I. VOCABULARY

The building up of a vocabulary which will be sufficiently large and varied not only to satisfy examiners but also to throw open the wide field of German Literature must be a gradual process. By extensive reading only can we gain an insight into those shades of meaning and subtleties of association which give colour and life to a language. But for the purpose we have before us, which is the correct translation of English into German, reading alone is not sufficient. Words whose meaning we understand well enough when reading German have an unhappy knack of escaping our memory when we wish to use them in a piece of prose. Memory is indeed fallible, and we cannot afford to neglect any means for strengthening it. Memory is a matter not only of the eye but of the ear: a word, then, should not only be seen but heard. Some people have a better memory for sound than for sight, and they would do well to cultivate the former talent provided that they do not neglect the latter. It is always advisable when learning a new word to write it down and if, when we do so, we take pains to write legibly we shall double our chance of remembering it. But words, besides appealing to the eye and ear, appeal also to the reason; a word will only become firmly fixed in its proper place when we know all about it, when we understand its habits and are acquainted with its relations. Any trouble we spend in organising our knowledge will be repaid; if, for example, when we learn for the first time the word Schmerz ‘pain’, we note that it is declined der Schmerz, des Schmerzes, die Schmerzen, and then take the trouble to discover that from it are formed schmerzlich, schmerzen, Kopfschmerzen, Augenschmerzen, Weitschmerz, etc., we shall have added depth and width to our knowledge with a minimum expenditure of energy.

The habit of forming groups of words will certainly be of value; German, above all other languages, is rich in the possibilities of word development. Let us take one example to show this.

From the word ein are formed: der Verein ‘the club’, einig ‘agreed’, vereinigen ‘to join’, Einigkeit ‘unity’, einheitlich ‘uniform’, einsam ‘lonely’, Einsamkeit ‘loneliness’, einstimmig
GRAMMAR NOTES

‘unanimous’, übereinstimmen ‘to agree’, einst ‘once’, einäugig ‘one-eyed’, Einsiedler ‘a hermit’, etc. These are but a few of the possible derivatives, but they serve to show the almost unlimited possibilities of word formation. Compound nouns in particular can be coined almost at will and even the largest dictionaries cannot contain all the possible combinations. For the sake of illustration a few examples are given:

Inseparable Prefix + Noun:
das Mißverständnis, the misunderstanding.

Preposition + Noun: der Ausgang, the exit.

Adverb + Noun: das Heimweh, homesickness.

Verb + Noun: das Zündholz, the match.
der Schreibtisch, the desk.

Adjective + Noun: die Großmut, the generosity.

Noun + Noun: der Schuhmacher, the shoemaker.
die Hauptstraße, the main street.
der Kirchhof, the cemetery.
der Lieblingshund, the favourite dog.
der Tagesanbruch, the daybreak.
der Geburtstag, the birthday.
die Freiheitsliebe, love of freedom.
der Tannenbaum, the fir tree.
der Riesenschritt, the giant stride.

This last class is by far the most numerous; no rule can be given as to whether the first compound should stand in the genitive or not; in the older formations the nominative was used (e.g. der Schuhmacher), but later formations almost always have the genitive (e.g. der Tagesanbruch) and use is now even made of a genitive in -s for feminine words (e.g. der Geburtstag, die Freiheitsliebe). If the first part of the compound is a feminine noun ending in -e, -n is generally added (e.g. der Tannenbaum). It should be clear from the above examples that the habit of forming words without proper knowledge is dangerous; learners should be content at first in noting compound words whenever they occur.

But phrases as well as words are a necessity for idiomatic translation. It would be beyond the scope of this book to give lists of idioms; let each rather make lists for himself and furthermore not be content with noting the infinitival form alone: if
we learn that *grüßen lassen* means ‘to send greetings’, let us also learn how it is used:

Er läßt Sie alle vielmals grüßen.
He sends his kind regards to you all.
Meine Mutter hat Dich herzlich grüßen lassen.
My mother sends you her love.
Er vergiß mich grüßen zu lassen.
He forgot to send me his greetings.
Daß er mich nicht grüßen lassen wollte, glaube ich nicht.
I do not believe that he did not wish to be remembered to me.

The spelling of *grüßen* and *lassen* calls our attention to the difference between *ss* and *ß*. Double *s* in the middle of a word is written *ß* after a long and *ss* after a short vowel; thus in *grüßen, fließen, reißen*, etc. the vowels are long, but in *lassen, wissen, müssen*, etc. they are short. At the end of a word and before final -t, double *s* is always written *ß*; thus both *das Roß* and *der Fuß* are written with *ß* although the *o* in *Roß* is short and the *u* in *Fuß* long (a fact which may be seen from their genitives: des Rosses but des Fußes); thus we write *müssen* but *ich muß*, *du mußt*, *er muß*.

The only other point of spelling to which attention must be called is the usage with regard to foreign words. Most foreign words which have become part and parcel of the German language are spelt as if they were originally German. Thus: *Kalender, Katalog, Kompanie, Offizier, Justiz, Zigarre, Telefon, Büro, Schokolade*, etc.

II. ARTICLES AND PRONOUNS

§ 1. The Definite Article:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SINGULAR</th>
<th>PLURAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>M</strong></td>
<td><strong>F</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nom. der</td>
<td>die</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acc. den</td>
<td>die</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen. des</td>
<td>der</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dat. dem</td>
<td>der</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

 Like *ein* are declined: *kein* ‘no’, ‘not a’, and the Possessive Adjectives *mein* ‘my’, *unser* ‘ours’, etc.
GRAMMAR NOTES

§ 2. The Demonstrative Pronoun:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SINGULAR</th>
<th>PLURAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nom.</td>
<td>Dieser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acc.</td>
<td>Diesen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen.</td>
<td>Dieses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dat.</td>
<td>Diesem</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

§ 3. The Demonstrative Pronoun has an alternative form der, declined like the Relative der (see § 9) except that the Genitive Singular Feminine and the Genitive Plural is derer and not deren. This form:

(i) May replace dieser or jener in the Nominative or Accusative for the sake of emphasis (especially in conversation):

Diesen Mann

I don’t know this man.

Geben Sie mir einen Bleistift. Wollen Sie diesen haben?

Give me a pencil. Will you have this one?

(ii) Replaces jener in the Nominative and Accusative Neuter Singular:

Dies ist mein Bleistift und das der seines.

This is my pencil and that is his.

(iii) Is an alternative to derjenige (§ 14).

(iv) In the Genitive it replaces seiner and ihrer (see § 4) when they refer to inanimate objects:

Erbarme dich seiner, ihrer, etc. Have pity on him, them, etc.

But:

Ich bin dessen sicher. I am sure of it.

Er hat große Begabung, aber ist derer nicht würdig.

He has great talent but is not worthy of it.

Er versuchte mehrere Aufgaben zu lösen, aber er war derer nicht fähig.

He tried to solve several problems, but he was not capable of doing them.
# 4. The Personal Pronouns

### 1st Person

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nom.</th>
<th>ich</th>
<th>I</th>
<th>wir</th>
<th>we</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acc.</td>
<td>mich</td>
<td>me</td>
<td>uns</td>
<td>us</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen.</td>
<td>meiner</td>
<td>of me</td>
<td>unser</td>
<td>of us</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dat.</td>
<td>mir</td>
<td>(to) me</td>
<td>uns</td>
<td>(to) us</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2nd Person

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nom.</th>
<th>du</th>
<th>thou</th>
<th>ihr</th>
<th>ye</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acc.</td>
<td>dich</td>
<td>thee</td>
<td>euch</td>
<td>you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen.</td>
<td>deiner</td>
<td>of thee</td>
<td>euer</td>
<td>of you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dat.</td>
<td>dir</td>
<td>(to) thee</td>
<td>euch</td>
<td>(to) you</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Singular and Plural

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nom.</th>
<th>Sie</th>
<th>you</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acc.</td>
<td>Sie</td>
<td>you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen.</td>
<td>Ihrer</td>
<td>of you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dat.</td>
<td>Ihnen</td>
<td>(to) you</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3rd Person

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nom. er</th>
<th>he</th>
<th>sie</th>
<th>es</th>
<th>it</th>
<th>sie</th>
<th>they</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acc. ihn</td>
<td>him</td>
<td>sie</td>
<td>her</td>
<td>es</td>
<td>it</td>
<td>sie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen. seines</td>
<td>of him</td>
<td>ihrer</td>
<td>of her</td>
<td>seiner</td>
<td>of it</td>
<td>ihrer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dat. ihm</td>
<td>(to) him</td>
<td>ihr</td>
<td>(to) her</td>
<td>ihm</td>
<td>(to) it</td>
<td>ihnen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### § 5. The formal mode of address Sie (borrowed from the 3rd person plural) is the same in the Singular and Plural; the intimate form du (Singular) and ihr (Plural) is used towards animals, children, parents and intimate friends. Du and ihr are also generally used in fables and fairy stories.

### § 6. The Possessive Adjectives are formed from the Genitive of the Pronoun, e.g. seiner ‘of him’, sein ‘his’:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ich</th>
<th>I</th>
<th>mein</th>
<th>my</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>du</td>
<td>thou</td>
<td>dein</td>
<td>thy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>er</td>
<td>he</td>
<td>sein</td>
<td>his</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sie</td>
<td>she</td>
<td>ihr</td>
<td>her</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>es</td>
<td>it</td>
<td>sein</td>
<td>its</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wir</td>
<td>we</td>
<td>unser</td>
<td>our</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ihr</td>
<td>ye</td>
<td>euer</td>
<td>your</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sie</td>
<td>you</td>
<td>Ihr</td>
<td>your</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sie</td>
<td>they</td>
<td>ihr</td>
<td>their</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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They are declined like *ein*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>M</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nom.</strong></td>
<td>unser</td>
<td>unsere</td>
<td>unser</td>
<td>unsere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Acc.</strong></td>
<td>unser</td>
<td>unsere</td>
<td>unser</td>
<td>unsere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gen.</strong></td>
<td>unseres</td>
<td>unserer</td>
<td>unseres</td>
<td>unserer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dat.</strong></td>
<td>unserem</td>
<td>unserer</td>
<td>unserem</td>
<td>unseren</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Plural of *unser* may be shortened to:

- Nom. unsr
- Acc. unsr
- Gen. unsr
- Dat. unsr or unsrn

§ 7. Distinguish between the Possessive Adjectives *mein, sein, unser*, etc. and the Possessive Pronouns *meiner, seiner, unserer*, etc.

The Adjective agrees with a noun which is expressed:

- Mein, sein, unser Pferd, etc. My, his, our horse, etc.

The Pronoun replaces a noun which is omitted:

- Wessen Pferd ist das? Meines, seines, unseres, etc. Whose horse is that? Mine, his, ours, etc.

The Pronoun inflects according to the ordinary rule for the declension of adjectives (see § 22); it may have three forms: *meiner, meine, meines*, etc. (strong because nothing precedes it); *der meinige, die meinige, das meinige*, etc. (weak after *der*); and *der meine, die meine, das meine*, etc. (weak).

§ 8. When speaking of clothes or parts of the body, the Definite Article should be used instead of the Possessive Adjective, and if necessary the possessor indicated by the Dative of the Reflexive or Personal Pronoun (as in French):

- **Den** Ranzen auf **dem** Rücken wandert er durchs Land.
- **With his** knapsack on **his** back he wanders through the country.

  Ich wasche **mir die** Hände. I am washing **my** hands.
  Ich schüttelte **ihm die** Hand. I shook **his** hand.
ARTICLES AND PRONOUNS

Note the difference between:

Der Soldat hat **sich** das Bein gebrochen.
The soldier has broken his leg (i.e. his own).

Der Soldat hat **ihn** das Bein gebrochen.
The soldier has broken his leg (i.e. someone else’s).

§ 9. THE RELATIVE:

(i) *Welcher*, declines like *dieser*.

(ii) *Der*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SINGULAR</th>
<th>PLURAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nom.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Acc.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>der</td>
<td>den</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>die</td>
<td>die</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>das</td>
<td>das</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>die</td>
<td>die</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Der* is generally used in preference to *welcher* except where variety is desirable.

§ 10. The Relative agrees with its antecedent in Number and Gender, its case is governed by the construction of its own clause:

**Sg. & Neut. Nom. (Subj. of spielen)**

Das Mädel, das mit der Puppe spielt, ist meine Nichte.
The girl who is playing with the doll is my niece.

**Pl. & Masc. Dat. (ind. obj. of schenken)**

Die Buben, denen ich die Äpfel schenkte, waren froh.
The boys to whom I gave the apples were glad.

§ 11. The Genitive of the Relative often causes confusion. Note carefully the Genitive forms of *der* (*welcher* is rarely used in the Genitive) and distinguish particularly between the Genitive Singular Feminine *deren* and the Dative Plural *dienen*:

Die Blume, deren Farbe im Frühling so schön war, ist jetzt verwelkt.
The flower, whose colour was so beautiful in Spring, is now withered.

Dies sind Leuten, denen man kaum trauen kann.
These are people whom one can hardly trust.
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From the first of these examples it will be seen that the Article is omitted after the Relative in the Genitive Singular:
Das ist der Baum in dessen Äste Hans geklettert ist.
That is the tree into the branches of which Jack climbed.

§ 12. With Prepositions the form wo may be used when the antecedent is an inanimate object:

Die Feder, mit der er schreibt, kratzt.
The nib with which he is writing scratches.

But:

Der Junge, an den (not, woran) er schreibt, ist sein Bruder.
The boy to whom he is writing is his brother.

§ 13. In English the Relative Pronoun is often omitted, in German (as in French) never:

The letter you wrote has not arrived.
Der Brief, den Sie schrieben, ist nicht angekommen.

§ 14. Derjenige (declined like the Article der + the Adjectivejenig) has a shortened form der (declined like the Demonstrative der, § 8). The short form is now generally preferred to the long, except where special emphasis is required or where der might be confused with the Definite Article. Derjenige or der is used, like the French celui,

(i) before a Relative,
(ii) before a Genitive.

Examples:

(i) Before a Relative, ‘he who’, ‘the man who’, ‘the one which’, etc.:

Ich kenne den nicht, der gestern bei Ihnen war.
I don’t know the man who was at your house yesterday.
Erinnern Sie sich derer, von der ich spreche?
Do you remember the lady of whom I speak?
Trink nicht aus diesem Glas, trink aus dem, das auf dem Tisch steht.
Do not drink out of this glass, drink out of the one standing on the table.
Gedenke derer, die Ihnen geholfen haben.
Think of those who have helped you.
ARTICLES AND PRONOUNS

N.B. *Wer* (‘whoever’) is similarly used:

Wer das glaubt, ist kein Freund von mir.
He who believes that is no friend of mine.

Wen der Krieg verschont hat, kann dankbar sein.
Those whom the war spared can be thankful.

(ii) Before a Genitive, ‘that of’:

Er holte meinen Koffer und *den* meines Bruders.
He fetched my trunk and my brother’s (i.e. that of my brother).

§ 15. *Derselbe* ‘the same’ declines similarly to *derjenige*:

derselbe, dieselbe, dasselbe,
denselben, dieselben, dasselben, etc.

Er hat dieselben Worte gesagt. He said the same words.

*Derselbe* may on occasion be used to translate ‘it’, referring to something already mentioned:

Er hat mir die Urkunde geschickt; eine Klausel *derselben* beweist daß....

He sent me the deed; one clause of it proves that....

§ 16. INTERROGATIVE PRONOUNS AND ADJECTIVES:

**Pronouns:** who? what?

Nom. wer was

Acc. wen was

Gen. wessen Singular was für ein

Dat. wem Plural was für

**Adjectives:** which (French quel)

Welcher (declined like dieser)

what sort of?

Examples:

Wer ist gekommen?
Who has come?

Wer von Ihnen hat es getan?
Which of you has done it?

Wen haben Sie gesehen?
Whom have you seen?

Wessen Hut ist das?
Whose hat is that?

Wem gehört der Hut?
To whom does the hat belong?

Was ist denn das?
What on earth is that?

Was haben Sie getan?
What have you done?

Mit welchem Zug kommen Sie?
By what train are you coming?

Was für ein Mann ist er?
What sort of a man is he?

Was für Männer sind sie?
What sort of men are they?
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§ 17. *Wer*, ‘who’, is used in indirect as well as direct questions:

Wen haben Sie gesehen?  Whom have you seen?
Ich fragte ihn, wen er gesehen habe.  I asked him whom he had seen.
Mit wen haben Sie gesprochen?  With whom have you spoken?

Ich weiß nicht, mit wen er gesprochen hat.  I do not know with whom he has spoken.

§ 18. *Was?  ‘what?’* (i) With Prepositions two forms are possible:

Wovon (or von was) sprechen Sie?  Of what are you speaking?
Woran (or an was) leiden Sie?  From what are you suffering?

(ii) The German for ‘what’ in the sense of ‘that which’ is *das was* (French *ce que*). *Das* may, however, be omitted in the Nominative and Accusative:

(Das) was Sie sagen ist Unsinn.
What you say is nonsense.
Er drückte (das), was ich nur dachte, aus.
He expressed what I only thought.

But:

Die Hälfte dessen, was Sie sagen ist Unsinn.
Half of what you say is nonsense.
Er erzählte mir von dem, was Sie sagten.
He told me about what you were saying.

§ 19. Note that *was* and not the Relative *das* is used (i) when the antecedent is indefinite, (ii) when the whole and not a part of a sentence is the antecedent.

Examples:

(i) Alles *was* Sie sagen ist Unsinn.  Everything you say is nonsense.

(Was because *alles* is indefinite.)

Es war das Schönste, *was* ich je gesehen habe.
It was the most beautiful thing I have ever seen.

(Was because *das Schönste* is indefinite.)

But:

Es war das schönste Bild, *das* ich je gesehen habe.
It was the most beautiful picture I have ever seen.

(Das because *das schönste Bild* is definite.)