The English Language

From Sound to Sense

Gerald P. Delahunty
James J. Garvey

The English Language
From Sound to Sense

PERSPECTIVES ON WRITING
Series Editor, Mike Palmquist

The Perspectives on Writing series addresses writing studies in a broad sense. Consistent with the wide ranging approaches characteristic of teaching and scholarship in writing across the curriculum, the series presents works that take divergent perspectives on working as a writer, teaching writing, administering writing programs, and studying writing in its various forms.

The WAC Clearinghouse and Parlor Press are collaborating so that these books will be widely available through free digital distribution and low-cost print editions. The publishers and the series editor are teachers and researchers of writing, committed to the principle that knowledge should freely circulate. We see the opportunities that new technologies have for further democratizing knowledge. And we see that to share the power of writing is to share the means for all to articulate their needs, interest, and learning into the great experiment of literacy.

Existing Books in the Series

Charles Bazerman and David R. Russell, *Writing Selves/Writing Societies* (2003)
Charles Bazerman, Adair Bonini, and Débora Figueiredo (Eds.), *Genre in a Changing World* (2009)
David Franke, Alex Reid and Anthony DiRenzo (Eds.), *Design Discourse: Composing and Revising the Professional and Technical Writing Curriculum* (2010)
Gerald P. Delahunty and James Garvey, *The English Language: from Sound to Sense* (2010)

The English Language
From Sound to Sense

Gerald P. Delahunty
James J. Garvey

The WAC Clearinghouse
wac.colostate.edu
Fort Collins, Colorado

Parlor Press
www.parlorpress.com
West Lafayette, Indiana

The WAC Clearinghouse, Fort Collins, Colorado 80523
Parlor Press, 3015 Brackenberry Drive, Anderson, South Carolina 29621

© 2010 Gerald P. Delahunty

ISBN 978-0-97270-233-1 (pdf) | 978-1-60235-180-6 (pbk.)

DOI 10.37514/PER-B.2010.2331

Produced in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Delahunty, Gerald Patrick.
The English language : from sound to sense / Gerald P. Delahunty, James J. Garvey.
p. cm.
Includes bibliographical references and index.
ISBN 978-1-60235-180-6 (pbk. : alk. paper) -- ISBN 978-0-97270-233-1 (adobe ebook)
1. Linguistics. 2. Language and languages. 3. English language--Study and teaching. I. Garvey, James J. II. Title.
P121.D384 2010
425--dc22

2010011194

Copyeditor, Designer: David Doran
Series Editor: Mike Palmquist

The WAC Clearinghouse supports teachers of writing across the disciplines. Hosted by Colorado State University, it brings together scholarly journals and book series as well as resources for teachers who use writing in their courses. This book is available in digital format for free download at wac.colostate.edu.

Parlor Press, LLC is an independent publisher of scholarly and trade titles in print and multimedia formats. This book is available in paperback and Adobe eBook formats from Parlor Press on the World Wide Web at www.parlorpress.com. For submission information or to find out about Parlor Press publications, write to Parlor Press, 816 Robinson St., West Lafayette, Indiana, 47906, or e-mail editor@parlorpress.com.

For Marna and Cian
To the memory of James J. Garvey

Contents

1 Introduction to the Linguistic Study of Language 3

KEY CONCEPTS 3
WHO THESE BOOKS ARE FOR 3
HOW TO USE THESE BOOKS 3
WHAT THESE BOOKS ARE ABOUT 3
COMMUNICATION 4
LANGUAGE 5
DISCOURSE 5
TEXT 6
GENRE 6
IDEOLOGY 7
LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION 7
THINKING CRITICALLY ABOUT LANGUAGE 10
STANDARD ENGLISH 11
GRAMMAR 12
OTHER REASONS FOR STUDYING AND TEACHING ABOUT LANGUAGE 14
THE ORGANIZATION OF THESE BOOKS 15
HINTS FOR SUCCESS 16
REFERENCES AND RESOURCES 18
GLOSSARY 19

2 Conceptions of Language and Grammar 23

THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE 23
THE ROLES OF THE ENGLISH TEACHER 25
WHAT IS A LANGUAGE? 27
COMPETENCE AND PERFORMANCE 38
APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE 43
REFERENCES AND RESOURCES 49
GLOSSARY 51

3 A Skeletal Introduction to English Grammar 57

INTRODUCTION 57
CLAUSES 58
SENTENCES 68
PHRASES 72
COMPLEMENTATION AND MODIFICATION 74
WORDS 75
MORPHEMES 76
PARTS OF SPEECH 77

REGULAR AND IRREGULAR FORMS 79
GRAMMATICAL CATEGORIES 79
SOUNDS AND SPELLING 81
FORM, FUNCTION, AND MEANING 82
REFERENCES AND RESOURCES 87
GLOSSARY 87

4 Phonetics and Phonology 89
INTRODUCTION 89
ARTICULATORY PHONETICS 89
CONSONANTS 91
VOWELS 98
SYLLABLES AND FEET 105
PHONOLOGY 107
PHONEMES 108
ALLOPHONES 108
PHONOLOGICAL RULES 113
REFERENCES AND RESOURCES 116
GLOSSARY 117

5 Morphology and Word Formation 121
INTRODUCTION 121
WORDS AND MORPHEMES 122
MORPHEMES, ALLOMORPHS, AND MORPHS 124
WORDS 125
REGISTERS AND WORDS 137
THE INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF COMPLEX WORDS 138
CLASSIFYING WORDS BY THEIR MORPHOLOGICAL PROPERTIES 140
REFERENCES AND RESOURCES 141
GLOSSARY 141
APPENDIX A: SOME ENGLISH DERIVATIONAL MORPHEMES 142

6 The Major Parts of Speech 147
INTRODUCTION 147
THE MAJOR PARTS OF SPEECH: NOUNS, VERBS, ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS 148
REFERENCES AND RESOURCES 184
GLOSSARY 185
APPENDIX TO MAJOR PARTS OF SPEECH 187
REFERENCES AND RESOURCES FOR APPENDIX 192

7 The Minor Parts of Speech 193
INTRODUCTION 193

PRONOUNS 194
ARTICLES 208
AUXILIARY VERBS 213
PREPOSITIONS 216
INTENSIFIERS 221
CONJUNCTIONS 222
REFERENCES AND RESOURCES 230
GLOSSARY 230

8 Word Meaning 235
INTRODUCTION 235
DICTIONARY ENTRIES 236
MENTAL DICTIONARIES 261
CONCLUDING REMARKS 267
REFERENCES AND RESOURCES 268
GLOSSARY 269

9 Phrases 273
INTRODUCTION 273
WHAT IS A PHRASE? 274
MODIFICATION AND COMPLEMENTATION 277
THE ADVERB PHRASE (ADVP) 279
THE PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE (PP) 282
THE ADJECTIVE PHRASE (AP) 285
THE NOUN PHRASE (NP) 288
THE VERB PHRASE (VP) 306
REFERENCES AND RESOURCES 318
GLOSSARY 319

10 Basic Clause Patterns 321
INTRODUCTION 321
ELEMENTS OF THE CLAUSE 322
SUBJECTS 324
SEMANTIC ROLES 330
AUXILIARY VERBS 336
TENSE AND ASPECT 338
BASIC CLAUSE PATTERNS 347
REFERENCES AND RESOURCES 364
GLOSSARY 364
APPENDIX: TIME AND TENSE 365
REFERENCES AND RESOURCES FOR APPENDIX 382

11 Modifications of Basic Clause Patterns 383
INTRODUCTION 383
MOVEMENT 383
ASSIGNMENT OF SEMANTIC ROLES 388
DELETION 397
INSERTION 402
PASSIVE 403
REFERENCES AND RESOURCES 407
GLOSSARY 407
12 Multi-Clause Sentences 411
INTRODUCTION 411
MULTI-CLAUSE SENTENCES 411
RECURSION 412
COMPLEX SENTENCES 413
FINITE VS. NON-FINITE CLAUSES 428
COORDINATION 435
MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION-RESTRUCTURING SENTENCE TYPES 436
CONCLUDING REMARKS 442
REFERENCES AND RESOURCES 442
GLOSSARY 442
Index 445