & Ferrán Sierra Martínez, eds. 1996. *Las lenguas en la Europa Comunitaria II: La traducción*. (= Dílogos Hispánicos, 20.) Amsterdam: Rodopi, 234 pp. [Part of a series with the preceding three items, this volume covers papers regarding translation from the proceedings of the II Colloquio Internacional Las Lenguas en la Europa Comunitaria, held in Barcelona in 1994. Under “Conferencia plenaria” is the paper “The importance of being critical. Translating and translation criticism” by Ton Naaikens. Under “Comunicaciones” are “Contraste y traducción: ‘las ecuatoriales’” by Flor Mª Bango de la Campa; “Análisis de las estrategias de traducción emprades per nens llengües familiars petits” by Rosa Mª Bellés i Guitar; “De la traducción intersemiotique à la traduction interlinguale” by Pénélope Callabetsou; “Criteria for the selection of texts in the teaching of translation strategies” by Marion Edwards; “La traducción a la didáctica de llengües?” by M. Pilar Goday & Nogué; “But the dictionary says ...” by María González Davies; “La traducción del conector AINSI en textos especializados” by Joëlle Rey; “¿Es la traducción una ciencia?” by Albert Ribas; “Avoidance of difficult-to-speak words in written English” by Richard Samson; “La traducción als serveis lingüístics de les institucions comunitàries” by Miquel-Angel Sánchez Férrez; “Coherencia textual, argumentación y traducción” by Mercedes Tricás Preckler. Under “Informe” is “La traducción” by Ferrán Sierra Martínez. Each paper has its own bibliography; there is no index. (CH)]

“The Baltic languages: by William R. Schmalstieg; 16) “Albanian” by Shaban Demiraj. Each chapter contains its own references. There is a substantial (25-page) name, language, and subject index.]

Rissanen, Matti, Merja Kyöto & Kirsí Heikonen, eds. 1997. English in Transition: Corpus-based studies in linguistic variation and genre styles. (= Topics in English Linguistics, 23.) Berlin & New York: Walter de Gruyter & Co., x, 371 pp. [One of a set of works, along with the next item, that reports on results from a project in the Department of English at the University of Helsinki entitled “English in transition: Change through variation”, the contents of this volume are: “Introduction” by Matti Rissanen, Matti Kilpiö, Merja Kyöto, Anneli Meurman-Solin, Saara Nevanlinna, Piivi Pahta and Irma Taatvainen; “Be/have + past participle: The choice of the auxiliary with intransitives from Late Middle to Modern English” by Merja Kyöto; “On the forms and functions of the verb be from Old to Modern English” by Matti Kilpiö; “Re-phrasing in Early English: The use of expository apposition with an explicit marker from 1350 to 1710” by Piivi Pahta and Saara Nevanlinna; “Genre conventions: Personal affect in fiction and non-fiction in Early Modern English” by Irma Taatvainen; and “Towards reconstructing a grammar of point of view: Textual roles of adjectives and open-class adverbs in Early Modern English” by Anneli Meurman-Solin. The volume closes with a substantial bibliography and a useful index of subjects. (CH)]


Russom, Geoffrey. 1998. Beowulf and Old Germanic Metre. (= Cambridge Studies in Anglo-Saxon England, 23.) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, xii, 235. [This draws here on his previous work on the metre of Beowulf and attempts “to explain the development of Germanic verse form at the level of fine detail” (p.8), using his previously enunciated principles of metrical organization as his point of departure. While Beowulf serves as his “anchor” for this comparative work, the Old Norse Eddic poems are given equal attention, and he extends his analysis to include continental West Germanic verse as well (e.g., the Hildebrandslied and the Old Saxon Heliand.) An Appendix is included with a convenient Rule Summary, and there is a bibliography as well as a useful index and a listing of verses given special attention in the work.]

Spears, Arthur K. & Donald Winford, eds. 1997. The Structure and Status of Pidgins and Creoles, including selected papers from the meetings of the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics. (= Creole Language Library, 19.) Amsterdam & Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Co., viii, 461. [This volume contains 16 papers, some from the annual meetings of the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics, all “concerned with the nature of pidgins and creoles and their relationship to other types of contact languages”, as editor Winford puts it in his substantial and tone-setting introduction. After Winford’s piece, the papers are grouped into five sections. In “Terminology and Typology” are “Large, pidgins, creoles, and koines: What are they?” by Salikoko S. Mufwene, and “A typology of contact languages” by Sarah G. Thomason. In “Process and Evolution” are “Directionality in pidginization and creolization” by Philip Baker; “Mixing, leveling, and pidgin/creole development” by Jeff Siegel; “Matrix language recognition and ‘morpheic sorting’ as possible structural strategies in pidgin/creole formation” by Carol Myers-Scotton, and “The creolization of pidgin morphophonology” by William J. Samarin. In “Sources and Genes” these papers are: “Saramaccan Creole origins: Portuguese-derived lexical correspondences and the rellexification hypothesis” by Michael Aceto and “Lost in transmission: A case for the independent emergence of the copula in Atlantic creoles” by John H. McWhorter. In “Questions of Status” are found “Creole-like features in the verb system of an Afro-Brazilian variety of Portuguese” by Alan N. Baxter; “The verb phrase in Afrikaans: Evidence of creolization?” by Christa de Kleine; “Shaba Swahili: Partial creolization due to second language learning and substrate pressure” by Vincent A. de Rooij; and “The status of Isicamtho, an Nguni-based urban variety of Soweto” by G. Tucker Childs. The final section, “Aspects of Structure” contains “New light on Ekimo pidgins” by Hein van der Voort; “Reduplication in Ndyuka” by Mary L. Hutter & Goerge L. Hutter; and “Tense-aspect mood in Principe” by Philippe Maurer. The volume closes with separate author, language, and subject indices; each paper has its own bibliography.]}
Vance, Barbara S. 1997. Syntactic Change in Medieval French: Verb-second and null subjects. (Studies in Natural Language and Linguistic Theory, 41.) Dordrecht–Boston–London: Kluwer Academic Publishers, x, 399. [Recognizing that Modern French "provides a striking contrast" to Spanish and Italian, which she characterizes as "prototypical Romance null subject languages" (p.1) with respect to the properties associated with the absence of an overt subject pronoun, V sets out "to examine null subjects in two dialects of Romance that fit neither the Italian nor the (Modern) French model: later Old French (12th-13th centuries) and Middle French (14th-15th centuries ... and] to examine the verb-second word-order system of Old French" (ibid.). These are important and interesting goals since Old French had a restricted null-subject possibility, allowing this "only in contexts where the subject would be postverbal if expressed [whereas] Middle French has null subjects in a wider range of syntactic contexts" (ibid.) and, with regard to word order, there were drastic changes in verb-second properties between Old French and the modern language. V frames her analysis in a Government and Binding approach to syntax, and notes points of compatibility with Chomsky's more recent Minimalist Program. This carefully documented study is based on a close analysis of two medieval French texts, La Queste del Saint Graal (c. 1220) and Jehan de Saintré (1456). V provides as detailed an analysis as possible of the synchronic syntax of Old and Middle French, noting that "the complex system of overt and null pronominal subjects in the Saintré shows that Middle French must be investigated on its own terms; its characteristics cannot all be inferred from a comparison of Old French and Modern French" (p.4). Her concerns, therefore, are both synchronic and diachronic, and her final chapters deal directly with the changes that are evident between Old and Middle French and on into the modern stage of the language. There is a rich bibliography as well as author, language, and subject indices.

Compiled by Brian D. Joseph (with general help from Craig Hilts -- plus entries signed "CH")

Closing date: 15 June 1998.