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Analysis of Scientific Texts

Rodney D. Huddleston

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The sentence in written English

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A SYNTACTIC STUDY BASED
ON AN ANALYSIS OF
SCIENTIFIC TEXTS

RODNEY D. HUDDLESTON

*Senior Lecturer in English
University of Queensland*

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Preface

This book is a substantially revised version of my contribution to *Sentence and Clause in Scientific English*, which was the final report of a research project into the linguistic properties of scientific English carried out at University College London in 1964–7. I would emphasize, however, that the present work is as much concerned with common-core English as with the language of science: see the statement of aims in the Introduction. The original research project was supported by grant Y5995 of the Office of Scientific and Technical Information. I am deeply indebted to my colleagues on the project: to Dick Hudson and Eugene Winter for their part in the first stage analysis of the corpus, and to Alick Henrici for organizing the computational processing of that analysis. I have also benefited from Dick Hudson's comments on various drafts of the work. Nevertheless, responsibility for the description presented in the book is of course mine.

I should like also to acknowledge my more general indebtedness to Professor Michael Halliday, whose teaching first aroused my interest in English grammar; without his encouragement over the years I should certainly not have come to write this book. Finally I would express my thanks to Cecily McDonald for typing the book, and to my wife for her help with the preparation of the index and the correction of proofs – and for her patience during the writing of the book.

Brisbane, May 1970

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TO MY FATHER AND MOTHER