

COLLOQUIAL ENGLISH

Drawing on vast amounts of new data from live, unscripted radio and TV broadcasts, and the internet, this is a brilliant and original analysis of colloquial English, revealing unusual and largely unreported types of clause structure. Andrew Radford debunks the myth that colloquial English has a substandard, simplified grammar, and shows that it has a coherent and complex structure of its own. The book develops a theoretically sophisticated account of structure and variation in colloquial English, advancing an area that has been investigated from other perspectives, such as corpus linguistics or conversational analysis, but never before in such detail from a formal syntactic viewpoint.

ANDREW RADFORD is Emeritus Professor at the University of Essex. He has written nine books on syntactic theory and English syntax, including *Syntactic Theory and the Structure of English* (1997), *Minimalist Syntax* (2004) and *Analysing English Sentences* (2016), all published by Cambridge University Press



CAMBRIDGE STUDIES IN LINGUISTICS

General Editors: P. Austin, J. Bresnan, B. Comrie, S. Crain, W. Dressler, C. J. Ewen, R. Lass, D. Lightfoot, K. Rice, I. Roberts, S. Romaine, N. V. Smith

Colloquial English



In this series

- 116. GILLIAN CATRIONA RAMCHAND: Verb Meaning and the Lexicon: A First Phase Syntax
- 117. PIETER MUYSKEN: Functional Categories
- 118. JUAN URIAGEREKA: Syntactic Anchors: On Semantic Structuring
- 119. D. ROBERT LADD: Intonational Phonology (second edition)
- 120. LEONARD H. BABBY: The Syntax of Argument Structure
- 121. B. ELAN DRESHER: The Contrastive Hierarchy in Phonology
- 122. DAVID ADGER, DANIEL HARBOUR and LAUREL J. WATKINS: Mirrors and Microparameters: Phrase Structure Beyond Free Word Order
- 123. NIINA NING ZHANG: Coordination in Syntax
- 124. NEIL SMITH: Acquiring Phonology
- 125. NINA TOPINTZI: Onsets: Suprasegmental and Prosodic Behaviour
- CEDRIC BOECKX, NORBERT HORNSTEIN and JAIRO NUNES: Control as Movement
- 127. MICHAEL ISRAEL: The Grammar of Polarity: Pragmatics, Sensitivity, and the Logic of Scales
- 128. M. RITA MANZINI and LEONARDO M. SAVOIA: Grammatical Categories: Variation in Romance Languages
- 129. BARBARA CITKO: Symmetry in Syntax: Merge, Move and Labels
- 130. RACHEL WALKER: Vowel Patterns in Language
- 131. MARY DALRYMPLE and IRINA NIKOLAEVA: Objects and Information Structure
- 132. JERROLD M. SADOCK: The Modular Architecture of Grammar
- DUNSTAN BROWN and ANDREW HIPPISLEY: Network Morphology: A Defaultsbased Theory of Word Structure
- 134. BETTELOU LOS, CORRIEN BLOM, GEERT BOOIJ, MARION ELENBAAS and ANS VAN KEMENADE: Morphosyntactic Change: A Comparative Study of Particles and Prefixes
- 135. STEPHEN CRAIN: The Emergence of Meaning
- 136. HUBERT HAIDER: Symmetry Breaking in Syntax
- 137. JOSÉ A. CAMACHO: Null Subjects
- 138. GREGORY STUMP and RAPHAEL A. FINKEL: Morphological Typology: From Word to Paradigm
- 139. BRUCE TESAR: Output-Driven Phonology: Theory and Learning
- 140. ASIER ALCÁZAR and MARIO SALTARELLI: The Syntax of Imperatives
- 141. MISHA BECKER: The Acquisition of Syntactic Structure: Animacy and Thematic Alignment
- 142. MARTINA WILTSCHKO: The Universal Structure of Categories: Towards a Formal Typology
- 143. FAHAD RASHED AL-MUTAIRI: The Minimalist Program: The Nature and Plausibility of Chomsky's Biolinguistics
- 144. CEDRIC BOECKX: Elementary Syntactic Structures: Prospects of a Feature-Free Syntax
- 145. PHOEVOS PANAGIOTIDIS: Categorial Features: A Generative Theory of Word Class Categories
- 146. MARK BAKER: Case: Its Principles and its Parameters
- 147. WILLIAM BENNETT: The Phonology of Consonants: Dissimilation, Harmony and Correspondence
- 148. ANDREA SIMS: Inflectional Defectiveness



- 149. GREGORY STUMP: Inflectional Paradigms: Content and Form at the Syntax-Morphology Interface
- 150. ROCHELLE LIEBER: English Nouns: The Ecology of Nominalization
- 151. JOHN BOWERS: Deriving Syntactic Relations
- 152. ANA TERESA PÉREZ-LEROUX, MIHAELA PIRVULESCU and YVES ROBERGE: Direct Objects and Language Acquisition
- 153. MATTHEW BAERMAN, DUNSTAN BROWN and GREVILLE CORBETT: Morphological Complexity
- 154. MARCEL DEN DIKKEN: Dependency and Directionality
- 155. LAURIE BAUER: Compounds and Compounding
- 156. KLAUS J. KOHLER: Communicative Functions and Linguistic Forms in Speech Interaction
- 157. KURT GOBLIRSCH: Gemination, Lenition, and Vowel Lengthening: On the History of Quantity in Germanic
- 158. ANDREW RADFORD: Colloquial English: Structure and Variation

Earlier issues not listed are also available



COLLOQUIAL ENGLISH

STRUCTURE AND VARIATION

ANDREW RADFORD

University of Essex





CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

79 Anson Road, #06-04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108428057

DOI: 10.1017/9781108552202

© Andrew Radford 2018

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2018

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Radford, Andrew, author.

Title: Colloquial English: structure and variation / Andrew Radford.

Description: Cambridge, United Kingdom : Cambridge University Press, [2018] |

Series: Cambridge studies in linguistics

Identifiers: LCCN 2017058251 | ISBN 9781108428057 (hardback)

Subjects: LCSH: English language — Variation. | English language — Spoken English. | English language — Grammar. | Conversation analysis — Data processing.

| Linguistic change. | Communication models.

Classification: LCC PE1074.7 .R36 2018 | DDC 425-dc23 LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2017058251

ISBN 978-1-108-42805-7 Hardback ISBN 978-1-108-44869-7 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.



This book is dedicated to my dear wife Khadija, whose unswerving and enduring love, friendship and selflessness have supported my research, and whose winning smile and irresistible laughter have lit up life in Grey Britain for the past four decades. Words can never express my feelings for you and the profound debt I owe you.





Contents

	Acknowledgements	page	xi
	Prologue		1
1	Background		7
1.1	Introduction		7
1.2	S-, S'- and S"-analyses		7
1.3	CP Analyses		14
1.4	The Cartographic Approach		22
1.5	Truncated Clauses		32
1.6	Summary		39
2	Topics		40
2.1	Introduction		40
2.2	Three Types of Topic in Colloquial English		40
2.3	The Derivation of Topics		45
2.4	Multiple Topic Structures		58
2.5	Topics and Complementisers		67
2.6	Topics and Other Peripheral Non-wh Constituents		72
2.7	Topics in Wh-interrogatives and Exclamatives		78
2.8	Topics in Relative Clauses		89
2.9	Summary		102
3	Complementisers		105
3.1	Introduction		105
3.2	Primary Spellout		106
3.3	Secondary Spellout		122
3.4	Complementisers in Embedded Wh-clauses		134
3.5	Complementisers in Root Clauses		156
3.6	The Nature of Complementiser Spellout		170
3.7	Summary		195
3.8	Appendix: Complementisers in Adverbial Clauses		197

© in this web service Cambridge University Press

ix



x Contents

4	How come?	216
4.1	Introduction	216
4.2	Zwicky & Zwicky's Reduction Analysis	217
4.3	Collins' Complementiser Analysis	224
4.4	Ochi's Spec-CP Analysis	236
4.5	Shlonsky & Soare's INTP Analysis	245
4.6	Endo's FINP Analysis	254
4.7	A Factive Analysis of how come that	270
4.8	Other how come Questions	283
4.9	Summary	290
4.10	Appendix: Questionnaire on how come	291
	Epilogue	293
	References	295
	Index	329



Acknowledgements

This book has greatly benefited from invaluable help provided by numerous people. I will not attempt to list them all here, but special thanks are due to the following (listed alphabetically, by surname) for helpful observations, suggestions, references or data.

Paolo Acquaviva, Enam Al-Wer, Merete Anderssen, Doug Arnold, Martin Atkinson, Sjef Barbiers, Gavin Barry, Josef Bayer, Paola Benincà, Bob Borsley, Oliver Boxell, Memo Cinque, Chris Collins, Stephen Crain, Silvio Cruschina, Peter Culicover, Simone De Cia, Yoshio Endo, Claudia Felser, Ángel Gallego, Teresa Guasti, Liliane Haegeman, Roger Hawkins, Alison Henry, Maria Lluïsa Hernanz Carbó, Wolfram Hinzen, Philip Hofmeister, Anders Holmberg, Georgios Ioannou, Eiichi Iwasaki, Ángel Jiménez-Fernández, Wyn Johnson, Mike Jones, Marie Labelle, Richard Larson, Adam Ledgeway, Mireia Llinàs-Grau, Jim McCloskey, Jaume Mateu, Jamal Ouhalla, Susan Pintzuk, Gemma Rigau, Ian Roberts, Tom Roeper, Luigi Rizzi, Louisa Sadler, Andrew Spencer and Julio Villa-García.

More specific contributions are acknowledged at appropriate points in the text. I should also like to thank anonymous referees for helpful comments (particularly on the organisation of the text), Neil Smith and Andrew Winnard for encouraging me to publish my work as a research monograph with Cambridge University Press, and Anna Oxbury for invaluable help with copy-editing.

In addition, I would like to thank the University of Essex for granting me a period of research leave which enabled me to undertake much of the groundwork for the research findings reported here, and for allowing me to continue to use their research facilities after my retirement, in my capacity as Emeritus Professor.

I would also like to express my retrospective thanks to those teachers who (half a century ago) played a formative role in my undergraduate and graduate education at (Trinity College) Cambridge, and inspired me to go on and pursue research. These include Prof. Pat Boyde (eminent Dante scholar) and the late

хi



xii Acknowledgements

Prof. Ralph Leigh (eminent Rousseau scholar) who were perceptive enough to see that I had no literary soul and encouraged me to pursue philology and linguistics rather than Dante and Racine; the late Prof. Peter Rickard (eminent French philologist) and the late Dr Joe Cremona (eminent Romance philologist) who inspired my interest in Romance philology and awakened in me a fascination with linguistic data; and Prof. Pieter Seuren (eminent syntactician) who guided and inspired my graduate work on syntax. The debt I owe to all of you is incalculable.

And finally, a special word of thanks to all the broadcasters who have not only entertained me so richly over the past decade, but have also provided a fertile source of data for my research. I can't thank them all here, but I'd like to single out a few favourites: Alan Green, Tim Vickery, Geoff Boycott, Jonathan Agnew and the late Jimmy Armfield and Graham Taylor. What a massive job (%that) you guys do in sharing your wisdom and wit with us, and in always giving 110%!