

Contents

Preface	iii	4.15 Indefinite pronouns	99
Abbreviations, symbols, and conventions	iv	4.16 Other pronouns	101
Grammar Bites in each chapter	viii		
1 Introduction: a discourse perspective on grammar	1		
1.1 Introduction	2		
1.2 A corpus-based grammar	3		
1.3 More about language variation	4		
1.4 More detail on the LSWE Corpus	7		
1.5 Overview of the book	9		
1.6 Conventions used in the book	10		
2 Words and word classes	12		
2.1 Introduction	13		
2.2 What are words?	14		
2.3 Survey of lexical words	20		
2.4 Survey of function words	26		
2.5 Special classes of words	32		
2.6 Word-class ambiguities	35		
3 Introduction to phrases and clauses	37		
3.1 Introduction	38		
3.2 Phrases and their characteristics	38		
3.3 Types of phrases	41		
3.4 A preview of clause patterns	46		
3.5 Clause elements	47		
4 Nouns, pronouns, and the simple noun phrase	55		
4.1 Introduction	56		
4.2 Main types of nouns	56		
4.3 Proper nouns v. common nouns	59		
4.4 Package nouns	60		
4.5 Determiners	65		
4.6 The articles	67		
4.7 Other determiners	72		
4.8 Number: singular and plural	78		
4.9 Case: the genitive	79		
4.10 Gender	85		
4.11 The formation of derived nouns	88		
4.12 Personal pronouns	93		
4.13 Reflexive pronouns	97		
4.14 Demonstrative pronouns	98		
		5 Verbs	102
		5.1 Introduction	103
		5.2 Verb functions and classes	103
		5.3 Semantic categories of lexical verbs	106
		5.4 The most common lexical verbs	110
		5.5 Regular and irregular verb endings	115
		5.6 Verb formation	118
		5.7 Valency patterns	119
		5.8 Multi-word verbs: structure and meaning	123
		5.9 Phrasal verbs	127
		5.10 Prepositional verbs	129
		5.11 Phrasal-prepositional verbs	132
		5.12 Other multi-word verb constructions	134
		5.13 <i>Be</i>	135
		5.14 <i>Have</i>	136
		5.15 <i>Do</i>	137
		5.16 The copula <i>be</i> , and other copular verbs	140
		5.17 Functions of copular verbs	141
		6 Variation in the verb phrase: tense, aspect, voice, and modal use	148
		6.1 Introduction	149
		6.2 Tense and time distinctions: simple present and past tense	150
		6.3 Perfect and progressive aspect	156
		6.4 Perfect aspect in use	159
		6.5 Progressive aspect	162
		6.6 Active and passive voice	166
		6.7 Associations between verbs and passive voice	170
		6.8 Voice and aspect combinations	173
		6.9 Modals and semi-modals	174
		6.10 Personal and logical meanings of modals	178
		6.11 <i>Be going to</i> and <i>used to</i>	182
		6.12 Modals combined with aspect or voice	183

vi Contents

6.13	Sequences of modals and semi-modals	184
7	Adjectives and adverbs	186
7.1	Introduction	187
7.2	Characteristics of adjectives	188
7.3	The formation of adjectives	190
7.4	The function of adverbs	193
7.5	The formation of adverbs	193
7.6	Semantic categories of adjectives	197
7.7	More about attributive adjectives	199
7.8	More about predicative adjectives	200
7.9	Other syntactic roles of adjectives	202
7.10	Syntactic roles of adverbs	204
7.11	Semantic categories of adverbs	208
7.12	Comparative and superlative forms of adjectives	215
7.13	Comparative and superlative forms of adverbs	218
7.14	Comparative clauses and other degree complements	218
8	Exploring the grammar of the clause	221
8.1	Introduction	222
8.2	Devices of elaboration and condensation	223
8.3	Subordination and dependent clauses	224
8.4	Coordination	227
8.5	Ellipsis and structural condensation	230
8.6	The subject-verb concord rule	232
8.7	Verbs as operators	238
8.8	Negation	239
8.9	Major types of independent clause	248
8.10	Declarative clauses	249
8.11	Interrogative clauses	249
8.12	Exclamative clauses	254
8.13	Imperative clauses	254
8.14	Non-clausal material	255
8.15	Finite dependent clauses	256
8.16	Non-finite dependent clauses	259
8.17	Subjunctive verbs in dependent clauses	261
8.18	Dependent clauses with no main clause	262

9	Complex noun phrases	263
9.1	Introduction	264
9.2	Survey of noun modifier types	265
9.3	Noun phrases with premodifiers and postmodifiers across registers	267
9.4	Types of premodifiers	272
9.5	Meaning relationships expressed by noun + noun sequences	273
9.6	Noun phrases with multiple premodifiers	276
9.7	Restrictive v. non-restrictive function	279
9.8	Postmodification by relative clauses	281
9.9	Postmodification by non-finite clauses	291
9.10	Postmodification by prepositional phrase	294
9.11	Postmodification by appositive noun phrases	297
9.12	Noun phrases with multiple postmodifiers	298
9.13	Noun complement clauses	300
9.14	Head nouns with noun complement clauses	302
10	Verb and adjective complement clauses	307
10.1	Introduction	308
10.2	Types of complement clauses	308
10.3	Grammatical positions of complement clauses	310
10.4	Discourse functions of <i>that</i> -clauses	312
10.5	Post-predicate <i>that</i> -clauses	314
10.6	Verbs controlling extraposed <i>that</i> -clauses	317
10.7	<i>That</i> -clauses controlled by adjectives	317
10.8	Discourse choices with <i>that</i> -clauses	319
10.9	Structure and function of <i>wh</i> -clauses	322
10.10	Post-predicate <i>wh</i> -clauses controlled by verbs	324
10.11	Interrogative clauses with <i>whether</i> and <i>if</i>	326
10.12	Overview of infinitive clauses	328

