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ALGORITHMIC STUDIES OF ENGLISH MONOSYLLABICS FOR PREDICTION OF PARTS OF SPEECH: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

SPECIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY
SB-62-29

OCTOBER 1962
ALGORITHMIC STUDIES OF ENGLISH MONOSYLLABICS FOR PREDICTION OF PARTS OF SPEECH: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Compiled by
E. E. GRAZIANO

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OCTOBER 1962

Lockheed
MISSILES & SPACE COMPANY
A GROUP DIVISION OF LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT CORPORATION
SUNNYVALE, CALIFORNIA
ABSTRACT

This bibliography consists of 207 selected references of interest to researchers engaged in algorithmic studies of English monosyllabics so as to be able to predict the parts-of-speech of any English word without regard to semantics. The most significant result of the literature search was to confirm beyond a reasonable doubt that the specific mode of application of the logical-empirical method to the English language by Lockheed researchers, and results obtained, are new and unique. The search covered the period from 1500 A. D. to June 1962.

Search Completed July 1962
Availability notices and procurement instructions following the citations are direct quotations of such instructions appearing in the source material announcing that report. The compiler is well aware that many of these agencies' names, addresses and office codes will have changed; however, no attempt has been made to update each of these notices individually.

In citing classified reports, (SECRET TITLE) or (CONFIDENTIAL TITLE) as appropriate, has been used when that classification of the title was indicated on the report. (UNVERIFIED TITLE) has been used when the report was not available to the compiler and it was impossible to verify the report's title and the title's security level.

Classification of classified reports is indicated by abbreviation in upper right top line of bibliographic entry. The classification of the report is given in full, e.g., SECRET REPORT, at the conclusion of the bibliographic data for that report entry.

This selective bibliography has been prepared in response to a specific request and is confined to the limits of that request. No claim is made that this is an exhaustive or critical compilation. The inclusion of any reference to material is not to be construed as an endorsement of the information contained in that material.
FOREWORD

Linguistic research being conducted by James L. Dolby and Howard Resnikoff has as its central hypothesis that formal algorithmic definitions of written-English word structure elements will allow the prediction of the parts-of-speech of any English word without regard to semantics. One-syllable words were tabulated from recognized dictionaries with notations as to their parts-of-speech. From these, a general definition was formulated that would describe the structural form of any word element that might be productive of English words. These word structure elements are generally of the form CVC, and constitute a class of "words" that include, with trivial exceptions, all monosyllable words of English. The synthetic general form superficially resembles some traditional grammatical, morphological, and linguistic concepts, but is unique because of the logical-empirical method employed in its derivation; the pragmatic tests applied to measure validity; and algorithmic formulation. All possible English "monosyllabic" letter strings occur in this form, and these appear to be fundamental structural elements for English words. Observations, quantified where possible, are made of the parts-of-speech that relate to the different classes of fundamental letter-strings. The products of this research will soon be published by the above named researchers.

This literature search attempted to locate the following:

1. Attempts that might have been made to predict parts-of-speech of English words by algorithmic methods.

2. Attempts that might have been made to define syllables algorithmically.

3. Information on birth and death of words for structural reasons.

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4. Comprehensive tables that might exist of English syllables; and of noun or verb declensions.

5. Rationalizations that might exist on the relative order of the English alphabet.

6. Dictionaries that might relate in any way to the problems in question.

7. Any material that might relate to these problems.

Results of this literature search:

1. Apparently no attempt to predict parts-of-speech of English words by this precise method has ever been recorded.

2. The syllable has been amply treated, but it appears that no attempts have heretofore been made to define the English syllable algorithmically.

3. Very little has been written on the birth and death of words for structural reasons.

4. Apparently no exhaustive lists exist of English syllables nor of noun and verb declensions.

5. A few attempts have been made to rationalize the relative order of the English alphabet on other than historical grounds, but apparently this still remains to be done.

6. Some dictionaries and other lists of words exist that have been compiled or arranged by some algorithm, but none exist that specifically relate to this study.

7. A goodly amount of material exists that is of interest to our researchers. This would include early rhyming dictionaries, and grammars; authoritative compendia on
English grammar; historical data relative to change or lack of change in word structures; the recent exhaustive dictionaries; and particularly the work of linguists for the last thirty years or so.

Search completed July 1962.

The more important sources consulted in this literature search are:

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   A very important analysis of English syllabication.

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3. Ajdukiewicz, K.
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   Stress in English words. LINGUA, v. 6,

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   THE COMPOUNDING AND HYPHENATION
   OF ENGLISH WORDS. N. Y., Funk and Wagnalls,
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   A list of compounded and hyphenated words with rules. Includes a list of categories of
   nouns that may properly be used as adjectives.

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   COMPOUNDING IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

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AMERICAN SPEECH. v. 15, p. 243–249, 1940.
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   GRAMMAR OF ENGLISH GRAMMARS. 10th ed.

A compendium of all previous work in English grammar with a bibliography of grammars.

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   English stress accent. COLLEGE ENGLISH.
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   YORKSHIRE DIALECT SOCIETY FOR 1922,

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Contains a Chapter on specific systems of syllabic systems of writing, but does not clearly define "syllable." States that the order of the Latin alphabet of 23 letters was fixed from the middle ages. Only U, W, and J were added and were differentiations from V, V, and I respectively. Y and Z were appended at the end of the alphabet in the 1st century, and were used to transliterate Greek words. The Latin alphabet is: A, B, C, (with sound of "K") D, E, F, G, H, I, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, V, X, Y, Z.

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A verb is derived from another verb by including in the stem a noun element which indicates either a direct object or an adverbial compliance. Examples are given, i.e., hand-feed; hero-worship.

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The most common grammatical errors.


A list of most common grammatical errors.

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THE PHONEMIC PATTERNING OF THE INITIAL AND FINAL CONSONANT CLUSTERS OF ENGLISH FROM LATE OLD ENGLISH TO THE PRESENT: A STRUCTURAL APPROACH TO THEIR HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT.


General historical analysis of the problem of initial and final consonant structure. Conclusions: (1) Only a few types of changes occurred (2) Consonant clusters have occurred to fill in phonological patterns; and very few new cases have emerged (3) Final cluster changes (but not initial) occurred in 14–16th centuries.

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Defines a formal relation among sentences by which one sentence structure may be called a transform of another (question and answer). Analysis based on co-occurrence of morphemes. Concept can allow a more algebraic analysis of language.
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Attempts to generalize the term, MORPHEME so as to apply not only to sequences of successive phonemes, but also to broken sequences.

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"Distribution" means the environment of an element "A". The meaning of "elements" is discussed.

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A study of possible mechanisms in the formation of words that consist of a "base"
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<td>Special difficulties in describing stress phonemes of English lie in the relative nature of its phonetic characteristics and in the variability of stresses in response to expressive prosody.</td>
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