# CONTENTS

**Preface**

1 xi

*Table of symbols and notational conventions* xiii

1 **Basic concepts in grammar** 1
1.1 Words and lexemes 1
1.2 Constituent structure 2
1.3 Syntactic classes and functions 5
1.4 Paradigmatic relations and kernel clauses 9
1.5 Sentence and clause 18
1.6 Morphological processes 21
1.7 Inflectional and lexical morphology 25
1.8 Components of a linguistic description 33
1.9 Descriptive grammar vs prescriptive grammar 47

2 **The structural approach to linguistic analysis** 50
2.1 General principles 50
2.2 Exemplification: the grammatical subject 58
2.3 Particular grammars and general grammatical theory 72
2.4 Exemplification: English verb inflection 77

3 **The parts of speech** 90
3.1 The traditional classification 90
3.2 Nature of the units classified 99
3.3 Associated phrase classes 108
3.4 Open and closed classes 120

4 **Verbs and verb phrases** 124
4.1 Verbs 124
4.2 Structure of the verb phrase 128
4.3 Systems of the VP 131
4.4 Operators, auxiliaries and catenatives 136
4.5 Tense 143

vii
Contents

4.6 Progressive aspect 153
4.7 Perfect aspect 158
4.8 Analytic mood 164

5 The structure of kernel clauses 177
5.1 Complements and adjuncts 177
5.2 Objects and predicative complements 181
5.3 The complex-transitive construction 194
5.4 The ditransitive construction 195
5.5 PP and AdvP complements 200
5.6 Subordinate clause complements 207
5.7 Adjuncts 223
5.8 Vocatives 225

6 Nouns and noun phrases 227
6.1 Nouns 227
6.2 Subclasses of noun 229
6.3 Dependents in NP structure 232
6.4 Determiners 233
6.5 Number 239
6.6 Countability and boundedness 245
6.7 Definiteness, specificness and genericness 248
6.8 Pre-head modifiers 256
6.9 Complements 260
6.10 Post-head modifiers 261
6.11 Peripheral dependents 264
6.12 The relationship between pre- and post-head modification 266
6.13 The relationship between PossP and of phrase dependents 268

7 Pronouns 272
7.1 Types and distinctive properties of pronouns 272
7.2 Pronouns, anaphora and deixis 274
7.3 Pronouns and ellipsis 284
7.4 Personal, reflexive and possessive pronouns 287
7.5 Other subclasses of pronoun 296

8 Adjectives and adjective phrases 299
8.1 Adjectives 299
8.2 Some non-central subclasses of adjectives 303
8.3 Determinatives 304
8.4 Dependents in AdjP structure: complements 305
# Contents

8.5 Dependents in AdjP structure: modifiers 308

9 Verbs, nouns and adjectives: the boundaries between them 312
9.1 Verbs vs nouns: gerunds 312
9.2 Verbs vs adjectives: participles 318
9.3 Nouns vs adjectives 324

10 Adverbs, prepositions and conjunctions 330
10.1 Adverbs and adverb phrases 330
10.2 Prepositions 336
10.3 The position of prepositions 337
10.4 Conjunctions and their relation to prepositions 338
10.5 On so-called ‘complex prepositions’ 341
10.6 Complementation and modification in PP structure 345
10.7 Prepositions in relation to verbs, adjectives and adverbs 346

11 Clause type 350
11.1 Clause type and illocutionary force 350
11.2 Declaratives 357
11.3 Imperatives and related constructions: jussives 359
11.4 Interrogatives 365
11.5 Exclamatives 373
11.6 Interrogative tags 375
11.7 Echoes 376

12 Coordination and subordination 378
12.1 Compound and complex sentences 378
12.2 Coordination 381
12.3 Classification of subordinate clauses 387
12.4 Relative constructions 393
12.5 Comparative constructions 405

13 Negation 419
13.1 Clausal and subclausal negation 419
13.2 Affirmatives and non-affirmatives 423
13.3 The semantic scope of negation 428
13.4 The interpretation of negation 432

14 Thematic systems of the clause 437
14.1 Voice: active and passive 438
14.2 The indirect object transformation 448
14.3 Extraposition 451
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14.4  Theme reordering</td>
<td>454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.5  Subject–complement switch in the identifying construction</td>
<td>457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.6  The cleft and pseudo-cleft constructions</td>
<td>459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.7  The there construction</td>
<td>467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index</td>
<td>477</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>