Note: This listing acknowledges the receipt of recent writings in the study of language, with particular attention to those concerned with language 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 given a full review 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.


Allen, James P. 2000. *Middle Egyptian: An introduction to the language and culture of hieroglyphs*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, xiii, 510 pp. [This volume provides a highly detailed introduction to the language used in ancient Egyptian writing after about 2100 B.C.E. While this work is designed for use in the classroom or for self-study, it is also richer than most textbooks as a descriptive grammar. In addition to thorough grammatical description — phonology (with a bit of phonetics), morphology, and syntax — the book introduces readers to hieroglyphic writing with briefer notes on hieratic writing. The 26 lessons are filled with illustrations, exercises and other pedagogical aids, but they also include essays on relevant issues in history, society, and especially religion and literature. The volume concludes with references, a sign list and dictionary, answers to exercises and a general index. — Joseph Salmons, University of Wisconsin.]


*Diachronica* xviii:1 (2001), 189–204. ISSN 0176–4225
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complex dialect group — which are characterized as a “loose network”, and he traces patterns of development and divergence. The volume concludes with an appendix containing about 90 dialect maps. — Joseph Salmons, University of Wisconsin.

Cacoullos, Rena Torres. 2000. *Grammaticization, Synchronic Variation, and Language Contact. A study of Spanish progressive -ndo constructions (= Studies in Language Companion Series, 52).* Amsterdam & Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Company, xiv, 252 pp. [Basing her study on an electronic corpus of Old Spanish as well as extensive interview and documentary materials from present-day Mexican and New Mexican Spanish, including the usage of bilinguals in the latter case, C here examines the fate of Spanish — *ndo* progressive constructions (e.g. in combination with *estar* ‘to be’, *ir* ‘to go’, *continuar* ‘continue’, etc.) along three fronts: in their diachronic development from Old Spanish, with regard to on-going variation in their use, and their resolution in a language-contact situation. As background to this investigation, C assumes the framework of grammaticalization studies (choosing here to use the shorter term ‘grammaticization’), and views her conclusions as contributing to a further understanding of several areas, all inter-related as far as these constructions are concerned: language contact, sociolinguistic variation, and grammaticalization. The work is richly documented with tables reflecting the statistical findings from the various corpora and data bases C has established. The volume closes with both a bibliography and a brief general index. — Brian D. Joseph, The Ohio State University]

Campbell, Lyle (Guest editor). 2001. *Language Sciences 23.2–3* (March/May 2001), Special Issue — *Grammaticalization: A Critical Assessment.* Oxford: Elsevier Science Ltd (Pergamon), 247 pp (pp. 93–340 in Volume 23). [This special issue of the journal is devoted to an evaluation of the viability of the notion of grammaticalization (referring to changes in which elements move from being less grammatical in nature to being more so) as a construct in describing and explaining language change. The five substantial articles in this issue, together with the introduction, constitute the first cohesive set of studies aimed at providing a critical assessment of grammaticalization. The papers are: ‘Introduction: conceptions of grammaticalization and their problems’, by Lyle Campbell and Richard Janda; ‘What’s wrong with grammaticalization?’, by Lyle Campbell; ‘Is there such a thing as “grammaticalization”?’, by Brian D. Joseph; ‘Deconstructing grammaticalization’, by Frederick J. Newmeyer; ‘Deflexion as a counter-directional factor in grammatical change’, by Muriel Norde; and ‘Beyond “pathways” and “unidirectionality”: on the discontinuity of language transmission and the counter-ability of grammaticalization’, by Richard Janda. The general tenor of the papers is quite negative with regard to the claims of grammaticalization theory, and several common critical threads are to be found running throughout all the papers. The two most important of these threads are that grammaticalization is not an independent process of change that is different from other well-recognized processes such as sound change, analogy, borrowing, and reanalysis, and that the principle of unidirectionality (stating that there is no movement from more grammatical to less grammatical) is at best a tendency rather than a hard and fast inviolable principle governing language change. The extensive bibliographies of each paper when combined (30 pages total, 18 pages for
Janda's paper alone!) make the issue as well a valuable reference tool. — Brian D. Joseph, The Ohio State University.


Dixon, R.M.W. & Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald. 1999. *The Amazonian Languages*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 474 pp. [This useful volume contains an introduction by the editors and fourteen subsequent chapters, each reviewing primarily structural features associated with specific language families, or the distribution of certain properties in groups of small families and isolates in particular geographical regions. The editors contribute four non-introductory chapters between them, including two by Aikhenvald (one on Arawak and another on areal diffusion and language contact in the Içana-Vaupés basin); a chapter authored by Dixon on the Arawá family; and a co-authored paper on small language families and isolates in Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, and Venezuela. The other contributors to the volume are Desmond Derbyshire (Ch. 2, on the Carib language family), Aryon Rodrigues (Chs. 4 and 6, on Tupí and Macro-Jê respectively), Cheryl Jensen (Ch. 5, Tupí-Guarani), Janet Barnes (Ch. 7, Tucano), Eugene Loos (Ch. 8, Pano), Silvana and Valteir Martins (Ch. 9, Makú), Ivan Lowe (Ch. 10, Namiquara), Mary Ruth Wise (Ch. 12, on Peruvian language isolates), and Lucy Seki (Ch. 15, on the Upper Xingu as an incipient linguistic area).

All of the non-introductory chapters provide detailed information about linguistic classification, geography and demographics. Most chapters offer extensive bibliographies, and the chapters on Carib, Arawak, Tupi, and Macro-Jê contain useful surveys of the history of the linguistic work on the languages in these families. The chapters on Namiquara, Arawá, Tupí-Guarani, Tucano, Pano, and Makú have less to offer in these areas, but in some cases it may be that available sources are thin on the ground. However, given that Tupí-Guarani is one of the better-studied Amazonian families, the literature survey in this chapter is less extensive than might have been expected. This is especially disappointing since the Tupí-Guarani chapter is one of the strongest in some other respects.

All of the papers include useful comparative information on the phonological, morphological, and syntactic properties of the languages in the groups under discussion. The chapters on two of the smaller groups, Makú and Arawá, give percentages of shared cognates. Of particular interest to historical linguists will be that a number of chapters discuss sound correspondences and provide reconstructed sounds and/or morphemes.
for the language families under discussion. The chapters on Tupí-Guaraní, Tupí, Carib, and Macro-Jê are particularly useful in this regard. Some of the other chapters offer statements such as “all of the languages in group x display property y”, but it isn’t always clear whether we are to infer that a common feature should be reconstructed, or attributed to diffusion. Rodrigues’ chapter on Macro-Jê is especially noteworthy for containing a useful table of sound correspondences at the end. Jensen’s chapter on Tupí-Guaraní stands out for the amount of detailed information on reconstruction, even though some of the information might be questioned. For example, I wonder about the adequacy of Subgroups 1 and 2, based on my work with speakers of Guarayu and several varieties of Chiriguano. It is fair to point out that Jensen notes that the classification on which she relies, Rodrigues’ 1984/1985 “Relações interna na familia tupi-guarani”, was a tentative proposal.

This volume has received some negative attention on account of a series of comments in the editors’ introduction that presented South American linguistics and linguists (as a group) in unflattering terms, and to which members of that community were quick to respond. Despite this unfortunate controversy, the volume is a useful resource in terms of providing a general overview of indigenous Amazonian languages, some prominent areal features, and general phonological and typological properties of specific families of the region. — Megan Crowhurst, University of Texas at Austin.

Fertig, David. 2000. Morphological Change Up Close: Two and a Half Centuries of Verbal Inflection in Nuremberg (= Linguistische Arbeiten, 422). Tübingen: Max Niemeyer Verlag, ix, 179 pp. [In this carefully documented study, based on a close examination of written records in the German dialect of Nuremberg between 1356 and 1619 that yielded over 86,000 tokens of verb forms for a data base, F examines changes in Nuremberger verbal paradigms. Going beyond merely documenting these interesting and revealing changes, F considers their implications for general issues in diachronic morphology, including the motivation for and direction of analogical levelling, and “sociolinguistic variation and its relation to change” (p.ix). The book contains numerous tables and statistics drawn from the data base, including an appendix with a complete listing of all verbs that occur in the texts and their frequency. The bibliography is quite thorough (16 pages in all). While an index is lacking, there is a fairly detailed analytic table of contents. — Brian D. Joseph, The Ohio State University].

Fischer, Kerstin. 2000. From Cognitive Semantics to Lexical Pragmatics: The functional polysemy of discourse particles. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter, ix, 374 pp. [In this volume, F develops a cognitive semantic model of the range of functions of discourse particles, such as English yes, uhm, or German ja. how these functions are related, why discourse particles are used for just these functions and not others, and what factors condition their interpretation. While rooted in cognitive semantics, this volume draws heavily on a surprising range of methods and theories, from conversation analysis and contrastive studies to statistical analyses of large corpora and simulation experiments involving supervised learning in artificial neural networks. Along with references, the volume closes with two appendices, the questionnaire used and the DATR Program, followed by an index. — Joseph Salmons, University of Wisconsin].
Fischer, Olga, Rosenbach, Anette, and Stein, Dieter, eds. 2000. Pathways of Change. Grammaticalization in English (= Studies in Language Companion Series, 53). Amsterdam & Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Company, x, 391 pp. [Inspired by papers that examined grammaticalization phenomena in English and were given at the XIII International Conference on Historical Linguistics (10–17 August 1997, held at the Heinrich-Heine University in Düsseldorf, Germany), this volume combines 10 such papers from the conference with 4 solicited specially for the volume (by Adamson, Denison, Fitzmaurice, and Lass, respectively). Editors Fischer and Rosenbach have also contributed a substantial — and substantive — introduction, treating general issues in the investigation of grammaticalization (formal vs. functional approaches, mechanisms, unidirectionality, the nature of ‘grammar’, etc.), linking these issues to the papers in the volume. Contained herein are: ‘Introduction’ by Olga Fischer and Anette Rosenbach, ‘A lovely little example: Word order options and category shift in the premodifying string’ by Sylvia Adamson, ‘The grammaticalization of the verb ‘pray’’ by Minoji Akimoto, ‘The grammaticalization of concessive markers in Early Modern English’ by Guohua Chen, ‘Combining English auxiliaries’ by David Denison, ‘Grammaticalisation: Unidirectional, non-reversible? The case of to before the infinitive in English’ by Olga Fischer, ‘Remarks on the de-grammaticalisation of infinitival to in present-day American English’ by Susan Fitzmaurice, ‘The role of person and position in Old English’ by Elly van Gelderen, ‘Remarks on (uni)directionality’ by Roger Lass, ‘Sortice and witodlice: Discourse markers in Old English’ by Ursula Lenker, ‘Onginnan/beginnan with bare and to-infinitive in Ælfric’ by Bettelou Los, ‘Some suggestions for explaining the origin and development of the definite article in English’ by Robert McColl Millar, ‘Parallelistism vs. asymmetry: The case of English counterfactual conditionals’ by Rafal Molencki, ‘The grammaticalization of the present perfect in English: Tracks of change and continuity in a linguistic enclave’ by Sali A. Tagliamonte, ‘Grammaticalization versus lexicalization: ‘Methinks’ there is some confusion’ by Ilse Wischer. Each paper has its own bibliography; there are separate indices for names and for subjects, the latter including languages as well. — Brian D. Joseph, The Ohio State University]

Franks, Steven and Tracy Holloway King. 2000. A Handbook of Slavic Clitics. New York & Oxford: Oxford University Press, xvi, 403 pp. [This contribution to the Oxford Studies in Comparative Syntax series is a reference work for Slavic clitic data and current linguistic theories on clitics (though the data is of enormous interest to diachronicians as well). The volume is designed to be accessible to general linguists and Slavicists alike. To this end, the introduction provides an overview of the criteria that define clitics and the basic clitic types that appear in Slavic. The remainder of the book has three primary divisions: Major Slavic Clitic Phenomena, Selected Problems, and Theory and Analyses. The first section details the variety of clitics in each Slavic language, and their ordering and placement. More attention is given to the South and West Slavic languages, where clitics are more numerous and more linguistically interesting. The uniform format for each chapter allows for easy comparison between languages. The second section, Selected Problems, takes a cross-linguistic look at Slavic clitics, and outlines the issues which any theory must account for — ordering patterns, cluster positioning, clitic doubling, etc. Although the third section, Theory and Analyses, focuses primarily on the
Government and Binding theory of syntax, other current approaches (syntactic, prosodic, mixed and non-derivational) are summarized. Throughout the volume, extensive references are given wherever coverage is not complete, and examples are abundant. A substantial bibliography (15 pages in all) and name and subject indices round out the volume. — Andrea D. Sims, The Ohio State University

Glossologia Volumes 11–12. 2000. Athens: Leader Books Publications S.A., [After a hiatus of several years, this journal, edited by Professor George Babinotis and his associates at the University of Athens, has been revived, with a new publisher and design. It treats mainly aspects of the linguistic analysis of Greek, but has general linguistics included in its mission as well. Papers cover a variety of topics and time periods, and deal with languages other than Greek in some cases, in keeping with the generalist aims of the journal (though Greek, understandably, predominates). Several papers in this issue deal with language change, diachrony, and related matters: ‘Variation in voiced stop prenasalization in Greek’ by Amalia Arvanti & Brian Joseph; ‘General remarks on the study of the Greek language history’ (in Greek) by Georgios Babinotis; ‘The indefinite Greek article. A diachronic approach’ by Despina Chila-Markopoulou; ‘A typology of writing. The Greek alphabet and the origin of alphabetic writing systems in Christian East’, by Thomas V. Gamkrelidze; ‘Some reconstructive details in Greek’, by Eric P. Hamp; ‘Early thematization of a-thematic present tenses? The case of Greek κινέω, θυνέω, δινέω (in Greek) by Nikoloas Pantelidis; and ‘Φωνή Ελλήνων: Ideology of fragmentation in the scholarship of its diachronic analysis’ by Leo Papademetre, — Brian D. Joseph, The Ohio State University]

Greenberg, Marc L. 2000. A Historical Phonology of the Slovene Language. Heidelberg: Carl Winter, 199 pp. [G provides the first thorough treatment of Slovene historical phonology from Proto-Slavic to the present. The author devotes detailed attention to segmental and prosodic changes and their chronology, both relative and absolute. Moreover, this book draws extensively on comparative and contemporary dialect evidence, as well as onomastic data to move beyond the sparse textual evidence from some periods. Slovene is situated in its broader Slavic context and the results of language contact are treated as well. In addition to numerous maps, one appendix compares the vowel systems of major dialects and another lays out a hierarchy of stress retraction from final syllables across selected dialects. There are indexes of Slovene words, forms and phrases, and of toponyms and hydronyms. — Joseph Salmons, University of Wisconsin.]

Heine, Bernd, and Derek Nurse, eds. 2000. African Languages: An Introduction. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, ix, 396 pp. [This volume is intended to be a “reasonably comprehensive, basic introduction to African languages in English” (p. 3). After the editors’ brief introduction to the book in Ch. 1, the remaining chapters fall into one of three types: general language family descriptions; grammatical overviews; and reviews of comparative issues. Language characteristics, and issues relating to classification appear throughout, while additional historic-social matters appear primarily in the first and third chapter groups. General phyla chapters cover the Niger-Congo family (Williamson & Blench, Ch. 2), the Nilo-Saharan family (Bender, Ch. 3), the Afroasiatic family (Hayward, Ch. 4), and the Khoisan family (Güldemann & Vossen, Ch. 5).]
Grammatical overview chapters include Phonology (Clements, Ch. 6), Morphology (Dimmendaal, Ch. 7), Syntax (Watters, Ch. 8), and Typology (Creissels, Ch. 9). Chs. on comparative issues include comparative linguistics (Newman, Ch. 10), language and history (Ehret, Ch. 11), and language and society (Wolff, Ch. 12). Front matter includes a list of maps (9), and notes on contributors; absent are lists of tables (31) and figures (22). End matter includes a list of references cited, an index of authors, an index of languages, and an index of subjects. — Thomas Purnell, University of Wisconsin.

Hermans, B. & Marc van Oostendorp, eds. 1999. The Derivational Residue in Phonological Optimality Theory. Amsterdam: John Benjamins, viii, 321 pp. [This volume, reflecting selected papers presented at a 1995 Tilburg conference, contains little of direct interest to historical linguistics outside of Hayes' chapter; instead chapters will have an indirect contribution of a theoretical nature to diachronic analysis. H & O summarize in their introduction issues accounted for by a derivational-oriented theory (the cycle, for example) to which a constraint-oriented theory must respond. The chapters are: "Head dependence in stress-epenthesis interaction" by J. Alderete; "Unrecoverable origins" by M. Bradshaw; "Uniformity in extended paradigms" by E. Buckley; "Directionality constraints on derivation?" by M. Chen; "Alignment and the cycle are different" by S. Duanmu; "Stricture is structure" by C. Golston and H. van der Hulst; "Phonological restructuring in Yidin and its theoretical consequences" by Hayes; "Surface opacity of metrical structure in Optimality Theory" by R. Kager; "Sign-based morphology: A declarative theory of phonology-morphology interleaving" by C. Orgun; and "Derivationalism in Kikamba vowel hiatus phenomena" by R. Roberts-Kohno. Front matter contains a list of contributors’ addresses and affiliations. End matter consists of a list of references cited, and indices by language, name and subject. — Thomas Purnell, University of Wisconsin.]

Janse, Mark & Sijmen Tol, eds. 2000. Linguistic Bibliography for the Year 1996 and supplements for previous years. Published by the Permanent International Committee of Linguists under the auspices of the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers, xcviii, 1477 pp. [With this tome, the Bibliographie Linguistique / Linguistic Bibliography has reached its fiftieth volume since its first came out in 1949. The present work contains over 23,000 entries, all meticulously categorized and grouped by language family and geographical area, and thus provides its usual level of utility to the scholarly community. — Brian D. Joseph, The Ohio State University]

Jenkins, Lyle. 2000. Biolinguistics: Exploring the biology of language. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 278 pp. [This book investigates the nature of human language from a biological point of view and what the relative contribution of nature and nurture is when a child learns his or her language. Of direct interest to readers of this journal, it deals with the question of how human language evolved and considers the similarities and differences between human language and animal communication systems. Uniquely, it argues that genetic or biological endowment plays a more central role in the acquisition of language than instruction, learning, or cultural determinants. The book closes with references and an index — Joseph Salmons, University of Wisconsin.]
Journal of Greek Linguistics. 2000 (Volume 1). Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Co., 295 pp. [This first volume of a newly founded journal devoted to all "aspect[s] of Greek linguistics, whether from a synchronic or diachronic perspective, with a preference for papers presenting a theoretically-informed description and/or analysis of data from any stage of the language that illuminates the more stages of the language, especially contemporary (Modern) Greek" (p. 4). Edited by Gaberrell Drachman, Geoffrey Horrocks, Brian Joseph, and Irene Philippaki-Warburton, this volume contains the following articles: "The phonetics of stress in Greek" by Amalia Arvaniti, "Islands and LF-Movement in Greek sluicing" by Jason Merchant, "On the left periphery: Modal particles and complementisers" by Anna Roussou, "Verb lexicons in SLI: Some experimental data from Modern Greek" by stavroula stavrakaki, "Gerunds in Greek" by Ianthi-Maria Tsimpli, as well as two state-of-the-art review articles: "Greek syntax: A principles and parameters perspective" by Artemis Alexiadou and Elena Anagnostopoulou, and "Crosslinguistic semantics and the study of Greek" by Anastasia Giannakidou, and two substantial book reviews, respectively by Dimitra Theophanopoulou-Kontou (of Holton, Mackridge, & Philippaki-Warburton’s 1997 Greek: A Comprehensive grammar of the modern language) and by Julián Méndez Dosuna (of Horrocks’ 1997 Greek: A History of the Language and its Speakers). The journal will appear annually in one issue of approximately 250 pages. — Brian D. Joseph, The Ohio State University]


McMahon, April. 2000. Change, Chance, and Optimality. New York & Oxford: Oxford University Press, x, 201 pp. [In this work, M provides an overview of Optimality Theory (OT), the constraint-based framework that has arisen in the past decade mainly for the description and explanation of phonological and morphological phenomena. She then
examines how this theory would be applied to account for language change, e.g., by viewing sound change as the reranking of constraints, so that a once lower-ranked constraint comes to have precedence over another once higher-ranked constraint. In general, M is quite skeptical of the explanatory value of such an application of the theory, noting, for instance, that it does not tell why a particular reranking occurred and suggesting that “reranking is purely a descriptive technique for telling us that things were different at two stages of [a given language]” (p.100). M goes on to discuss OT from several broader perspectives, including Neo-Darwinian evolutionary biology, innateness, and the ‘Panglossian Paradigm’ (drawing on Candide and on work by Stephen Gould and R.C. Lewontin). She ultimately concludes that in the furtherance of the understanding of language change, “there is a great deal of work to do, and it will not be done by inflexibly attempting to fit every phonological phenomenon into a constraint-based theory, where all constraints are universal, inviolable and innate, at all costs, but by considering a wide range of synchronic and diachronic data and confronting their implications for the model” (p.184). The book concludes with a substantial (10-page) bibliography and a useful index of terms, names, and languages. — Brian D. Joseph, The Ohio State University

Mayrhofer, Manfred. 2000/2001. Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Altindoarischen. III. Band. Lieferung 30/31. (= Indogermanische Bibliothek II. Reihe. Wörterbücher). Heidelberg: C. Winter, 80 pp. [The next in the series of fascicles in which M is reworking his own earlier Kurzgefasste Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Altindoarischen, these two are the tenth and eleventh (respectively) to appear, each covering 80 pages (pp. 721–800 and pp. 801–880), 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. These fascicles continue the index begun in fascicle 28, completing the Iranian entries (with the remainder (s-h) of Avestan citations, and all of Old Persian, plus a wide range of languages and forms from Middle and Modern Iranian (spanning pp.736–795), doing the listing of reconstructed Proto-Indo-European forms in the various entries in the dictionary (pp. 796–842), and then covering (over pp. 842–855) Anatolian, Tocharian, Armenian, Albanian, and Greek (pp.855–880 alone!). — Brian D. Joseph, The Ohio State University]

Nicolaï, Robert. 2000. La traversée de l’empirique: Essai d’épitémoïologie sur la construction des représentations de l’évolution des langues. Gap & Paris: Ophrys, 258 pp. [N tackles a wide range of problems in diachronic linguistics here, from recent debates over “mass comparison” to problems of language contact and multilingualism. Written in a light and often humorous style, N supplements his own prose with everything from literary quotes to medieval art and many tables and figures. N draws many examples from his own extensive work in Songhay and related languages of Africa. Before concluding with references, a subject index and an index of names and languages, the book contains a half dozen appendices, including translations into French of selected quotes from Ruhlen and Thomason & Kaufman, and a pair of postings to the LINGUIST list. — Joseph Salmons, University of Wisconsin.]
Niedzielski, Nancy A. & Dennis R. Preston. 1999. *Folk Linguistics.* (= *Trends in Linguistics,* 122.) Berlin & New York: Mouton de Gruyter, xx, 375 pp. [This fascinating book investigates how nonlinguists think and talk about language, an area long overlooked by linguists, as the authors show. It presents research undertaken by students in a graduate seminar who investigated beliefs among 68 residents of southeastern Michigan. Data were gathered by a full range of approaches, from informal interviews and observation eliciting grammaticality judgments about sentences found in recent literature on syntactic theory. Major areas probed include attitudes toward regional varieties, the relationship between language and ethnicity as well as other social factors, language acquisition, and language and education. While the authors deal mostly with synchronic matters, there is some material of direct interest to historical linguists, and most of the work is of potentially great indirect value. This is particularly so for the study of change in progress; as N & P point out, "a great deal of folks linguistic evidence … could play an important role in matters of language variation and change" (p.263). The work closes with an appendix on recordings used in the volume, references, an index of authors cited and another of subjects. — Joseph Salmons, University of Wisconsin.]

Nurmi, Arja, 1999. *A Social History of Periphrastic DO.* [See entry for Pallander-Collin.]

Publications received


Palander-Collin, Minna. 1999. Grammaticalization and Social Embedding: I THINK and METHINKs in Middle and Early Modern English. (= Mémoires de la Société Néophilologique de Helsinki, 55.). Helsinki: Société Néophilologique, 294 pp. and Nurmi, Arja, 1999. A Social History of Periphrastic DO. (= Mémoires de la Société Néophilologique de Helsinki, 56.). Helsinki: Société Néophilologique, 222 pp. [These two studies represent important contributions to the growing body of work based on the various Helsinki corpora of Middle and Early Modern English. While the two volumes deal with different topics, the structure and methodology of each work is strikingly parallel. Both works base conclusions on the Corpus of Early English Correspondence (1410–1681). The choice of text type is particularly felicitous for tracing the path of linguistic innovation since this correspondence represents the most vernacular extensively attested body of texts available. The size of the corpora allows the authors to make informed and at turns incisive judgments about the expansion and contraction in the use of a given construction. Beyond that they can draw connections between linguistic usage and various social variables such as gender, age, apparent social status and the like.

Palander-Collin introduces her study of ‘I think—methinks’ with a one hundred page discussion of core theoretical and methodological considerations important to her analysis. This initial section comprises five chapters including a general introduction, a review of previous research on ‘think’, a chapter on grammaticalization, an important discussion of socio-historical linguistics, and a chapter on the Helsinki corpora and general problems of corpus linguistics. In her discussion of the use of sociolinguistics in historical studies, the author resolves the tension between macro-level correlational analysis and micro-level interactional approaches by simply stating that both types of analysis are potentially of decisive importance, but that they are not mutually exclusive.

In the second part of the volume Palander-Collin traces the development of impersonal verbs in Middle English, the grammaticalization of ‘methinks’ and then turns to the gradual expansion of ‘I think’ at the expense of ‘methinks’ in the course of the Early Modern Period. Based as it is on the analysis of such a huge body of data, the study offers important insights into the development of the ‘think’ constructions, regardless of whether the reader is primarily interested in purely syntactic/pragmatic aspects of these verbs or in the sociolinguistic questions involved.

The Nurmi study of ‘do’-periphrastic constructions in English begins with a shorter review of research and discussion of methodology. The subsequent studies of the social history of these constructions takes the form of several related but independent articles, one of which is co-authored with Helena Raumolin-Brunberg. While this
format allows for the discussion of structural and sociolinguistic aspects of the expansion and decline of ‘do’ periphrasis, it also results in an irritating repetition of discussion of the corpora employed in each successive study. This quibble aside, the studies provide truly interesting accounts of the development of ‘do’ constructions grounded in admirably extensive data sets. For the most part the sociolinguistic discussion is careful and well-considered. A notable exception comes in the very last chapter, on “The Rise and Fall of Periphrastic DO in Early Modern English”, where the author introduces her admittedly ‘frivolous theory’ on the decline of ‘do’ periphrasis in affirmative statements. The ‘do’ periphrasis is notably absent in northern English dialects, and the author speculates that the accession of James the Sixth of Scotland to the throne upon the death of Elizabeth lent the lack of the do-periphrasis ‘prestige’. Far more important is the second influence the author notes, the massive immigration of northern speakers to London during the period.

Both studies represent major contributions to our understanding of the history of English, and each provides an excellent model of what can be achieved when careful examination of massive linguistic data is combined with judicious sociolinguistic analysis. — Robert B. Howell, University of Wisconsin.

Pollard, Velma. 2000. Dread Talk: The language of Rastafari. Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen’s University Press/Barbados: Canoe Press. Second edition, xv, 117 pp. [In these essays, P looks at the importance of language to Rastafarians while describing the position of “Dread Talk” as a distinct linguistic variety. Two chapters of this highly readable and engaging volume may be of interest to diachronically-oriented linguists. A chapter on “The social history of Dread Talk” traces the development of this socioreligious movement and with that the evolution of its speech. She focuses primarily on the lexicon, but deals with pronunciation and codeswitching to an extent as well. Another chapter on “Globalization and the Language of Rastafari” treats as much the representation of Dread Talk in two dictionaries and in the global media as the worldwide spread of this variety per se. — Joseph Salmons, University of Wisconsin.]

Schulz, Eckehard; Krahl, Gunther & Reuschel, Wolfgang. 2000. Standard Arabic: An Elementary — Intermediate Course. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, xiii, 641 pp. [This book provides a systematic and comprehensive approach to the study of Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). The book is divided into twenty eight chapters. Chapters 1–4 deal mostly with aspects of the noun phrase. Chapters 5–22 focus — for the most part — on the structure and categories relevant to the verb phrase. Chapters 23–28 impart aspects of sentence and clause types. Framed within a prescriptive approach, this book provides a substantial survey of the major units of MSA Grammar. The teaching points are exemplified, and ample substitution and repetition drills are provided for the major paradigms. In addition to the discussion of particular focal points and the exercises provided, each chapter contains a list of new lexical items and expressions and their gloss in English. Every chapter (except the first) also contains a passage and a dialogue designed to elucidate the vocabulary and grammatical points introduced in the chapter. The exercises, texts and dialogues increase in length and difficulty following the progressive complexity of the chapters. The book closes with two indices, one for grammatical terminology in English and a second subject index of
grammatical terminology in Arabic. The book offers no bibliography for further reading. The book successfully aims to meet the needs of students interested in both written and spoken MSA. The texts are varied (reports, commentaries, letters, etc.) and the dialogues cover a wide range of social and professional situations. The texts in the initial chapters are clearly didactic concentrations of the morphological and syntactic constructions at hand. The passages, dialogues and exercises occasionally include expressions from Egyptian, Lebanese or other Middle Eastern dialects and reflect aspects of the Arab culture and life through the use of idioms, proverbs, customs and other historical traits of the Arab world. Readers of various backgrounds — foreign students of Arabic, teachers, even syntacticians and morphologists — will find in this book a valuable comprehensive course and resource. — Taibi Nour, University AbdElmakek EsSaadi, Morocco.

Sihler, Andrew L. 2000. Language History: An Introduction. Amsterdam: John Benjamins, xvi, 298 pp. [This volume “aspires to be a brief but technically and factually accurate exposition of linguistic description and history” (p.viii). As such the unnumbered chapters cover standard historical linguistic fare. The “Introduction” chapter opens by defining the historical linguistic enterprise, and briefly but effectively provides evidence for changes in various components of Old and Modern English. Presented in the “Changes in Pronunciation” chapter is a compendium of facts pertaining to phonetic and phonological change; very brief definitions of technical terms confusing to the novice appear at the beginning of each chapter (e.g., anaptyxis, aphaeresis). Appropriately the chapter “Sound Laws” follows, subdivided into sections on mergers, splits, causes of change, and patternless changes. S contrasts phonological change with analogical change which he takes up in the chapter “Analogy.” Some subdivisions include recomposition, contamination, morphological analogy, and hypercorrection. In the chapter “Semantic Change” S covers semantic features, connotations, reindexation, and calques, concluding with a discussion of the etymological fallacy. The “Reconstruction” chapter concludes with reflections on the relationship (or lack of one) between phonological restructuring and internal reconstruction. “External Aspects of Language Change” subtitled “Language and dialect” addresses such distinctions found when contrasting language with dialect and dialect with speech styles. S concludes with the chapter “Written Records” in which the reader is shown how written records are interpreted. An appendix “Phonetics” is provided to aid the reader in understanding the mechanics and classification of speech sounds. Suggestions for further reading conclude each chapter. Front matter includes a preface, a helpful note on notational devices including notations particular to six languages (Latin, Greek, Gothic, Old English, Indic, Old Irish), and a list of abbreviations. End matter other than an appendix on phonetics includes a lengthy general glossary, a brief glossary of German terms, a list of references cited, a subject index, a language index, and a note on type. — Thomas Purnell, University of Wisconsin.]

Tichy, Eva. 2000. Indogermanistisches Grundwissen für Studierende sprachwissenschaftlicher Disziplinen. Bremen: Hempen Verlag, 139 pp. [This concise but informative book provides a coherent sketch of the results and methods of Indo-European linguistics, aiming at both specialist students and interested non-specialists. Topics treated include
an overview of the major branches of the family, the sound system of the proto-language
(including ablaut, laryngeals, and suprasegmentals), and sentence structure, though the
greatest amount of attention is devoted to Proto-Indo-European morphology, with the
verb dominating the discussion (covering over one-third of the book!). The approach
may be characterized as somewhat traditional in its orientation, but also comprehensive
(despite its conciseness) and above all, well-informed. Bibliographical references are
built into the various subsections of each chapter, and a general terminological index is
provided. — Brian D. Joseph, The Ohio State University]

(Second edition.) Boston & New York: Houghton Mifflin, xli, 149 pp. [This is a
significantly revised version of a fifteen year-old volume familiar to historical linguists
and many nonlinguists. This edition is expanded in almost every significant respect,
from the introductory essay and user’s guide to the number and scope of entries
(including some placenames and personal names, and suffixes), inclusion of a map and
numerous illustrations in the introduction. The table of sound correspondences and a
family tree of Indo-European have been revised as well. “Language and Culture Notes”
have been added by Benjamin W. Fortson, IV, for over two dozen entries. These
provide, for example, comments on praise poetry under the entry for “kleu and on
mutual exchange under the entry for “ghos-ti-. While these notes broaden the appeal of
this book to a general audience, the actual etymologies have been revised to include
laryngeals and distinctions among the palatals not directly relevant for Germanic, along
with more detailed analysis. The first edition’s entry *sawel ‘sun’, for instance, has been
modified to *sawel- and contains this note: “Oldest form *sewel, colored to *sawel-,
contracted to *sowel; zero-grade *(u)wel-. The revised entry explains the suffixal
origin of “-el, making more explicit the alternation of “-el with “-en across the family.
An index covers over 13,000 English words with ties to the Indo-European roots
presented. — Joseph Salmons, University of Wisconsin.]

Press, 344 pp. [Theory of Language is an introductory linguistics textbook based on a
CD-ROM of the same title. The textbook is designed to be used with or without the
CD-ROM, which contains the same material plus various additional features such as
a tree building and analysis program. The textbook is framed within modern generative
theory, and is intended for beginning and intermediate students. The chapters it
Brain and Language. (The readers of Diachronica will no doubt notice the omission of
a chapter on historical linguistics, language contact phenomena, etc.) The level of
formalism and sophistication of concepts introduced seems quite imbalanced across
chapters: The phonology and morphology chapters are curiously nonformal and
almost descriptive, while the chapter on syntax is much more detailed, and makes use
of more formalism. For example, phonological rules are only suggested intuitively in
Ch. 2, while Ch. 4 delves into the Binding Theory in some detail. — Monica Macaulay,
University of Wisconsin.]
Zeigeler, Debra. 2000. *Hypothetical Modality. Grammaticisation in an L2 dialect* (= *Studies in Language Companion Series*, 51). Amsterdam & Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Company, xx, 287 pp. [A revision of Z’s 1997 Monash University doctoral dissertation, this work aims to shed new light on grammaticalization by exploring “an area less frequently treated as the subject of grammaticalisation studies, the field of second language regional dialects which are becoming institutionalised in the locations where they are spoken” (p. xiii). The particular L2 dialect studied here is Singaporean English, and Z’s chief concern is counterfactuality and more generally hypothetical modality. In part, Z is reacting to work by Bloom (e.g., 1981), which she takes to be flawed but intriguing, regarding the consequences of the absence of counterfactual marking in Chinese for Chinese speakers’ ability to exhibit counterfactual reasoning. Even though Bloom’s work has been justifiably criticised, Z recognizes that potentially interesting questions concerning language contact situations emerge from it, and she sets out to consider these questions using Singaporean English as her main case study. After some discussion of hypothetical modality in general and the development of its marking via *would* in English, Z describes her empirical study of hypothetical *WILL* in Australian, British, and Singaporean English. By way of explaining her findings, she proposes the “Lexical Memory Trace” model of retention and persistence of earlier elements of meaning and usage in later grammaticalizations. There is a substantial (20-page) bibliography, as well as name and subject indices. — Brian D. Joseph, The Ohio State University]

Zeitoun, Elizabeth & Paul Jen-kuei Li, eds. 1999. *Selected Papers from the Eighth International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics* (= *Symposium Series of the Institute of Linguistics (Preparatory Office), Number 1.*) Taipei: Academica Sinica, 669 pp. [This is a collection of papers presented at the Eighth International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics, including six papers, three of which were invited papers, focusing centrally on issues of subgrouping and reconstruction in Austronesian. The first of the invited papers, ”New linguistic evidence for the Austric hypothesis” by Lawrence A. Reid, presents serious morphological evidence that the Austronesian and Austroasiatic language families are genetically related. ”Subgrouping, circularity and extinction: some issues in Austronesian comparative linguistics” by Robert Blust, is the second of the invited papers and deals with significant foundational issues in the chronology of the dispersal of Austronesian speakers from Formosa and into the Fiji-Tonga-Samoa triangle. This paper includes a 200 word reconstructed basic vocabulary for Proto-Austronesian and Proto-Malayo-Polynesian. The third invited paper, ”Chasing rainbows: implications for the rapid dispersal of Austronesian languages for subgrouping and reconstruction” by Andrew Pawley (note that there is an error in the title of this paper in the Table of Contents), examines the roles dialect chains played in the dispersal of Austronesian. ”The monosyllabic roots of Proto-Austronesian” by John Wolff presents approximately 200 reconstructions for possible Proto-Austronesian monosyllables, each with brief discussion and examples. ”Proto-Polynesian numerals” by Ross Clark examines the forms of the Proto-Polynesian numerals and their internal and external syntax. ”The position of Rejang language of Sumatra in relation to Malay and the ‘ablaut’ languages of Northwest Borneo” by Richard McGinn draws on several “drift-like” phonological and morpho-
logical changes in Rejang, Malay, and several Bornean languages, to make proposals regarding the origin of Rejang. Each paper contains its own references, and there is no index. — Jason Roberts, University of Wisconsin.]