

**ILINCA CRĂINICEANU**  
**ELEMENTS OF ENGLISH MORPHOLOGY**

**CONTENTS**

**1. ON LEXICAL AND GRAMMATICAL CATEGORIES**  
**THE LEXICON**

1.0. Introductory Remarks .....	11
1.1. What does Morphology study? .....	12
1.1.1. Derivational Morphology .....	12
1.1.2. Inflectional Morphology .....	12
2.1. Lexical Categories vs. Functional Categories .....	14
2.2. The Morpheme .....	15
3.1. The Lexicon .....	16
3.2. Syntactic Phrases .....	17
3.3. The Morpho-syntactic Nature of Functional Categories .....	18

**2. THE CATEGORY OF NUMBER**

1.0. Singular-Plural Opposition. Countable-Uncountable Distinction	19
1.1. Morpho-syntactic Reflexes of the Number Category .....	20
1.2. Sortals vs. Non-Sortals .....	20
2.0. On Morpho-Syntactic Properties of Sortals/Non-Sortals .....	21
2.1. Sortals .....	21
2.2. Non-Sortals .....	22
2.3. Classifiers .....	23
3.0. The Plural Morpheme .....	26
3.1. Collective Nouns. Distributive and Collective Plurals .....	26
3.1.1. Properties of Collective Nouns .....	27
3.1.2. Agreement Patterns .....	28
3.1.3. Collective Nouns and Predicates .....	29
3.1.4. Collective Nouns in the Plural .....	29
4.0. Morphologically Defective Nouns .....	30
5.1. Number Recategorization of Mass Nouns into Countable Nouns	32
6.0. General Terms with No Corresponding Mass Lexicalization ....	34
7.0. Plurale Tantum Nouns .....	34

### 3. THE CATEGORY OF DETERMINATION

1.0. Classes of Determiners .....	37
2.0. Philosophical Background .....	38
3.0. Characteristics of Indexicals .....	43
3.1. Indexicals or Deictic Elements .....	44
3.2. Resource Situation .....	45
4.0. The Values/Uses of Demonstrative Descriptions .....	45
4.1. The Deictic/Gestural Value .....	45
4.2. The Symbolic Value .....	45
4.3. Non-deictic Functions of Demonstratives .....	46
4.3.1. The Anaphoric Value .....	46
4.3.2. The Cataphoric Value .....	47
4.3.3. The Emotional Value .....	47
5.0. Definite Descriptions .....	47
5.1. General Remarks .....	47
5.2. The Values/Uses of Definite Descriptions .....	49
5.2.1. The Deictic / Gestural Use of Definite Descriptions .....	49
5.2.2. The Symbolic/Deictic Use of Definite Descriptions .....	50
5.2.3. Discourse Functions of Definite Descriptions: the <i>Anaphoric</i> and <i>Cataphoric</i> Functions .....	51
5.2.3.1. General Characteristics .....	51
5.2.3.2. The Anaphoric Value/Use of the Definite Article ..	51
5.2.3.3. The Cataphoric Value/Use of the Definite Article	52
5.3. The Generic Function of Definite Descriptions .....	52
5.4. The Non-Referential (Attributive) Use of the Definite Article ...	53
6.0. Proper Names in the Form of Definite Descriptions .....	53
7.0 Indefinite Descriptions .....	55
7.1. General Remarks .....	55
7.1.1. The Ambiguity of Indefinite Descriptions .....	56
8.0. The Values/Uses of Indefinite Descriptions .....	58
8.1. The Epiphoric Value of Indefinite Descriptions .....	58
8.1.2. The Numerical Value of Indefinite Descriptions .....	58
8.1.3. The Generic Value of Indefinite Descriptions .....	59
9.0. Generic Sentences .....	59
10.0. A Note on Bare Plurals (BPs) .....	60
10.1. Semantic Differences between Indefinite DPs and BPs .....	60
10.1.1. Anaphoric Processes .....	60
10.1.2. Specific vs. Non-specific Readings .....	61
10.1.3. Predicates that Occur only with BPs .....	61
11.1. Bare Plural Generic Sentences .....	62

11.2. Definite Article Generic Sentences .....	63
11.3. Indefinite Article Generic Sentences .....	64
<b>4. THE CATEGORY OF GENDER</b>	
1.0. General Remarks .....	66
2.0. The Gender of Animate Entities .....	67
2.1. The Gender of Male/Female Beings .....	67
2.1.1. Nouns that Lack Gender Specification .....	69
3.0. Referential Gender .....	70
<b>5. THE CATEGORY OF CASE</b>	
1.0. General Remarks .....	72
2.0. Formal Configurations: Government and Agreement. Structural Cases .....	73
3.0. Remarks on the English Cases in Traditional Grammar .....	74
4.0. Case as a Conceptual Notion: Case Grammar .....	79
4.1. General Remarks .....	79
4.2. Predicates and their Argument Structure .....	79
4.3. Semantic Fields of Several Verbs of Motion and Location .....	82
4.4. On the Relevance of Theta-Roles in Syntax and Morphology .....	83
<b>6. THE CATEGORY OF ASPECT</b>	
1.0. Introductory Remarks .....	86
1.1. The Perfective – Imperfective Grammaticalized Aspectual Opposition .....	87
1.1.2. Grammaticalizations of the Perfective – Imperfective Aspectual Opposition .....	87
2.1. Situation-Type Aspect .....	88
3.1. Situation-Type Aspect versus Grammatical Aspect .....	88
4.1. Temporal Structure and Aspectual Situation Types .....	89
4.1.1. States .....	90
4.1.2. Processes/Activities .....	90
4.1.3. Events .....	90
5.0. The Temporal Structure of the Perfective – Imperfective Aspectual Opposition .....	91
6.0. Conceptual Features of Situation Types and Grammatical / Viewpoint Aspects .....	92
6.1. [ $\pm$ Stativity] .....	93

6.2. [ $\pm$ Telicity]	93
6.3. [ $\pm$ Duration]	93
6.4. Compositionality	94
7.0. Aspectual Recategorization / Shift	94
8.0. The Perfective Viewpoint and Aspectual Situation Types	98
8.1. General Characteristics of the Perfective Grammatical / Viewpoint Aspect	98
8.2. States, Activities and Events in the Perfective Aspect	99
9.0. The Imperfective Viewpoint and Aspectual Situation Types	100
9.1. General Characteristics of the Imperfective Grammatical / Viewpoint Aspect	100
9.2. Jespersen's (1933) View on the Properties of the English Progressive	101
9.3. Bennett and Partee's (1972/1978) Formalization of the Progressive Aspect	103
9.4. The Imperfective Paradox (Dowty 1979)	104
10.0. States in the Progressive Aspect	106
11.0. Activities / Processes in the Progressive Aspect	109
12.0. Events in the Progressive Aspect	110

## 7. THE CATEGORY OF TENSE

1.0. General Remarks	113
1.1. The Notion of Axis of Orientation	113
2.0. The Notions of Speech Time, Reference Time and Event Time ..	115
3.0. The General Classification of Temporal Adverbs and Their Temporal Specification	119
3.1. Duration Adverbs	119
3.2. Completive Adverbs	122
3.3. Frequency Adverbs	122
3.4. Locating Adverbs (or Frame Adverbs)	122
4.0. Temporal Values of the Main Tenses in English	123
4.1. General Properties of the English Simple Present Tense	123
4.3. On the [+Perfective] Feature of English Simple Present Tense ...	127
4.4. Other Values/Uses of the Simple Present Tense	128
4.4.1. Generic and Habitual Sentences in the Simple Present Tense	128
4.4.2. The Instantaneous Use of the Simple Present Tense	129
4.4.3. The Historical Value of the Simple Present Tense	130
5.0. The Temporal Values / Uses of the Simple Past Tense	131
5.1. The Simple Past Tense with Deictic Value	131

5.2. The Non-Deictic Use of the Simple Past Tense .....	133
5.3. The Habitual Value of the Simple Past Tense .....	133
5.4. The Simple Past Tense with Past Perfect Value .....	134
5.5. The Simple Past Tense Referring to Present Time .....	134
6.0. The Temporal Values / Uses of the Simple Present Perfect Tense	135
6.1. General Properties of the English Present Perfect Tense .....	135
6.2. The Indefinite Past Theory on the Present Perfect .....	137
6.3. The Current Relevance Theory on the Present Perfect .....	138
6.4. The Extended Now Theory on the Present Perfect .....	139
6.5. The Values / Uses of the Simple Present Perfect .....	140
6.5.1. The Existential Value of the Present Perfect .....	140
6.5.2. The Resultative or Continuative Value of the Present Perfect .....	141
6.5.3. The 'Hot News' Value of the Present Perfect .....	142
7.0. Other Temporal Uses of the Present Perfect .....	142
7.1. The Future Value of the Present Perfect .....	142
8.0. Temporal Adverbs with the Present Perfect and the Past Tense ..	143
9.0. The Temporal Values / Uses of the Past Perfect .....	146
9.1. General Properties of the Past Perfect Tense in Simple Sentences	146
9.2. General Properties of the Past Perfect Tense in Complex Sentences	146
10.0. Means of Expressing Future Time .....	147
10.1. General Characteristics .....	147
10.2. The Simple Present Tense with Future Time Adverbs .....	148
10.3. The Present Progressive with Future Time Adverbs .....	148
10.4. Will and Shall plus the Infinitive .....	149
10.5. Will and Shall plus the Progressive Infinitive .....	150
10.6. Be Going To .....	150
10.7. The Future of Past Situations .....	151
11.0. The Temporal Values / Uses of the Future Perfect Tense .....	152

## 8. MODALITY AND MODAL VERBS

1.0. Introductory Remarks .....	153
2.0. On Root and Epistemic Meanings of Modal Verbs .....	155
3.0. More on the Deontic Meaning and Epistemic Meaning and the Shift from One Meaning to the Other Meaning .....	159
4.0. Morpho-syntactic Properties of Modal Verbs .....	163
5.0. CAN .....	168
5.1. General Remarks .....	168
5.2. Ability CAN (root meaning) .....	170
5.3. Permission CAN (root meaning) .....	172

5.3.1. Hypothetical COULD .....	174
5.4. Possibility CAN (epistemic meaning) .....	174
5.4.1. Hypothetical COULD .....	175
6.0. MAY .....	176
6.1. Permission MAY (root meaning) .....	176
6.1.1. Hypothetical MIGHT .....	177
6.2. Possibility MAY (epistemic meaning) .....	177
6.2.1. Hypothetical MIGHT .....	178
6.3. A Parallel between CAN and MAY .....	178
7.0. MUST .....	179
7.1. Obligation MUST (root meaning) .....	179
7.1.1. Negation of Obligation MUST .....	181
7.2. Necessity MUST (epistemic meaning) .....	182
8.0. WILL .....	184
8.1. Volition WILL (root meaning) .....	184
8.1.1. Hypothetical WOULD .....	185
8.2. Power WILL (root meaning) .....	186
8.2.1. Hypothetical WOULD .....	187
8.3. Habitual WILL (root meaning) .....	187
8.4. Probability WILL (epistemic meaning) .....	188
8.4.1. Hypothetical WOULD .....	188
9.0. SHALL .....	189
9.1. General Remarks .....	189
9.2. Obligation SHALL (root meaning) .....	189
9.2.1. Hypothetical SHOULD .....	190
9.3. Probability, Prediction SHALL (epistemic meaning) .....	191
9.3.1. Hypothetical SHOULD .....	191
10.0. OUGHT TO .....	192
10.1. Moral Obligation OUGHT TO (root meaning) .....	192
10.2. Weak Necessity OUGHT TO (epistemic meaning) .....	193
11.0. NEED .....	194
11.1. Obligation NEED (root meaning) .....	194
12.0. DARE .....	195
12.1. Hypothetical DARE .....	196
<i>References</i> .....	197