INTRODUCTION

The present publication is a survey of a number of topics and issues which point to recent developments in linguistics and language studies.

Part I raises the problems encountered in the studies of the lexicon and is the second in the planned series of volumes focusing on the form and function of the lexicon in natural language (the first one *Topics in English Lexicology* was published in 1993 as *Folia Linguistica 30*).

Instigated by the Polish-English Bilingual Thesaurus Project (BIT) in the Department of English Language, at the University of Łódź, Part 1 comprises six contributions, ranging from the topics which cover the place and function of computers in the lexical analysis of language and its applications, discussion of selected issues in a monolingual as well as multilingual analysis of a number of conceptual fields in English, Polish, and Spanish, up to the articles which describe thematic and valency frames of verbs as seen in different theoretical frameworks: cognitive semantics, functional grammar, government and binding as well as dependency models.

Part II is more heterogenous and includes contributions connected with theoretical issues in linguistics, historical linguistics, psycholinguistics, sociology of language, speech studies and foreign language teaching.

All papers included in the volume raise a number of important issues in the language studies, both of a theoretical as well as applied nature.

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