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Kasper Boye and Elisabeth Engberg-Pedersen (eds). 2010. *Language Usage and Language Structure*. Berlin and New York: Mouton de Gruyter. 354 pages. Hardbound. ISBN 978-3-11-021917-3

Reviewed by Valeriy Dem'jankov (Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Linguistics, Moscow)

The book under review is dedicated to Peter Harder on the occasion of his 60th birthday. The contributions discuss different assumptions about language as "being used, acquired, or subjected to change" (p. vii) and are grouped into four parts.

The papers of the first part deal with usage and structure of clausal complementation. Frederick J. Newmeyer comes to the conclusion that "[C]onversational data tell us that the classic picture painted by formal linguistics, that of a syntactic system interacting with usage, but not beholden to usage, is the correct one" (p. 34). Arie Verhagen sees in the views of Newmeyer traces of structuralism to be overcome and concludes: "the usage-based approach also provides a basis for preventing overestimating the role of abstractness of structure, and for understanding why it may be as limited and variable as it turns out to be" (p. 66). Kasper Boye shows that it is the coding differences that link up different ranges of prominence in communication with different structural properties. Thus, raising verbs "predicate their meaning of an argument (which is itself predicational)" and "are coded as potentially discursively primary" (p. 100). Auxiliaries, on the other hand, "operate on a predicate or a whole predication" and "are coded as inherently secondary" (p. 100).

The second part, "The rise of structure", begins with the paper by Ronald W. Langacker "How not to disagree: The emergence of structure from usage" showing that exemplar-based and schema-based approaches to language structure, when "stripped of their metaphorical clothing — or rather, when the same metaphor is used to clothe them" are "essentially equivalent" (p. 138), differing only in emphasis, detail, and methodology. Lars Haltoft discusses paradigmatic organization principles as necessary parts of grammaticalisation. Talmy Givón claims that the mechanism of "transferring information from the adjacent context to an explicitly-coded verbal clause is a fundamental synchronic mechanism in mature adult communication" and is "responsible for the rise of multi-word verbal clauses out of one-word non-verbal ones" (p. 198).

Opening the third part, "Structure, usage and variation", Elisabeth Engberg-Pedersen and Mads Poulsen ("Alternative agreement controllers in Danish: Usage

or structure?") conclude that certain agreement patterns may be a result of performance errors rather than of structural shifts. Dirk Geeraerts ("Schmidt redux: How systematic is the linguistic system if variation is rampant?") demonstrates the following interconnected views: (1) "instead of homogeneous system we have to think in terms of a cluster or network of lectal systems"; and (2) "lects have prototype structure" (p. 258). J. Lachlan Mackenzie ("More tiles on the roof: Further thoughts on incremental language production") examines the notion of incrementality in the framework of psycholinguistic, computational and grammatical studies. In "Reconciling structure and usage" Maj-Britt Mosegaard Hansen strives to show the advantages of a dynamic, dialogic conception of the linguistic sign.

Finally, in the fourth part, "Methodology", William Croft describes and illustrates "ten unwarranted assumptions in syntactic argumentation", many of which date back to structuralism.

On the whole, I think the book is a great success. It is valuable both for professional linguists and for specialists interested in methodology of modern arts.

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About the reviewer

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