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to contend with continual references as to what was said in Chapter X and what will be said in Chapter Y — all very well in moderation, but here it becomes a rather exasperating habit which disturbs one's concentration and threatens to upset one's already overloaded train of thought. This problem no doubt results from a desire on the part of the author to keep returning to earlier themes and models rather than to exhaust the possibilities of each at one go. No doubt he has his reasons, but the outcome is, pedagogically speaking, not very satisfactory.

It is unfortunate that Matthews makes no use of headings and sub-headings within his chapters but contents himself with brief summaries (sometimes mere concatenations of terms) at the beginning of each, making it all the more difficult for the reader to gain a proper perspective on the material. On the other hand, the review of suitable supplementary reading matter which follows each chapter should prove to be of value to every reader, be he first-year or professor.

When considering the strengths and weaknesses of this book it is particularly important to bear in mind for whom it intended. In his preface Matthews expresses the hope that 'it will be of value to specialists in particular European languages, as well as to postgraduate and undergraduate students of general linguistics'. Of its usefulness to the first two groups there can be no doubt — it contains a wealth of information, a good index, and considerable in-depth critical discussion — but as a teaching *'introduction* to the theory of word-structure' it falls a little short of the mark.

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Geoffrey Leech, *Semantics.* Penguin, 1974, xii, 386 pp. Paperback 70 p.

This book is one of the latest members of the 'Pelican Original' linguistics series. Like its fellow volumes *(Linguistics, Grammar, Phonetics* and *Stylistics)* it bears a simple, supposedly all-embracing title, but the author shows from the outset that he

wishes to avoid skin-deep eclecticism: 'No one author can attempt an overall survey of the field of semantics — or at least, if he does, he will end up with a superficial compendium of "what others have thought" about meaning. The only sensible course is to beat one's own path through the wilderness, and not to pay more heed than is prudent to what lies on either side'.

In respect of both form and content this work bears testimony to an eminently 'prudent' approach on the part of the author, who achieves a nice balance between general statement of the most pertinent problems and fresh, though not completely idiosyncratic, attempts at their solution. The more general or 'pre-theoretical' issues are dealt with in the first part of the book, whilst in the second section Leech is more concerned with the statement of a systematic semantic theory which falls properly within the domain of linguistics.

The 'pre-theoretical' section comprises the first four chapters of the book. In *Meanings of Meaning* it is argued that the linguistic study of meaning must be free from subservience to other disciplines such as psychology, philosophy and anthropology and must confine itself to relations *within* language such as paraphrase and synonymy, for 'the search for an explanation of linguistic phenomena in terms of what is not language is as vain as the search for an exit from a room which has no doors or windows'. Accordingly, the distinction is made between 'knowledge of language' and 'knowledge of the real world' such that the absurdity of

(1) My uncle always sleeps standing on one toe

relates to the latter whereas

(2) My uncle always sleeps awake

relates to the former.

The absurdity only of (2) then, needs to be explained by a linguistic semantic theory.

The domain of a semantic theory is shown to be still narrower when in the second chapter, *Seven Types of Meaning*, conceptual, connotative, stylistic, affective, reflected, collocative and thematic meanings are distinguished. Only the first type, i.e. conceptual or cognitive meaning, it is argued, can be the legitimate object of systematic analysis.

Chapter three, *Bony-Structured Concepts*, deals with conceptualisation, the relationship between language and thought and the

relativist-universalist debate. Leech takes a middle-of-the-road view of the latter controversy, admitting that language predisposes us towards certain distinctions rather than others, but he also exemplifies three different types of 'semantic creativity' which show that the language-user can be the master rather than the slave of his system. These are lexical innovation (neologism and meaning transfer), the 'semantic alertness of good prose', and the'conceptual fusion of poetry' (the use of metaphor and paradox for example).

The author completes his 'pre-theoretical' survey of the problem of meaning in *Semantics and Society*. He distinguishes five functions of language in society, i.e. informational, expressive, directive, aesthetic and phatic and points out some of the abuses of and mistakes in communication which result from the confusion of these different functions.

Chapter five, *Is Semantics a Science?* bridges the gap between the pre-theoretical and the formal sections of the book. Bloomfieldian contextualism (the meaning of an utterance as a function of the observable context of the utterance) is soundly debunked, though the author does not omit to show that context can nevertheless sometimes be relevant to the interpretation of utterances. It is argued that the modern mentalistic-intuitional approach to the problem of meaning need not be unscientific if intuition can be checked. 'Intuition' is therefore reduced to a set of basic statements such as 'X is synonymous with Y', 'X entails Y', etc., all of which are susceptible to logical analysis.

In the second half of the book Leech beats his own path through the 'wilderness' more resolutely. In the final chapter, *Alternative Theories*, he discusses the generativist and interpretativist approach to the question of meaning within a grammar and sketches his own in-between position, which he calls 'generative semantics with deep syntactic structure'. In this model three components are recognized, i.e. semantic, syntactic and phonological, and within each component two levels of structure, i.e. deep and surface, are posited. These levels are related to one another in each case by transformational rules whilst 'surface semantics' and 'deep syntax' are related by 'expression rules', and 'surface syntax' and 'deep phonology' are connected by a 'morpheme index look-up'.

The entire second section of this book represents a subtle

justification of the model presented in the final chapter, but at no stage does the author omit to place his arguments within the overall context of modern debate on semantics. Thus the reader who is not well-versed in the methods of modern semantic study is given the opportunity of both broadening his knowledge of the subject and of assessing Leech's approach to it.

In the *Semantics and Syntax* chapter for example, some of the general points of difference between the generativist and interpretavist views are mentioned and then Leech follows through with his own alternative, which involves 'expression rules' (not transformations). He substantiates the view that the conditions for semantic and syntactic well-formedness are different, a fact which militates against the use of transformational rules connecting the two components.

Similarly, in the following chapter, *Semantics and the Dictionary,* the reader is first given an explanation of the form and function of the lexicon and then Leech's 'Morpheme index' modification is introduced. The dictionary is separated into two parts: a lexicon, which is 'looked-up' at the level of semantic-syntactic mapping; and a morpheme index which is 'looked-up' at the level of syntactic-phonological mapping. Such a dictionary makes better sense in the context of Leech's model of grammar which comprises three 'autonomous' levels.

In Chapters eleven and twelve, *Colour and Kinship: Two Case Studies in Universal Semantics* and *Semantic Equivalence and 'Deep Semantics'* general discussion of notions such as 'language universal' and 'semantic equivalence' is related to rules of implication which, it is conjectured, can be developed into the semantic transformations which relate 'deep semantics' and 'surface semantics' in Leech's model in much the same way as syntactic transformations are used in the syntactic component of classical transformational grammar.

The subject of this book is not an easy one and so few can expect to find the book itself to be a congenial bedside companion. By the same token however, it offers the conscientious reader plenty of food for thought, especially in the second half. Those with less hungry intellects and those to whom semantics is an unexplored discipline will find much to interest them in the first section and if they gloss over the more formal parts of the second they will still be further rewarded. Leech formulates his arguments clearly and makes good use of

illustrations and diagrams and a second or third reading of the book, necessitated by the complexity of the subject-matter, is well worth the trouble.

One final point: the appendix on *Background Reading* is one of the best bibliographical overviews of the field of semantics to date.

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