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NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN DIALECT  
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#### ADS ANNUAL MEETING

The Society's annual meeting, once again in conjunction with that of the Modern Language Association, will be at the Palmer House in Chicago, on December 26 and 27, 1973.

The first session will be held from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. December 26 (the day before the MLA meetings begin). The second session will be held from 8:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight December 27.

#### REPORTS FROM REGIONAL SECRETARIES

##### Midwest Region--Stewart A. Kingsbury, Secretary

A meeting of the Midwest Region of the American Dialect Society was held in the Modern Languages Building of the University of Michigan August 2, 1973. The chairman, Richard W. Bailey, of the University of Michigan, presided.

The following papers were presented:

Section 1: Frederic G. Cassidy, University of Wisconsin, "The Dictionary of American Regional English: Scope and Limits;" Gordon R. Wood, Southern Illinois University, "Innovation in Descriptive Accounts of Variables in Regional Lexicons;" Gerald Udell, Ohio University, "The Trend toward Touting Questionnaires as Opposed to Work Sheets: A Demurrer from the Field;" Raven I. McDavid, Jr., University of Chicago, and Alva L. Davis, Illinois Institute of Technology, "How to Handle a Million Responses?"

Section 2: Ivan Lowe, Summer Institute of Linguistics, "Some Conversational Constraints in Crossing Social Barriers: An Algebraic Description;" Patrice French, University of Illinois, and Walburga von Raffler Engel, Vanderbilt University, "Kinesic Dialect? Language and Paralanguage in Black English Speakers;" Gilbert D. Schneider, Walter Milton Brasch, and Ila Wales Brasch, Ohio University, "Black English and the Mass Media."

Section 3: Nancy Faires Conklin, University of Michigan, "Perspectives on the Dialects of Women;" Thomas P. Klammer, California State University at Fullerton, "On the Notion 'Standard English' in American Linguistics and Education;" Dennis E. Baron, Eastern Illinois University, "Non-Standard English, Composition, and the Academic Establishment."

Pacific Coast Region--Allan Metcalf, Secretary

The second annual meeting of the Pacific Coast Region of the American Dialect Society was held at the Graduate School of Business, Stanford University, Saturday, May 5, 1973. The chairman, Mary Ritchie Key, of the University of California at Irvine, who presided at the meeting, presented a report, "Survey of Bilingual Communities in the Pacific Coast Region."

The following papers were presented:

Shirley M. Rush, Woodside, California, "A Yiddish-English Bilingual Community in Sonoma County, California." Husbands and wives who spoke the same Yiddish dialect in their first country continued to use Yiddish in the home in Sonoma County; they retained the heaviest amounts of Yiddish interference in their English, and their children were fluent in Yiddish. Where couples who spoke different Yiddish dialects married, social stereotypes and phonological differences caused the people to choose English as the language of the home. Those speakers who learned English after the age of 13 had more interference than those who learned it earlier.

Alexander Albin, University of California at Los Angeles, "A Yugoslav Community in San Pedro." The Yugoslavs in San Pedro struggled to maintain their maternal language and thus their linguistic identity. A pilot study of this community by the author and Ronelle Alexander (Harvard) found various kinds of interference in the speech of the informants.

Robert S. Bauer, University of California at Berkeley, "The Toi Shan Dialect, Language of Chinatown in its Historical, Geographical, and Linguistic Context." The majority of Chinese who migrated to the United States came from an area called the Pearl River Delta Region, located in the southeastern province of Guangdong. It has been estimated that 60 percent of the Chinese living in the United States today are from the village of Toi

Shan or are descended from people who were. The author will suggest several topics for further research.

Edith A. Folb, University of California at San Diego. "Comparative Use of Black Vernacular Vocabulary by Black and White Los Angeles Youth." Male youths between the ages of 15 and 20, from different racial, economic and geographical backgrounds, were exposed to a current vernacular vocabulary of terms elicited from black youths living in the South Central Los Angeles ghetto. The data confirmed the existence of a well-known black vernacular vocabulary that was shared across economics and geography by black informants and generally was unknown to the whites interviewed. The vocabulary terms most well known interculturally were those associated with drugs, acts of toughness, one's car, and sex.

Thomas M. Cofer, University of Southern California, "On the Reality of Social Dialects in American English." This study discusses the extent to which non-standard grammatical features of spoken American English co-occur as part of distinct social dialects. Analysis is based on the speech of tape-recorded interviews of Philadelphia informants drawn from the middle and working classes. Features include ain't, third-singular don't, demonstrative them, non-standard preterites, lack of number agreement between subject and verb, adverbs without -ly, and multiple negation. An implicational array showing the usage of each feature by each informant demonstrates that usage presents a continuum. But it is possible to divide the informants into "dialect" groups which show a correlation with social class.

Donald Sherman, University of California at Berkeley, "A Computer Format for Dialect Materials." The MARC (Machine Readable Catalog) data structure will be discussed as a way of representing dialect materials in a computer format. The useful aspects of this data structure are (a) freedom to represent data strings of any length or character set; (b) explicit identification of data elements for retrieval within a four level hierarchy of file-record-field-subfield. A specific MARC structure for phonetically transcribed words will be presented.

Barbara P. Harris and Joseph F. Kess, University of Victoria, "Salmon Sports Fishing Terms in Southern British Columbia." Each of the five species of salmon found in British Columbia waters has a common name as well as the biological Latin one, often

differing from the one by which it is known immediately to the south in the state of Washington, or to the north in Alaska; these names are frequently of local Indian origin. As well, there are numerous names within the species that, to the devotee of the art, indicate the age, size, or state of maturity of the fish. The sport has spawned a vast variety of specialized tackle all carefully and specifically named, and a distinctive jargon for the various methods of catching salmon.

South Atlantic Region--David L. Shores, Secretary

The following are abstracts of papers presented at the November 5, 1972, meeting of the South Atlantic Section of the American Dialect Society (see report of the meeting in previous issue of NADS).

Connie C. Eble, University of North Carolina, "If Ladies Weren't Present, I'd Tell You What I Really Think." One of the most obvious differences between the language of the sexes is differential standards of appropriateness--a linguistic double standard which is a reflection of the separate roles assigned to men and women in American society. This paper discusses three areas of language use in which differential measures of appropriateness apply: hostility terms, subject matter, and voice quality. Examples are drawn largely from recent newspaper accounts of the linguistic activities of women.

Charles M. Latta, Eastern Kentucky University, "The Big Bust: The Language of Burlesque." In the last four decades the language of burlesque has enlarged to accommodate the argot of striptease; indeed, the argot of burlesque has become the argot of striptease, a term designating groups within the infrastructure of the subculture: strippers, exotic dancers, B-girls, prostitutes, etc. Within this overall framework of shared experiences and attitudes, argot-formation is both vertical and horizontal; that is, argot-formation cuts across lines of demarcation between professional groups and must be defined as cross-cultural assimilation.

Boyd H. Davis, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, "Some Aspects of Cosmetics Terminology." An examination of language usage in advertisements for hair and skin products which have appeared in Ebony through Volume 25 (1970). Particular attention is devoted to the changes surrounding the

contrasts "dark-light" and "curly-straight" in terms of their covariance with the polysemic item, "natural."

Jeutonne Brewer, Greensboro College, "Grammatical Features and Their Social Correlates: A Study of Black Dialect in Slave Narratives." This paper presents historical evidence which shows the status of the copula in early Black Dialect to be significantly different from that indicated in recent synchronic studies. This part of the syntactic history of Black Dialect shows the instability of the copula well into the present century. A synchronic deletion rule of the type proposed by Labov to account for the absence of the copula was evidently a late addition to the grammar of Black Dialect.

David L. Shores, Old Dominion University, "Black English and Black Attitudes." This paper is an informal attempt to supply a partial answer to the question of the range of feeling in the Black community on the topic of Black English. It is informal in that it is more observational than statistical and a partial answer in that it deals with the attitudes of only Black educators in predominantly Black colleges. The plan of the paper is to consider (1) the controversy about the relationship of the speech of Blacks to that of Whites, (2) the presence of certain "distinctive" features in the speaking and writing of Black college students, and (3) the attitudes of Black college educators about these and other relevant matters.

Lawrence M. Davis and Linda Blanton, Illinois Institute of Technology, "Some Aspects of the Social Stratification of English in Southern Appalachia." Recent research on social dialects has been predicated on two assumptions: (1) The socioeconomic stratification of a community is paralleled by a similar stratification in the language of that community, and (2) that education is an important factor in determining an informant's social class. Preliminary research in Southern Appalachia suggests that things are far more complex. Language variety may be a function of many more variables, indeed more important ones, than socioeconomic class.

South Central Region--Gary N. Underwood, Secretary

The following are abstracts of papers presented at the October 26, 1972, meeting of the South Central Region of the American Dialect Society (see report of the meeting in previous issue of NADS).

NanJo C. Summerlin, Arkansas State University, "The Regional Standard/Standards: Variations from It/Them in the Oral Language of Lower Socio-Economic Black and White Students in a Rural Deep South County." The purpose of this paper is to present the findings of the author's 1971-72 research in which certain phonological features in the consonantal systems in the oral language of Southern-rural white and black students of lower socio-economic background were isolated and characterized. The features under investigation are the following: (1) Simplification of consonant clusters in word final position (monomorphemic and polymorphic units). (2) Effect of the consonant cluster simplification rule on zero realization of the plural, possessive, and third person singular morphemes. (3) Occurrence of Standard English interdental fricatives in the form of alveolar stops. (4) Extent of r-lessness. (5) Extent of l-lessness. (6) Extent of devoicing of word-final voiced stops. The regional standard for these phonological features was established through taped interviews with educated black and white speakers. The student informants were randomly selected from the native-born second grade and senior high students who were identified on NDEA target lists as educationally and/or economically deprived children. Thus, the regional standard for the variables under consideration will be presented, as will variations from this standard which serve as socio-economic class markers and/or racial identifiers.

Bates Hoffer, Trinity University, "Use of Black Dialects by Faulkner." The recent linguistic interest in black dialects has re-inspired studies of dialect usage in literature. The problem of representing pronunciation and grammar features of dialects in regular English orthography would seem to be a great problem for an author. However, Faulkner uses various black dialects in his work. Attention to his distinction between dialects shows that he used the dialects to convey sociological, geographical, etc., information about his characters. For example, Faulkner distinguishes coastal, mountain and plantation black dialects for purposes which should be part of any literary interpretation of Faulkner's work. The speakers' differing backgrounds, aspirations, and relations to whites are an important part of Faulkner's view of the South. The care which Faulkner took in dialect discrimination indicates the importance he attached to them.

Curt M. Rulon, North Texas State University, "Henry Wheeler Shaw Wasn't Just Joshing About the Muel." In this paper the

author rises to the defense of Henry Wheeler Shaw (1818-1885), better known as Josh Billings, whose "Essay on the Muel" appeared in 1858. Issue is taken with Sumner Ives' statement ("A Theory of Literary Dialect") that the "Essay" is an example of "sheer misspelling exuberance" and that Shaw was not attempting to write actual speech. By using techniques adapted from Chomsky and Halle (The Sound Pattern of English), the author attempts to provide fresh insight into the nature of literary dialects in general and so-called eye-dialects in particular.

Ines Tovar, University of Houston, "The Changing Attitude of La Raza Towards the Chicano Idiom." The paper traces the changing attitude of many Mexican Americans, or Chicanos, to their language (which is the dialect that is neither Spanish nor English but a mixture of both). The thesis of the paper, the fact that the Chicano dialect is gaining in status in the eyes of many of its speakers, is anchored by the well-known sociological-sociolinguistic premise that the social attitudes towards language and towards the speaker of that language are inextricably interwoven. Social attitudes towards people are determined by the social attitudes towards people's ways of speaking, and vice versa.

More specifically, the Mexican American's ethnicity is often apparent in his speech and his speech in turn reflects his social status, his status as he sees himself and as middle-class America sees him. Unfortunately, for too long, the feelings the Mexican-American held about his language depended upon the feelings he had been told he should have about himself. What this paper does is to show that many Mexican-Americans, or Chicanos, are now questioning what has been their people's negative self-concept and are working hard to promote a positive self-concept, using every means possible, one of which is language.

The paper's thrust is directed to giving evidence of this improved self-concept by offering examples of Chicano language and, more importantly, literature. Finally, the paper implies ways in which the information might be implemented in the teaching of Mexican-Americans.



PHILIP B. GOVE (1902-1972)

Philip B. Gove, editor-in-chief of the Merriam Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language (1961), and perhaps the most widely known American lexicographer since Noah Webster, died at his home in Warren, Massachusetts, November 15, 1972.

His career was marked by the variety of accidents that characterized his generation of scholars: he endured a long apprenticeship; he left academe for national service during World War II; he saw major work caught between the dictates of corporate policy and the whims of journalism, so that it was never fairly judged by the public to which it was directed. Yet out of his travail he grew in stature.

Born in Concord, New Hampshire, June 27, 1902, he appropriately attended Dartmouth, receiving his A.B. before his twentieth birthday; in 1963 Dartmouth awarded him the Litt. D. He continued to Harvard for the M.A. (1925), but thenceforth his progress was slow. After three years as an instructor at Rice, he moved to NYC, so as to continue graduate study at Columbia; but he did not complete the doctorate until 1941, and when he joined the U. S. Naval Reserve the following year, he was still an instructor. Yet this was not unusual for the decade of the Depression. Nor have the affluent academic generation of the 1960s and 1970s commonly experienced the 15-hour teaching schedule of the 1930s, which left little time to work on a dissertation.

Nor was Gove's change of career unusual. Since 1930, academicians from various disciplines have become librarians. After World War II, many others settled down in branches of the Federal Government, from the Library of Congress to the Central Intelligence Agency. Like these other activities, lexicography--on the staff of an established publisher--offered regular hours, clear-cut lines of accountability, and predictable spare time with few restrictions on its use. Nor would anyone familiar with the history of lexicography be perturbed that Gove's previous scholarly interest was the study of imaginary voyages in literature. Most of the distinguished lexicographers--Johnson, Webster, Whitney are three offhand examples--have been generalists,<sup>1</sup> and Gove's experience as a naval officer would be valuable in a complex organization dependent on a production schedule.

At all events, he rose rapidly in the Merriam organization.<sup>2</sup> In 1951, five years after joining the company, he became managing editor, and a year later general editor, with over-all responsibility for the progress of the Third. Finally, at the beginning of 1961, as the Third was about to appear, he was named editor-in-chief.

By and large, the Third was a sound dictionary, reflecting both good editing and a publishing tradition of more than a century, including the largest file of citations for the English language. Yet the dictionary--and Gove himself--came in for severe and irrational criticism, which has hardly subsided more than a decade since;<sup>3</sup> at least one putative competitor has exploited backlash as cynically as any penny-ante demagog. A detailed assessment of the Third, and its position in the history of lexicography, is still to be written, and cannot be given here. Yet we know enough to evaluate the forces behind the savagery of the early reviews in American newspapers and popular magazines, a savagery inexplicable to students of the English language and of lexicography, most of whom considered the Third a very respectable achievement. But then--unlike the situation in Britain, where reviews came later--not a single American newspaper or popular magazine assigned its review to such students.<sup>4</sup>

It is apparent that little of the hostile criticism of the Third was caused by editorial decisions.<sup>5</sup> Much was provoked by corporate policies of the Merriam Company, an undiversified publisher of dictionaries. But most arose from the reluctance of professional gentility to come to grips with changes in American society and in the language which is the vehicle of that society.

Probably the most serious influence of the Merriam organization on the reception of the Third was the prepublication publicity campaign. Launched September 6-7, 1961, emphasizing novelties, radical changes that had not taken place, and the "abdication" of a kind of authority that Merriam editors had never claimed, it evoked a hostile climate of opinion long before a single copy of the Third had been sent out for review.

Furthermore, what the publicity release said about the Third--however inaccurate--ministered to the national anxieties. Four years earlier, Sputnik I had shaken American complacency, and had elicited feverish demands for educational "excellence" and "high standards." Nowhere was this demand louder than among professional humanists. They failed to recognize that excellence

in writing has always been the property of a tiny minority, and that when 40 percent of the population attend college the average performance of a college graduate cannot be as high as when only 4 percent attended. During World War II and afterwards they had been further shaken up by American descriptive linguistics, with its emphasis on the spoken language and on actual usage. The Third, in their eyes, had sold out to the enemy.<sup>6</sup>

As editor-in-chief, Gove was the focus of criticism; it was a popular sport to compare him unfavorably with the editor-in-chief of the second New International--William Allan Neilson, the tweedy, pipe-smoking president of Smith College, a member in good standing of the humanistic establishment that felt itself threatened by the Third. Actually, identity of title did not mean identity of function: Neilson's position was rather that of a chairman of the board, with the day-to-day operations directed by Thomas A. Knott, the general editor. After fifteen years at Merriam, Gove was a more experienced professional lexicographer than either Neilson or Knott. But since he lacked the academic cachet of Neilson, his explanations of editorial policy never received the attention given the wisecracks of gossip columnists and professional belles-lettristes.<sup>7</sup> Yet he held his ground, with dignity; and if he never convinced public entertainers of the logic of his editorial decisions, he demonstrated to scholars the integrity of his work. His articles about the editorial practices of the Third--chiefly in American Speech--will never gain the readership of Lolita or Portnoy's Complaint; but they document for interested scholars the daily problems of editing a dictionary. The decade after the publication of the Third saw Gove becoming better known to academic linguists, and respected by them; he continued active till his death.

Scholars being ornery individualists, Gove and I frequently disagreed--notably about the place in a general dictionary for regional and local speech-forms (McDavid 1967a, 1967b)--but we kept our professional and personal judgments as far apart as did the Charlestonians who never closed their doors to the Unionist James Louis Pettigru during the bitterest days of the War of Northern Aggression. I always found him a gentleman.

With the death of Senator William Benton, owner of the Encyclopedia Britannica (which purchased Merriam in 1964) I may now reveal a minor episode in the drama. In 1962, friends at the Britannica asked me to prepare a short evaluation of the Third, which I later learned went to the Senator. I

concluded, "I see no competition on the horizon." That this remark is still true, more than a decade later, is a tribute not only to the resources of Merriam and the Britannica, but to the integrity of Philip Gove and his editorial staff. The eighth New Collegiate (1973) further demonstrates the vitality of the tradition of which he became a part.

Raven I. McDavid, Jr.  
University of Chicago

June 15, 1973

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<sup>1</sup>Of contemporary lexicographers, the only one who has made the profession a lifetime career (to my knowledge) is Clarence Barnhart.

<sup>2</sup>The dates are those given in Who's Who in America 1970-71, and confirmed by H. Bosley Woolf, editor-in-chief of the Merriam eighth New Collegiate (1973).

<sup>3</sup>The obituary in The New York Times, November 17, 1973, still vindictively belabored Gove over such trivia as the recognition of finalize as standard English. In 1961, it should be recalled, the Times seemed more concerned about John F. Kennedy's use of finalize than about his foreign policy that mired the United States in Vietnam.

<sup>4</sup>In professional journals the story was different; see Russell 1962, Sledd 1962. But the journalistic trend continues: the Random House Dictionary was reviewed for The New York Times Book Review by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. Beside certain vested interests, such reviewers start with a built-in bias: they expect a writer's dictionary, to tell them what words should be used, and how; the Third (like all important dictionaries) is a readers' (and listeners') dictionary, designed to help a layman understand how a word is used.

<sup>5</sup>Editorial decisions are probably responsible for:

a. The capitalization of only God; elsewhere there were labels like sometimes cap., usu. cap., rather than reliance on usage. In response to complaints by registrants of trade names, the policy was changed in later printings.

b. An excessive number of predictable pronunciation variants.

c. A paucity of usage labels, and a consequent misunderstanding of the status of illustrative citations from business, entertainment and sports.

All these could have been taken care of in the introduction. Furthermore, they should have been handled, in laymen's language, in a pamphlet explaining to the user the purpose and methods of the Third, and the ways in which it differed from its predecessors. But though such a pamphlet had accompanied the second New International, none was prepared for the Third--presumably an economy measure.

<sup>6</sup>Amusingly, well before the decade was over, many of these same humanists were deploring attempts to impose academic standards, in language or otherwise, as repressive acts of a corrupt society.

<sup>7</sup>The Third also made less use than did its predecessor of outside scholars, or at least gave less emphasis to their contributions; the functions of John S. Kenyon (pronunciation) and Harold H. Bender (etymology) were handled, and creditably, by members of the resident staff.

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

The Midwest Region of the American Dialect Society will meet in conjunction with the Midwest Modern Language Association at the Conrad Hilton Hotel in Chicago on November 2-3, 1973. The chairman of the meeting is Richard W. Bailey. The following program will be presented:

November 2:

Arthur Brakel, Kent State University, "A Methodology for Defining Dialects and Calibrating Dialect Differences." [current address: Dept. of Hispanic and Italian Studies, SUNY/Albany, 1400 Washington Avenue, Albany 12222]

Gerald Udell, Ohio University, "Procuring Spokesmen in Dialect Investigations: Contributions Toward Developing a Methodology." [English, Athens 45701]

Virginia Glenn McDavid, Chicago State University, "Studies of English Usage." [English, 95th Street at King Drive, Chicago 60628]

Stewart A. Kingsbury, Northern Michigan University, "Case Studies in Dialects in Prose Literature."

David Lawton, Central Michigan University, "Chicano Spanish Syntax." [English, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, 48858]

R. E. Callary, Northern Illinois University, "Dialectal Variation in Terms for Men and Women." [English, DeKalb 60115]

November 3:

Albert H. Marckwardt, University of Michigan, "Speech Islands in the North Central States." [English, Ann Arbor, 48104]

Zacharias Thundyil, C. M. I., Northern Michigan University, "A Progress Report on the Dialect Survey of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan." [English, Marquette 49855]

James H. Hartman, University of Kansas, "Linguistic Reality and Current Approaches to Linguistic Variation." [English, Lawrence 66044]

The South Central Region of the American Dialect Society will hold its third annual meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, November 1, 1973. The following program will be presented:

Bethany K. Dumas, Trinity University, "The Arkansas Language Survey: Progress, Problems, and Prognostications."

The purpose of this paper is to report on the progress of the Arkansas Language Survey (ALS), to comment on modifications in methodology that were made as the survey progressed, and to suggest implications for methods of eliciting dialect data.

It is anticipated that it will be possible to report in November that all interviews for the ALS have been completed. If they have not been completed, plans for their completion will be announced.

One important modification in methodology has been made; while the sampling procedure remains unchanged, the sample has been redefined. The original plans were to select elementary school children and their families for the survey by randomly selecting 24 names from the school rosters of the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades in each county. Then, from that list of 24 children, four children and two older members of each of their families would be interviewed. At an early stage in the interviewing, it proved advantageous to view the family represented by the child as being the target of the sampling procedure. This means that if the child randomly selected is inappropriate as an informant, it may be possible to interview another child in that family as the youngest of the three generations being interviewed.

It has been possible, in the course of interviewing, to make certain experiments in eliciting data. In particular, an attempt has been made to elicit various interrogative structures in free discourse. It is too early to report fully on the results of these experiments, but it is anticipated that tentative conclusions can be announced in November. In particular, it is anticipated that specific suggestions can be made about the ways in which certain syntactic structures can be elicited in free discourse. These should be of value to persons planning other surveys.

Shirley Frazer, North Texas State University, "A Generative Analysis of Preterites and Past Participles in the North Central States and Upper Midwest."

Preterites and past participles of irregular verb forms found in Virginia McDavid's Verb Forms of the North Central States and Upper Midwest (1957) are described in a generative framework, following Chomsky and Halle's The Sound Pattern of English (1968). The readjustment and phonological rules needed to produce dialect verb forms are explained. The verbs are classified according to the occurrence of certain combinations of rules that act on underlying forms. The verbs fall into five classes: mixed conjugations, weak verbs, and three classes of strong verbs. Two complete lexicons are given. One gives a fully specified derivation of each form, and the other gives the classification of each form. Special attention is given to pleonastic forms, invariable forms, and preterites with underlying /n/ as the past tense marker.

Peter Menzel, Florida State University, "The Cyclical Principle and American Dialects."

In order to explain certain processes of language, T. G. linguists generally assume the operation of a transformational cycle. Further examination of both the data and the properties of T. G. grammars leads to such refinements as first and last-cyclical rules; i.e., rules that must apply only in the first and last cycle, respectively. In this paper, I want to consider four apparently unrelated sets of data. What makes the data in question interesting is the fact that the various surface structure realizations in the various dialects of American English can be explained in terms of a general simplicity criterion governing the cyclical or last-cyclical application of the rules in question.

The data to be examined are:

1. subject or object pronouns in sentences like:

He's taller than  $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{I.} \\ \text{me.} \end{array} \right\}$

2. presence or absence of relative pronouns in sentences like:

Fred saw the man  $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{who?} \\ \emptyset \end{array} \right\}$  he believed talked to us yesterday.



3. negatives in embedded sentences like:

Bill told Harry {not to do it.}  
                  {don't do it.}

4. yes-no questions in embedded sentences like:

Mildred asked Alf {whether/if he had done it.}  
                  {did he do it.}

In the first two examples, the difference in the data can be described by assuming that some dialects of English have a cyclical rule of object marking, while in others this rule applies last-cyclically. In the second two examples, the differences in the data can be described by assuming that some dialects of English have cyclical Negative Inversion and AUX Inversion, while in others these rules apply last-cyclically. The difficulty for any explanation lies in the fact that no dialect has all of these rules either cyclically or last-cyclically. Rather, Object Marking is cyclical and NEG and AUX Inversion are last-cyclical in some dialects, while this ordering is reversed in other dialects.

An explanation of this phenomenon must, therefore, be attempted in terms of underlying causes; i.e., in the form of "what causes rule order to change from cyclical to last-cyclical and vice versa?" The answer to questions of this nature lies in the direction of over-all simplicity of the whole pattern of rules, and not just the ordering of an isolated rule or two.

Ian F. Hancock, The University of Texas at Austin, "English in Liberia."

English has been the official language of the Republic of Liberia since its establishment as a home for freed Afro-American slaves in 1816.

The country in fact results from the union of a number of smaller individual colonies, each with its own history of settlement; in addition the earliest settlers resided in neighboring Sierra Leone for some years before proceeding to their present location in Monrovia.

While it is true that English is the language of the country, at least five distinct varieties appear to exist there, alongside the ca. thirty indigenous African languages. The most

widespread of the kinds of English spoken reflects a considerable number of features of U. S. Black English from the first half of the 19th century, and as such should be of considerable interest to students of English in this country.

For most speakers in Liberia, English has the role of first language but not mother tongue; sociolinguistic aspects relating to this fact will also receive some discussion.

James H. Sledd, The University of Texas at Austin, "Black English to World English; or, Linguistics and Literature Again."

Now that the ethics and efficacy of imposed biligualism have been successfully challenged and even its proponents have admitted that mastery of standard English is no guarantee of upward mobility (they committed themselves a long time ago to the proposition that one dialect is as good as another--a proposition which mainly stops conversation because it's too hugely vague to mean anything useful): now it's time to look at some of the real questions that got raised in the debate about that phony enterprise. An old but still lively one is the question of how people evolve a standard of their own or take possession of an alien standard by changing the standard or changing themselves so that the alien standard is no longer alien. Kept linguists in English departments, pursuing the missing link between linguistics and literary study, are less likely to find it by plunging for deep structures than by more traditional inquiries, like exploring the nature, history, and functions of standard English. New material is provided for that old investigation by the spread of English right round the world and by the consequent emergence of new national and regional standards in considerable variety. The American Dialect Society must no longer limit itself to the study of the English language in North America. Hawaii (to take but one example) does exist.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

---- A Second Annual Colloquium on New Ways of Analyzing Variation (no longer restricted to English) will be held at Georgetown University, October 25-27, 1973, this time under the auspices and mandate of the newly organized Lectological Association. The

framework in which variation has been studied presupposes the relevance of the communicative functions of language to grammatical analysis, the existence of gradient analysis, the role of temporal differentiation in the grammars of speech communities, and the social relevance of the linguist's work. The most obvious areas in which systematic variation is being discovered and grammatical models are being formalized are the following: fuzzy logic, squishes and other implicational patterns in semantax and phonology, and creolization. This list is not meant to exclude still newer aspects of variation, studies of which would be welcomed, as would new analytical models.

---- The National Science Foundation recently announced the appointment of Dr. Alan E. Bell to the position of Staff Assistant for Linguistics, Special Projects Program, Division of Social Sciences. Dr. Bell will join the Foundation on August 6 and will serve for a period of approximately two years, while on leave of absence from the University of Colorado. Dr. Bell holds the S.B. in Mathematics from MIT, the M.S. in Statistics from Stanford, and the Ph.D. in Linguistics, also from Stanford. After receiving the M.S., he worked as a systems analyst in industry, returning to Stanford in 1966 as a research assistant in the Institute for Mathematical Studies in the Social Sciences and embarking upon a course of graduate studies leading to the Ph.D. In his graduate career, Dr. Bell held an NIH Predoctoral Fellowship and later a research assistantship in the Stanford Project on Language Universals. He has since held independent research grants from NSF and ACLS.

---- The American Council of Learned Societies has instituted new procedures for travel grant awards and has adopted a standard application form and instruction sheet, as well as three deadlines per year. Individuals wishing to apply for ACLS travel grants through the ADS should write the Executive Secretary well in advance of the deadlines to obtain the application forms and instruction sheet. The deadlines for applying for these grants have been set up as follows: (1) for meetings scheduled June - September, ACLS will announce its awards in March and scholars should apply to the ADS for such grants by February 1, (2) for meetings October - January, ACLS will announce its awards in July and scholars should apply to the ADS by June 1, (3) for February - May meetings, ACLS will announce awards in November and scholars should apply to the ADS by October 1.

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The Newsletter of the American Dialect Society (NADS) is published three times a year, in February, June, and November, at the Center for Applied Linguistics, 1611 North Kent Street, Arlington, Virginia 22209.

The editor, A. Hood Roberts, (1) would be happy to receive news of the activities of ADS members and comments and suggestions from them; (2) hopes to be able to provide information concerning recently completed research; and (3) invites the readers to use the queries section for certain of their specialized inquiries to the membership as a whole.

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---- The Linguistics Documentation Centre, a joint project of the general library and the faculty of arts of the University of Ottawa, has recently been established. It has as its aims to provide Canadian linguists with bibliographic services and a "human resources" referral service, to provide anybody in Canada or abroad with information about Canadian linguistics, and to do research in information science and technology applied to linguistics documentation. Skeleton resources and services already available include a collection of specialized linguistics bibliographies; computer-stored inventories of human and institutional resources in linguistics, with concentration on Canada; collections of publishers' catalogues, study programmes, programmes of meetings and congresses; and a calendar of forthcoming events in linguistics, with concentration on the Ontario-Quebec area. Research already begun includes (1) Regularized or formulated abstracting (FABS). Technique for standardizing and expediting manual abstracting, with an eye also to machine analysis of abstracts. Principal investigators: T.R. Hofmann, B. Harris, and (2) Facetted indexing of linguistic documents (FIRL), with an interactive computer system to use it. Funded by the Canada Council. Principal investigator: B. Harris. Reports from projects in the same fields will be most welcome. Bibliographies currently being compiled (with name of compiler) are:

- Application of transformational grammar to language teaching (M. Somcynsky)
- Linguistics of Eskimo (with the help of G. Lefebvre)
- Translation theory; machine translation (B. Harris)
- Recent semantics (T. R. Hofmann)

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Indiana Names, Vol. III, No. 2, Fall 1972. Published by the Department of English, Indiana State University.

Indiana Names, Vol. IV, No. 1, Spring 1973. Published by the Department of English, Indiana State University.

Lectological Newsletter, Issue No. 9, April 1973. Published by the Department of Linguistics, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY

Secretariat: Room 1000  
1611 North Kent Street  
Arlington, Virginia 22209