One Language, Two Grammars?

It is well known that British and American English differ substantially in their pronunciation and vocabulary, but differences in their grammar have largely been underestimated. This volume focuses on British–American differences in the structure of words and sentences and supports them with computer-aided studies of large text collections. Present-day as well as earlier forms of the two varieties are included in the analyses. This makes it the first book-length treatment of British and American English grammar in contrast, with topics ranging from compound verbs to word order differences and tag questions. The authors explore some of the better-known contrasts, as well as a great variety of innovative themes that have so far received little or no consideration. Bringing together the work of a team of leading scholars in the field, this book will be of interest to those working within the fields of English historical linguistics, language variation and change, and dialectology.

Günter Rohdenburg is Professor Emeritus of English Linguistics in the Department of English and American Studies at the University of Paderborn.

Julia Schlüter is Assistant Professor in English Linguistics and Language History at the University of Bamberg.
STUDIES IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

General editor
Merja Kytö (Uppsala University)

Editorial Board
Bas Aarts (University College London), John Algeo (University of Georgia), Susan Fitzmaurice (Northern Arizona University), Charles F. Meyer (University of Massachusetts)

The aim of this series is to provide a framework for original studies of English, both present-day and past. All books are based securely on empirical research, and represent theoretical and descriptive contributions to our knowledge of national and international varieties of English, both written and spoken. The series covers a broad range of topics and approaches, including syntax, phonology, grammar, vocabulary, discourse, pragmatics and sociolinguistics, and is aimed at an international readership.

Already published in this series:
Christian Mair: Infinitival Complement Clauses in English: A Study of Syntax in Discourse
Charles F. Meyer: Apposition in Contemporary English
Jan Firbas: Functional Sentence Perspective in Written and Spoken Communication
Izchak M. Schlesinger: Cognitive Space and Linguistic Case
Katie Wales: Personal Pronouns in Present-Day English
Laura Wright: The Development of Standard English, 1300–1800: Theories, Descriptions, Conflicts
Charles F. Meyer: English Corpus Linguistics: Theory and Practice
Stephen J. Nagle and Sara L. Sanders (eds.): English in the Southern United States
Anne Curzan: Gender Shifts in the History of English
Kingsley Bolton: Chinese Englishes
Irma Taavitsainen and Paivi Pahta (eds.): Medical and Scientific Writing in Late Medieval English
Elizabeth Gordon, Lyle Campbell, Jennifer Hay, Margaret Maclagan, Andrea Sudbury and Peter Trudgill: New Zealand English: Its Origins and Evolution
Raymond Hickey (ed.): Legacies of Colonial English
Merja Kytö, Mats Rydén and Erik Smitterberg (eds.): Nineteenth Century English: Stability and Change
John Algeo: British or American English? A Handbook of Word and Grammar Patterns
Christian Mair: Twentieth-Century English: History, Variation and Standardization
Evelien Keizer: The English Noun Phrase: The Nature of Linguistic Categorization
Raymond Hickey: Irish English: History and Present-Day Forms
One Language, Two Grammars?

Differences between British and American English

Edited by
GÜNTER ROHDENBURG
AND
JULIA SCHLÜTER
## Contents

| List of figures | page vii |
| List of tables  | xvi      |
| List of contributors | xxiv |

**Introduction**  
GUENTER ROHDENBURG AND JULIA SCHLUETER  
1

1 *Colonial lag, colonial innovation or simply language change?*  
MARIANNE HUNDT  
13

2 *Compound verbs*  
PETER ERDMANN  
38

3 *The formation of the preterite and the past participle*  
MAGNUS LEVIN  
60

4 *Synthetic and analytic comparatives*  
BRITTA MONDORF  
86

5 *Phonology and grammar*  
JULIA SCHLUETER  
108

6 *Prepositions and postpositions*  
EVA BERLAGE  
130

7 *Argument structure*  
DAVID DENISON  
149

8 *Reflexive structures*  
GUENTER ROHDENBURG  
166

9 *Noun phrase modification*  
DOUGLAS BIBER, JACK GRIEVE AND GINA IBERRI-SHEA  
182

10 *Nominal complements*  
GUENTER ROHDENBURG  
194

11 *Non-finite complements*  
UWE VOSBERG  
212

12 *The present perfect and the preterite*  
JOHAN ELSNESS  
228

13 *The revived subjunctive*  
GORAN KJELLMER  
246

14 *The mandative subjunctive*  
WILLIAM J. CRAWFORD  
257
vi Contents

15 The conditional subjunctive JULIA SCHLÜTER 277
16 Tag questions D. J. ALLERTON 306
17 The pragmatics of adverbs KARIN AIJMER 324
18 How different are American and British English grammar? And how are they different? GUNNEL TOTTIE 341
19 New departures GÜNTER RODHENBURG AND JULIA SCHLÜTER 364

Bibliography 424
Index 452
1.1 Comparative forms in ARCHER-1  
1.2 Superlative forms in ARCHER-1  
1.3 Progressive passives in BrE and AmE  
1.4 *Have* vs. *be* as perfect auxiliaries with intransitives in BrE and AmE  
1.5 The *get*-passive in BrE and AmE in ARCHER-1  
1.6 Relative frequency of progressives with animate and inanimate subjects in ARCHER-1 – BrE and AmE compared  
1.7 Past tense and past participle forms in fictional writing – adjectival uses included  
1.8 Past tense and past participle forms in fictional writing – adjectival uses excluded  
3.1 The correlation between aspect and verb inflections in the preterite in *Ind* 2000  
3.2 The use of *-ed* in *NYT* 1995 and *Ind* 2000 (preterite and past participle forms combined)  
3.3 The use of *-ed* in LSAC and the spoken part of the BNC (preterite and past participle forms combined)  
3.4 The use of *-ed* in *NYT* 1995  
3.5 The use of *-ed* in *Ind* 2000  
3.6 The use of *-ed* in LSAC  
3.7 The use of *-ed* in BNC (spoken)  
3.8 The use of irregular past participle forms in passives and actives in *Ind* 2000  
3.9 The correlation between the number of tokens and irregular inflection in *NYT*  
3.10 The correlation between the number of tokens and irregular inflection in *Ind*  
3.11 The correlation between the number of tokens and irregular inflection in LSAC  
3.12 The correlation between the number of tokens and irregular inflection in BNC (spoken)
viii List of figures

4.1 Analytic comparatives of fifty-four mono- and disyllabic adjectives according to position in the British corpus (without the BNC) and the American corpus 91
4.2 Analytic comparatives of non-attributive monosyllabic adjectives in the British corpus (without BNC) 101
4.3 Analytic comparatives of non-attributive monosyllabic adjectives in the American corpus 102
5.1 The distribution of the participial variants lit and lighted in a series of British prose corpora 113
5.2 The distribution of the participial variants lit and lighted according to syntactic function in a series of British and American prose corpora 115
5.3 The distribution of the participial variants lit and lighted according to syntactic function in a British and American newspaper corpus 117
5.4 The distribution of the participial variants knit and knitted according to syntactic function in a British and American newspaper corpus 118
5.5 The distribution of the participial variants knit and knitted in a series of British prose corpora 119
5.6 The distribution of a quite and quite a(n) before attributive adjectives in a series of British prose corpora 122
5.7 The distribution of a quite and quite a(n) before attributive adjectives in a series of British and American prose corpora 123
5.8 The distribution of a quite and quite a(n) before attributive adjectives according to mode in present-day BrE and AmE 125
6.1 Postpositional not included, excepted, aside and apart in a set of present-day British and American newspapers 132
6.2 Postpositional notwithstanding in a set of present-day British and American newspapers 134
6.3 Postpositional notwithstanding from the late fourteenth to eighteenth centuries 136
6.4 Postpositional notwithstanding during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries 136
6.5 Postpositional notwithstanding associated with NPs of up to ten words excluding NPs with dependent clauses in a set of American historical newspapers from 1895 to 1955 137
6.6 The average number of words associated with simple and complex NPs that occur before or after notwithstanding in a set of present-day British and American newspapers

6.7 Prepositional notwithstanding associated with simple vs. complex NPs in a set of present-day British and American newspapers

6.8 Prepositional notwithstanding in relation to word counts with simple NPs in a set of present-day British and American newspapers

6.9 Prepositional notwithstanding in relation to word counts with complex NPs in a set of present-day British and American newspapers

6.10 Prepositional notwithstanding associated with NPs of different structural types in a set of present-day British and American newspapers

7.1 Development of reversed substitute

9.1 Pre-modifiers across historical periods: AmE vs. BrE

9.2 Post-modifiers across historical periods: AmE vs. BrE

9.3 Relative clause types across historical periods: AmE vs. BrE

9.4 Copula BE across historical periods: AmE vs. BrE

11.1 The development of non-finite complements dependent on the verb-noun collocation have (got) no business in various historical and present-day corpora

11.2 The development of non-finite complements dependent on the verb-noun collocation have (got) no business in various British historical and present-day corpora

11.3 The development of non-finite complements dependent on the verb-noun collocation have (got) no business in various American historical and present-day corpora

11.4 The development of non-finite complements of the verb decline in various historical and present-day corpora

11.5 The development of non-finite complements dependent on the verb-noun collocation lay claim in various historical and present-day corpora

11.6 The distribution of non-finite complements dependent on the verb-noun collocation lay claim(s) in various British present-day newspapers for 1990–2004
x List of figures

11.7 The distribution of non-finite complements dependent on the verb-noun collocation lay claim(s) in various British present-day newspapers 223
11.8 The development of non-finite complements dependent on the verb cannot/could not stand in various historical and present-day corpora 224
12.1 The present perfect (with HAVE, active/passive) as percentage of all past-referring verb forms 231
12.2 The present perfect (with HAVE, active/passive) as percentage of all past-referring verb forms when science category is disregarded in Present-Day English 232
12.3 The present perfect as percentage of all past-referring verb forms in some text categories in the history of British English 234
12.4 The present perfect of twenty high-frequency verbs in the Brown, LOB, Frown and FLOB corpora 242
14.1 Mandates and non-mandates in British and American news writing 263
14.2 Mandates and non-mandates in verbal triggers in British and American news writing 265
14.3 Mandates and non-mandates in noun triggers in British and American news writing 266
14.4 Mandates and non-mandates in adjective triggers in British and American news writing 267
14.5 Distribution of verb trigger mandates in British and American news writing 269
14.6 Distribution of noun trigger mandates in British and American news writing 270
14.7 Distribution of adjective trigger mandates in British and American news writing 272
15.1 The shape of the complex conjunction on (the) condition (that) 280
15.2 Realizations of the verbal syntagm in subordinate clauses dependent on (up)on (the) condition (that) 288
15.3 Realizations of the verbal syntagm in subordinate clauses dependent on (up)on (the) condition (that) 289
15.4 Realizations of the verbal syntagm in subordinate clauses dependent on on condition that 290
15.5 Textual frequencies of the semi-formula (up)on (the) condition (that) NP not be Ved and of the semantically equivalent formula (up)on (the) condition of anonymity 294
15.6 Realizations of the verbal syntagm for be and other verbs in subordinate clauses dependent on (up)on
List of figures

15.7 Realizations of the verbal syntagm in negated and non-negated subordinate clauses dependent on (up)on (the) condition (that), excluding semi-formulaic instances of the type (up)on (the) condition (that) NP not be Ved 297
15.8 Choice of modal auxiliaries in subordinate clauses dependent on (up)on (the) condition (that) 300
16.1 Types of appendage 309
16.2 From question to statement 320
18.1 The frequency of tag questions in British and American English, calculated per million words 335
18.2 Distribution of polarity in two subsets of BNC-S and LSAC (1,000 instances each) 356
18.3 Proportions of auxiliary use in question tags in BNC-S and LSAC 357
18.4 Proportions of pronouns in question tags in BNC-S and LSAC 357
18.5 Proportions of types of pragmatic meanings of question tags in BNC-S and LSAC 360
18.6 Speaker change after tag questions in BNC-S and LSAC 361
19.1 The rivalry between really and real intensifying adjectives (and the occasional adverb) in two matching British and American corpora 367
19.2 The rivalry between wholly, whole and a whole lot as intensifiers preceding different in selected British and American newspapers 368
19.3 The rivalry between suffixed and suffixless manner adverbs (and the way-periphrasis) in selected British and American newspapers 369
19.4 Adverbial uses of likely in four matching British and American English corpora 370
19.5 The distribution of -ward and -wards with adverbs and adjectives in selected British and American newspapers 371
19.6 The use of plenty and overly as premodifiers of adjectives and adverbs in selected British and American newspapers 372
19.7 The rivalry between many and much in the type many/much fewer (books) in selected British and American newspapers 372
xii List of figures

19.8 The use of kind of/kinda and sort of/sorta modifying elements other than nouns/noun phrases in four matching British and American corpora 373
19.9 The rivalry between twice and two times in three major syntactic environments in selected British and American newspapers 374
19.10a The distribution of for longer in selected British and American newspapers 374
19.10b Comparative sequences of the type fresher (for) longer in selected British and American newspapers 375
19.11 The occurrence of nary ‘not/never/neither’ in selected British and American newspapers 376
19.12a Negated infinitives governed by and immediately following the verbs begin and start in selected British and American newspapers 377
19.12b The use of infinitives split by single adverbs ending in -ly in four matching British and American corpora 377
19.13 Verb-based attitudinal disjuncts like admittedly and allegedly in four matching British and American corpora 378
19.14a The distribution of selected sentence adverbs across different positions in British and American newspapers 379
19.14b The distribution of six evaluative sentence adverbs (amazingly, astonishingly, curiously, interestingly, oddly, strangely) in four matching British and American corpora 380
19.15 The rivalry between the prepositions into and in in four frequent collocations in selected British and American newspapers 382
19.16 The distribution of the preposition to in near (to) tears/death in selected British and American newspapers 383
19.17 Causal/instrumental prepositional phrases involving courtesy in selected British and American newspapers 384
19.18 The use of the novel preposition absent and the prepositional phrase in (the) absence of in selected British and American newspapers 385
19.19 The use of prepositions (immediately) preceding interrogative if-clauses dependent on it depends in selected British and American corpora 386
19.20 The use of prepositions introducing interrogative whether-clauses dependent on the question in selected British and American newspapers 386
List of figures xiii

19.21a The expression of dispreferred alternatives with the verb *prefer* by means of the prepositions *over* and *to* in selected British and American newspapers 387
19.21b The use of the preposition *over* to indicate dispreferred alternatives with the verbs *prefer, select, recommend* and *choose* in selected British and American newspapers 388
19.22 The distribution of the participial variants *dread* and *dreaded* in attributive function in British and American newspapers 390
19.23 The distribution of the phrases *the next/past/last/first Ø/few/several/couple of years/months/weeks/days/hours/minutes/seconds* in British and American newspapers 391
19.24a The rivalry between *both these/those* and *both of these/those* in (predominantly) narrative historical corpora of British and American English 392
19.24b The rivalry between *both these/those* and *both of these/those* in spoken corpora of British and American English 393
19.24c The rivalry between *all these/those* and *all of these/those* in selected British and American newspapers 393
19.25 The variable use of the preposition *of* after sequences of the predeterminers *as*/*so*/*how*/*this*/*that*/*too*, the adjectives *big*/*high*/*good* and following nouns in selected British and American newspapers 394
19.26 The use of *sufficient* in constructions like *sufficient of his energies/talent* in British and American newspapers 395
19.27 The use of *all* postmodifying interrogative *who* and *what* in selected British and American corpora 396
19.28 The use of *ain’t/aint* representing negated forms of *be* and *have* in four matching British and American corpora 398
19.29 The rivalry between the types *X has/have to do with Y* and *X is/are to do with Y* in selected British and American newspapers 398
19.30 The rivalry between *X comes down to Y* and *X is down to Y* in selected British and American newspapers 399
19.31 The rivalry between the verbs *have* and *take* in complex verbal structures involving the sequence *a look* 400
19.32 The use of the *way*-construction with different verbs in selected British and American newspapers 401
19.33 Prepositional particle verbs involving the combinations *up on or in on* in four matching British and American corpora 402
## List of figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19.34a</td>
<td>The use of the pseudo-passive constructions <em>be sat</em> and <em>be stood</em> in selected British and American newspapers</td>
<td>403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.34b</td>
<td>The rivalry between <em>X is heading</em> and <em>X is headed</em> + directional phrase in selected British and American newspapers</td>
<td>403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.34c</td>
<td>The rivalry between non-attributive and intransitive uses of * sprawling* and <em>sprawled</em></td>
<td>404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.35</td>
<td>The variable use of <em>as</em> with nominal predicatives containing the definite and indefinite articles immediately following the sequence <em>was named</em> in selected American and British newspapers</td>
<td>405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.36</td>
<td>The use of <em>being</em> to introduce different predicative expressions associated with the negator <em>far from</em> in selected British and American newspapers</td>
<td>406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.37a</td>
<td>The use of the adverbial conjunctions <em>being (that/as (how)), given (that), on the basis (that) and for fear (that)</em> in selected British and American newspapers</td>
<td>408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.37b</td>
<td>The use or omission of the subordination signal <em>that</em> with the conjunction <em>for fear</em> in selected British and American newspapers</td>
<td>409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.38</td>
<td>The use of subjunctives in adverbial clauses introduced by <em>lest</em> in selected British and American newspapers</td>
<td>410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.39</td>
<td>The use of <em>that-</em>, <em>if-</em> and *whether-*clauses associated with and following <em>no matter</em> in selected British and American newspapers</td>
<td>411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.40</td>
<td>The omission of the verbal coda in topic-restricting <em>as far as</em>-constructions in written and spoken British and American corpora</td>
<td>412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.41</td>
<td>The relativization of the standard of comparison by means of <em>than which/whom</em> in selected British and American newspapers</td>
<td>413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.42a</td>
<td>The use of the complex interrogative <em>how come</em> in four matching British and American corpora</td>
<td>414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.42b</td>
<td>The use of the interrogative <em>how come</em> in selected British and American newspapers</td>
<td>414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.43</td>
<td>The rivalry between the reversed pseudo-cleft construction <em>this is how</em> + <em>S</em> and the upcoming type <em>here is how/here’s how</em> + <em>S</em> in selected British and American newspapers</td>
<td>415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.44</td>
<td>Marked and unmarked infinitives with pseudo-cleft constructions involving <em>what, all, thing(s) or the</em></td>
<td>415</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
List of figures

19.45a Subjectless gerunds associated with *as well as* and *in addition to* in selected British and American newspapers

19.45b Subjectless gerunds associated with *apart from*/*as well as*/*besides*/*aside from*/*in addition to* in four matching corpora

19.46 The rivalry between possessive and objective case pronouns as logical subjects of the gerund *being*
# Tables

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.1</strong></td>
<td><em>Got</em> vs. <em>gotten</em> ( participles) in ARCHER-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.2</strong></td>
<td><em>Got</em> vs. <em>gotten</em> in <em>Early American Fiction</em> (EAF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.3</strong></td>
<td><em>Got</em> vs. <em>gotten</em> ( participles) in twentieth-century AmE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.4</strong></td>
<td><em>Proved</em> ( participle) and <em>proven</em> in twentieth-century English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.5</strong></td>
<td><em>Proved</em> vs. <em>proven</em> ( participles) in ARCHER-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.6</strong></td>
<td><em>Proved</em> vs. <em>proven</em> in <em>Early American Fiction</em> (EAF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.7</strong></td>
<td>Regularization of irregular past tense and past participle forms of the verbs <em>burn, dwell, learn, smell, spell, dream, kneel, lean, leap, spill and spoil</em> in ARCHER-2 (regular:irregular forms)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.8</strong></td>
<td>Regularization of irregular past tense and past participle forms of the verbs <em>burn, dwell, learn, smell, spell, dream, kneel, lean, leap, spill and spoil</em> in ARCHER-2 – adjectival use of participle removed (regular:irregular forms)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.9</strong></td>
<td>Ranking by earliest occurrence (OED) and frequency of irregular form (evidence from BrE eighteenth-century fiction – ECF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.10</strong></td>
<td>Concord with collective nouns in ARCHER-2 (singular:plural)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.11</strong></td>
<td>Concord with <em>army, committee</em> and <em>government</em> in ARCHER-2 (singular:plural)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.12</strong></td>
<td>Concord with collective nouns (all except <em>army, committee, government</em> and <em>family</em>) in ARCHER-2 (singular:plural)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.13</strong></td>
<td>Mandative subjunctives vs. <em>should/shall</em>-periphrasis in ARCHER-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.14</strong></td>
<td>Mandative subjunctives vs. <em>should/shall</em>-periphrasis in <em>Early American Fiction</em> (eighteenth-century-born authors only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.15</strong></td>
<td>ARCHER-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.16</strong></td>
<td>ARCHER-2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
List of tables xvi

1.17 The British component of ARCHER-2 (number of texts per register) 36
1.18 The American component of ARCHER-2 (number of texts per register) 36
1.19 The get-passive in BrE and AmE in ARCHER-1 37
1.20 Past tense and past participle forms of the verbs burn, dwell, learn, smell, spell, dream, kneel, lean, leap, spill and spoil in fiction databases – adjectival uses included 37
1.21 Past tense and past participle forms of the verbs burn, dwell, learn, smell, spell, dream, kneel, lean, leap, spill and spoil in fiction databases – adjectival uses excluded 37
2.1 One-word, hyphenated and two-word forms of compound verbs in three dictionaries of AmE 41
2.2 One-word, hyphenated and two-word forms of compound verbs in three dictionaries of BrE 41
2.3 Number of compound verbs in two dictionaries of AmE and BrE 47
2.4 Compound verbs with hand as pattern-forming first element as documented in the OED 2 56
2.5 Compound verbs with hop as pattern-forming second element as documented in the OED 2 58
2.6 Compound verbs with talk as pattern-forming second element as documented in the OED 2 58
3.1 Percentage use of irregular vs. regular forms. Comparison with the results in Biber et al. (1999: 397) 62
3.2 The correlation between aspect and verb inflections in Ind 2000 82
3.3 The use of regular and irregular verb forms in NYT 1995 and Ind 2000 83
3.4 The use of regular and irregular verb forms in LSAC and BNC (spoken) 84
3.5 The use of regular and irregular verb forms in The Times 2000 84
3.6 The use of regular and irregular verb forms in actives and passives in Ind 2000 84
3.7 Participial adjectives in NYT 1995, Ind 2000 and The Times 2000 85
4.1 British and American English databases 87
4.2 Synthetic vs. analytic comparative forms of four formal types of adjectives in non-attributive position in the British corpus and the American corpus 93
xviii  List of tables

4.3  Analytic comparatives of monosyllabic adjectives in relation to the positive form in the British corpus and the American corpus 94

4.4  Analytic comparatives of monosyllabic adjectives in relation to attested gradability in the British corpus and the American corpus 96

4.5  Frequency of comparatives (synthetic + analytic) of four formal types of adjectives in the British corpus and the American corpus 97

4.6  Comparatives of monosyllabic adjectives in relation to the frequency of the positive in the British corpus and the American corpus 99

4.7  Comparative forms of twenty-one monosyllabic adjectives in the British corpus (excluding the BNC) and the American corpus 103

4.8  Comparative forms of thirty-six frequent monosyllabic adjectives in six selected British and American English corpora 104

5.1  Summary of the evidence with regard to the three generalizations about British–American differences 129

7.1  Informal survey 151

7.2  Direct object of substitute in the BNC 157

7.3  Reference of direct object in the BNC according to domain 158

7.4  Direct object of substitute in the ANC 160

7.5  Comparison of unambiguous examples in the BNC and ANC 161

7.6  Factors in choice of argument order 162

8.1  Reflexive and non-reflexive (active) uses of the verb empty immediately preceding the preposition into in selected British and American newspapers 168

8.2  Reflexive and non-reflexive (active) uses of the verb empty immediately preceding the preposition into in a selection of historical British and American corpora 168

8.3  Reflexive and non-reflexive (active) uses of the verb oversleep in British and American historical corpora 169

8.4  Reflexive and non-reflexive (active) uses of the verb overeat in British and American corpora of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries 169

8.5  Reflexive and non-reflexive (active) uses of the verb keep immediately preceding from + verbal -ing form in historical and present-day British and American databases 170

© in this web service Cambridge University Press  www.cambridge.org
List of tables

8.6 Reflexive and non-reflexive (active) uses of the type keep (o.s.) to o.s. in British and American historical corpora

8.7 Reflexive and non-reflexive (active) uses of the type keep (o.s.) to o.s. in selected British and American newspapers

8.8 Reflexive and non-reflexive (active) uses of he committed (himself) ‘he bound himself’ associated with following complements introduced by the preposition/infinitive marker to in selected British and American newspapers

8.9 Reflexive and non-reflexive (active) uses of he committed (himself) ‘he bound himself’ associated with following complements introduced by the preposition/infinitive marker to in selected years of the Los Angeles Times

8.10 Reflexive and non-reflexive (active) uses of the verb brace (o.s.) immediately preceding phrases introduced by to (preposition or infinitive marker), for or against in historical British and American corpora

8.11 Reflexive and non-reflexive (active) uses of the verb brace (o.s.) immediately preceding to (preposition or infinitive marker), for or against in selected British and American newspapers

8.12 Reflexive and non-reflexive (active) uses of the verb disport in selected British and American newspapers

8.13 Reflexive and non-reflexive (active) uses of the type get (o.s.) into (…) trouble in selected British and American newspapers

8.14 Reflexive and non-reflexive (active) uses of the verb forms pledging/to pledge immediately preceding the preposition/infinitive marker to in selected British and American newspapers

8.15 Reflexive and non-reflexive (active) uses of the verb forms organize (organise)/organizes (organises)/organizing (organising) immediately preceding infinitival purpose clauses in selected British and American newspapers

8.16 Reflexive and non-reflexive (active) uses of the verb forms organise/organises/organising (including any spelling variants) immediately preceding infinitival purpose clauses in selected years of The Times and The Sunday Times and The Guardian (including The Observer for 1994–2004)
List of tables

8.17 Selected reflexive verbs in four matching one-million-word corpora of written British and American English 179
9.1 Diachronic newspaper corpus 185
9.2 Present-day newspaper corpus 185
10.1 Prepositional and directly linked nominal complements associated with *unbecoming* in selected British and American newspapers 196
10.2 The use of prepositional and directly linked complements dependent on *(be) due* ‘owed as a debt or as a right’ immediately preceding the personal pronouns *me, you, him, us, us, them*, or the possessive pronouns *my, your, his, her, our, their*, in selected eighteenth- and nineteenth-century corpora 197
10.3 The use of prepositional and directly linked complements dependent on *(be) due* ‘owed as a debt or as a right’ immediately preceding the personal pronouns *me, you, him, us, them*, in selected British and American newspapers 198
10.4 Prepositional and direct objects associated with selected antagonistic verbs in British and American newspapers 199
10.5 Prepositional and direct objects associated with selected verbs of leaving in British and American newspapers 201
10.6 The realization of the domain expression in passive equivalents of the double object construction with *dismiss* in selected British and American newspapers 203
10.7 Double object constructions involving *excuse* ‘allow sb. not to fulfil some duty, obligation’ in selected British and American newspapers 204
10.8 Double objects and sequences of the type object + *with*-phrase associated with the verb *present* in historical British and American corpora 205
10.9 Double objects and sequences of the type object + *with*-phrase associated with the verb *present* in selected British and American newspapers 206
10.10 Double objects and sequences of the type object + *with*-phrase associated with the verb *issue* in selected British and American newspapers 206
10.11 Double objects and sequences of the type object + *of*-phrase associated with the reflexively used verb *assure* in selected British and American newspapers 207
10.12 The realization of the recipient in primary passives associated with *was/were sent* in historical and present-day corpora of BrE and AmE 208
10.13 The realization of the recipient in primary passives associated with is/are/was/were owed in British and American newspapers 208
10.14 The realization of the recipient in primary passives associated with the verb owe in British and American authors born in the nineteenth century 209
10.15 The realization of the recipient in primary passives of the verb accord associated with two classes of full NPs in the recipient slot in selected British and American newspapers 209
10.16 The realization of the recipient in primary passives of the verb accord associated with personal pronouns (excluding it) in the recipient slot in selected British and American newspapers 210
10.17 The realization of the recipient in primary passives of the verb accord in historical British and American corpora 210
11.1 The distribution of non-finite complements of the verb decline in various historical British corpora 218
11.2 The distribution of non-finite complements of the verb decline in the EAF corpus 219
11.3 The distribution of non-finite complements dependent on the verb cannot/could not stand (incl. contractions and non-affirmative adverbs) in various British newspapers for 1996–2004 225
11.4 Summary of the findings 226
12.1 The present perfect (with auxiliary HAVE) and the preterite as percentages of all past-referring verb forms in the history of English 230
12.2 The present perfect (with HAVE) and the preterite as percentages of all past-referring verb forms in some text categories in the history of English 233
12.3 Distribution of all present perfect/preterite constructions from elicitation test with a statistically significant difference between British and American English 238
12.4 Potential present tense forms of HAVE in the four parallel corpora 240
12.5 The present perfect of twenty high-frequency lexical verbs with personal pronoun subjects (I, you, he, she, it, we, they) in the four parallel corpora: SAY, MAKE, GO, TAKE, SEE, KNOW, COME, GIVE, USE, THINK, LOOK, FIND, BECOME, WANT, TELL, LEAVE, SHOW, FEEL, WORK, ASK 242
List of tables

13.1 Normalized frequencies of negated subjunctives in AmE, BrE and AusE  248
14.1 The Longman corpus of news writing: British and American  258
14.2 Complement types following selected triggers in British and American news writing  262
14.3 Verbal triggers of the subjunctive in British (BrE) and American (AmE) news writing  275
14.4 Noun triggers of the subjunctive in British and American news writing  275
14.5 Adjective triggers of the subjunctive in British and American news writing  276
15.1 Composition of the database: diachronic part  284
15.2 Composition of the database: synchronic part  285
17.1 Frequencies of sure, surely and certainly in the spoken parts of the BNC and the LCSAE  325
17.2 Two-word lexical bundles in the LCSAE  333
18.1 The distribution of try and + verb and try to + verb in spoken and written British and American English  345
18.2 The distribution of try occurring in the infinitive, the imperative, the present tense and the past tense in the British material  346
18.3 The distribution of try occurring in the infinitive, the imperative, the present tense and the past tense in the American material  346
18.4 The frequency of try-constructions in spoken and written BrE, expressed as number of instances per million words  347
18.5 The frequency of try-constructions in spoken and written AmE, expressed as number of instances per million words  347
18.6 The distribution of try and and try to occurring in the infinitive, the imperative and the present tense in spoken BrE and spoken AmE  348
18.7 Present tense try used with or without do–periphrasis in spoken BrE and spoken AmE. Proportions of try and as row percentages of totals  348
18.8 Relativizers after same in BrE  351
18.9 Relativizers after same in AmE  351
18.10 Auxiliary frequency in question tags in BNC-S and LSAC  356
18.11 The fifteen most common question tags in BNC-S and LSAC  358
18.12 The distribution of pragmatic types of tags  359
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>Synopsis of British–American contrasts in the domain of adverbs and adverbials</td>
<td>381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>Synopsis of British–American contrasts in the domain of prepositions</td>
<td>389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>Synopsis of British–American contrasts in the domain of noun phrases</td>
<td>397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.4</td>
<td>Synopsis of British–American contrasts in the domain of predicates and predicatives</td>
<td>407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>Synopsis of British–American contrasts in the domain of sentential structures</td>
<td>420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>Synopsis of British–American contrasts across all domains surveyed in the present chapter</td>
<td>421</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
List of contributors

Karin Aijmer, University of Gothenburg
D. J. Allerton, University of Basle
Eva Berlage, University of Paderborn
Douglas Biber, Northern Arizona University
William J. Crawford, Northern Arizona University
David Denison, University of Manchester
Johan Elness, University of Oslo
Peter Erdmann, Technical University of Berlin
Jack Grieve, Northern Arizona University
Marianne Hundt, University of Zurich
Gina Iberry-Shea, Northern Arizona University
Göran Kjellmer, University of Gothenburg
Magnus Levin, Växjö University
Britta Mondorf, University of Mainz
Gunter Rohdenburg, University of Paderborn
Julia Schlüter, University of Bamberg
Gunnel Tottie, University of Zurich
Uwe Vosberg, University of Kiel