SPONTANEOUS SPOKEN ENGLISH

A new, thought-provoking book on the theory of grammar and language processing, *Spontaneous Spoken English* is based on the analysis of authentic speech produced in real time. Drawing on insights from cognitive psychology, neurology, and conversation analysis, the author offers a fascinating, easy-to-follow account of why spoken English is structured the way it is. The traditional product-based approach to grammar is given up in favor of a dynamic, speaker-based perspective that integrates language-structural, neurocognitive, and dialogic aspects of speech production. Based on fresh empirical research, Haselow argues that grammatical knowledge rests upon two cognitive principles of linearization called *microgrammar* and *macrogrammar*, which are shown to interact in various ways. The book discusses a broad range of speech phenomena under an integrated framework, such as the omnipresence of "unintegrated" constituents (e.g. discourse markers), ellipses, or the allegedly "fragmented" character of syntax, and explains the mechanisms of processing efficiency that guide syntactic planning.

Alexander Haselow is Assistant Professor of English Linguistics at the University of Rostock. His current research focuses on the cognitive, dialogic, and neural mechanisms underlying the production and perception of speech in real time. He is the author of *Typological Changes in the Lexicon – Analytic Tendencies in English Noun Formation* (2011) and co-editor of *Final Particles* (2015).

STUDIES IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

General Editor: Merja Kytö (Uppsala University)

Editorial Board: Bas Aarts (University College London), John Algeo (University of Georgia), Susan Fitzmaurice (University of Sheffield), Christian Mair (University of Freiburg), 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

HARUKO MOMMA:
From Philology to English Studies: Language and Culture in the Nineteenth Century

RAYMOND HICKEY (ED.):
Standards of English: Codified Varieties Around the World

BENEDIKT SZMRECSANYI:
Grammatical Variation in British English Dialects: A Study in Corpus-Based Dialectometry

DANIEL SCHREIER AND MARIANNE HUNDT (EDS.):
English as a Contact Language

BAS AARTS, JOANNE CLOSE, GEOFFREY LEECH AND SEAN WALLIS (EDS.):
The Verb Phrase in English: Investigating Recent Language Change with Corpora

MARTIN HILPERT:
Constructional Change in English: Developments in Allomorphy, Word Formation, and Syntax

JAKOB R. E. LEIMGRUBER:
Singapore English: Structure, Variation and Usage

CHRISTOPH RÜHLEMANN:
Narrative in English Conversation

DAGMAR DEUBER:
English in the Caribbean: Variation, Style and Standards in Jamaica and Trinidad

EVA BERLAGE:
Noun Phrase Complexity in English

NICOLE DEHÉ:
Parentheticals in Spoken English: The Syntax-Prosody Relation

JOCK ONN WONG:
English in Singapore: A Cultural Analysis

ANITA AUER, DANIEL SCHREIER AND RICHARD J. WATTS:
Letter Writing and Language Change

MARIANNE HUNDT:
Late Modern English Syntax

IRMA TAAVITSAINEN, MERJA KYTO, CLAUDIA CLARIDGE, AND JEREMY
    SMITH:
Developments in English: Expanding Electronic Evidence

ARNE LOHMANN:
English Co-ordinate Constructions: A Processing Perspective on Constituent
    Order

JOHN FLOWERDEW AND RICHARD W. FOREST:
Signalling Nouns in English: A Corpus-Based Discourse Approach

JEFFREY P. WILLIAMS, EDGAR W. SCHNEIDER, PETER TRUDGILL, AND
    DANIEL SCHREIER:
Further Studies in the Lesser-Known Varieties of English

NURIA YÁÑEZ-BOUZA:
Grammar, Rhetoric and Usage in English: Preposition Placement 1500–1900

JACK GRIEVE:
Regional Variation in Written American English

DOUGLAS BIBER AND BETHANY GRAY:
Grammatical Complexity in Academic English: Linguistics Change in Writing

GJERTRUD FLERMOEN STENBRENDEN:
Long-Vowel Shifts in English, c. 1050–1700: Evidence from Spelling

ZOYA G. PROSHINA AND ANNA A. EDDY:
Russian English: History, Functions, and Features

RAYMOND HICKEY:
Listening to the Past: Audio Records of Accents of English

PHILLIP WALLAGE:
Negation in Early English: Grammatical and Functional Change

JOANNA KOPACZYK AND HANS SAUER (EDS.):
Binomials in the History of English: Fixed and flexible

MARIANNE HUNDT, SANDRA MOLLIN AND SIMONE E. PFENNINGER (EDS.):
The Changing English Language: Psycholinguistic Perspectives

Earlier titles not listed are also available

SPONTANEOUS SPOKEN ENGLISH

An Integrated Approach to the Emergent Grammar of Speech

ALEXANDER HASELOW

University of Rostock

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Contents

viii   *Contents*

Contents ix

Figures

Tables

xi

Acknowledgments

It goes without saying that numerous colleagues have directly or indirectly influenced and contributed to the ideas discussed in this book. I am especially grateful to Elizabeth Traugott and Bernd Heine for discussions of issues of grammar and discourse, and Paul Hopper and Ursula Götz for the time and efforts they spent in reading the manuscript and for their valuable comments and suggestions. A special note of thanks goes to Lucia Kornexl, who supported me over many years at the institute. Many colleagues who I met at several occasions contributed to the enrichment of my ideas and my motivation, such as Gunther Kaltenböck, Liesbeth Degand, and Sylvie Hancil. I would also like to thank my students, who raised important questions on many of the examples and ideas discussed in this study. Helen Barton, Merja Kytö, and all those involved in the production of this book provided great support throughout the weeks preceding the publication.

Since the book that you are now holding in your hands has been published, the research project it is based on appears to be, in some way, "finished." However, it is "finished" only in the sense that at some point an author has to make the decision that a work in progress has been "completed." As with spoken utterances, points of completion in scientific research are only preliminary, given that an emergent product of the mind is never really complete, but endlessly expandable since one has never expressed the full range of ideas lingering on in one's mind. In this sense, I do not see this book as a finished product, based on a completed research project whose results are now proudly presented, but as representing a point in my ongoing research at which the ideas and results that I have accumulated during the past years of research are rich enough to be presentable as a coherent whole to an interested audience.

Acknowledgments xiii

It was a relief to finish this book, but I feel somewhat guilty since I cannot give back to my family and friends the hours, days, and weeks that I invested in preparing this book for publication. Even though I am happy to hear some positive comments on my work here and there, it is no compensation for the people around me. I deeply apologize!

Transcription Symbols

03	line in the transcript (corresponding to one intonation unit unless marked otherwise)
(.)	micropause (ordinarily less than a fourth of a second)
(..)	shorter pause ranging from 0.25 to 0.75 seconds (estimated length)
(1.4)	silence or "timed pause" (in tenths of a second)
[	point of overlap onset
]	point at which overlapping talk ends
=	no break or pause between the units linked by the equal sign, "latching"
<<coughs>>	comment by the transcriber
but^h	audible aspiration of a consonant
.	falling (or final) intonation contour
?	rising intonation
,	continuing intonation
¿	an intonational rise stronger than a comma but weaker than a question mark
::	prolongation or stretching of the sound preceding the colons; the more colons, the longer the stretching
wor-	cut-off or self-interruption, often with a glottal or dental stop
<u>wor</u>d	stress/emphasis, either by higher pitch or slightly increased loudness
WOrd	especially loud talk
°	talk that is markedly quiet or soft
°word°	talk that is markedly softer than the talk around it
↑	sharp rise in pitch, or marking shift or resetting of pitch register
↓	sharp fall in pitch, or marking shift or resetting of pitch register

>anyway<	the talk between "more than" and "less than" symbols is compressed or rushed
<anyway>	the talk between these symbols is markedly slowed or drawn out
.hh	hearable aspiration, the more *h*s, the more aspiration; aspiration may represent breathing or laughter
°hh	inhalation (several *h*s indicate longer, intense inhalation)

Note that at times the transcripts presented here exhibit a reconfiguration of the numbered units of talk taken from the transcripts in the ICE-GB, most often in the case of overlapping talk. This mismatch is due to the different ways in which overlapping talk is indicated here and in the ICE-GB: for technical reasons, in the ICE-GB, overlaps are not aligned on two successive lines, but marked with colors and often at distance. The present study follows conversation analytic transcription principles and uses alignment of overlaps on two successive lines.

The prosodic details shown in the transcripts have been identified and added to the transcripts by the author himself, based on the sound files of the *ICE-GB Release 2*. Minor inconsistencies between recorded speech and the respective transcripts provided in the ICE-GB, such as word choices or the assignment of speaker roles, have been corrected.

Abbreviations

CA	Conversation analysis
DM	Discourse marker
ICE-GB	*International Corpus of English* – Great Britain
LH	Left hemisphere
LTM	Long-term memory
RH	Right hemisphere
TCU	Turn-constructional unit
TRP	Transition-relevant place
WM	Working memory