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Review Of "But, Only, Just: Focusing Adverbial Change In Modern English, 1500-1900" By T. Nevalainen

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many of the words; its goal is to find words that build CD structures, and then complete the structures by adding other words to them. The goal is not to capture every nuance of meaning, but merely to extract the most prominent information. FERRET builds CD structures by instantiating 'scripts' (canonical events or facts). This implies that FERRET contains considerable real-world knowledge, which is encoded in the scripts and the lexicon.

So far FERRET is much like Gerald De Jong's earlier FRUMP system. But FERRET has the ability to extend itself in two ways. First, on encountering an unfamiliar word, it can look in the online version of *Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary* and attempt to understand part of the definition. This is often enough to enable it to choose a suitable script. Second, FERRET can build new scripts by generalizing, specializing, or combining existing ones. To do this, it uses a genetic algorithm (a simulation of Darwininan evolution) and relies on the user to evaluate whether the right texts have been retrieved. Just like living organisms, scripts have progeny (the scripts that are derived from them), and the progeny either survive or get killed off depending on whether the human user says the right texts are being retrieved.

The performance of FERRET so far has been promising but imperfect; the main limitation is the small repertoire of scripts. Admittedly, FERRET was tested on rather difficult data—a set of texts about astronomy and some texts from the Dow Jones News Service. On more monotonous data, such as medical records, it could have performed much better. And even with its present limitations, FERRET has the potential to far outperform the simple keyword searches that are presently used to retrieve texts. [MICHAEL A. COVINGTON, *University of Georgia*.]

But, only, just: Focusing adverbial change in Modern English, 1500–1900. By TERTTU NEVALAINEN. (Mémoires de la Société Néophilologique de Helsinki.) Helsinki: Société Néophilologique, 1991. Pp. xiii, 314.

This is a study of *only* and its so-called synonyms. Nevalainen claims cognitive synonymy for this small class of words, and they are given

the rubric of exclusive focusing adverbs. The book is organized into three parts. Part 1 ('Linguistic background of the study', 1–88), which comprises two chapters, discusses how one can describe the class synchronically. This discussion is among the best I have seen anywhere. In Ch. 2 ('Linguistic properties of the focusing adverbial category', 31–88) N outlines ways in which these words can be used to emphasize the truth value of the proposition they are associated with. N points out that these adverbs focus on a scale and typically react to the scale. For example, *only* excludes 'any values higher than the focus value', while *even* 'marks the focus contextually as an extreme on a scale' (59). N shows that scalarity is purely evaluative and is, accordingly, affected by context. N also discusses whether or not these items are inherently scalar (some clearly seem to be), giving attention to the well-known distinction between scalar (or quantitative) and nonscalar (or qualitative) interpretations for a given lexical item in this class, as exemplified in contrasts such as:

(i) Brigitte Bardot is only pretty ('not beautiful').
(ii) Brigitte Bardot is only pretty ('not intelligent').

If homophony is at play here, one might call the scalar interpretation an intensifier and the nonscalar interpretation an exclusive focusing adverbial.

N notes that the morphosyntactic category of these lexical items is a controversial issue, arguing convincingly that they are best classified as adverbs. Part 2 ('Reconstructing the diachronic paradigm', 89–162), which is also comprised of two chapters, zeros in on the syntactic and semantic differences among the members of the class, despite their cognitive synonymy, distinguishing between central and marginal members of the paradigm. The more marginal members are semantically more substantive and can be modified, but the more central ones have been grammaticalized into the strict (although to varying degrees) function of giving exclusive focus. While the entire class can focus on NPs, only some of them can focus on verbals. N presents data from Old English briefly and then considers data more extensively from Middle English and on up through Present-day English, including a discussion of contextual interchangeability among *only, but,* and *merely*. In Ch. 4 ('The chronology of exclusive focusing adverbials', 123–62) N looks at fourteen specific

members of the class—*one, but, alone, only, alonely/lonely/all, purely, simply, barely, singly/singularly, solely, merely, exclusively, just,* and *uniquely*—with respect to their etymology, the process of grammaticalization, their main functional properties in relation to focus and scope, and their syntax.

Part 3 ('Variation analysis of the process of change', 163–265), which consists of five chapters, examines the predictability of the process of semantic change and its limitations. N looks at both extralinguistic and linguistic factors that affect change, arguing that three general tendencies characterize the process of semantic change for these adverbs: gradualness, flexible functional differentiation, and faster renewal of the inherently scalar prototypes than of the nonscalar ones. N points out that many factors of the paradigm are quite stable diachronically, including syntactic features as well as overall distributions of scope and focus properties.

This book is a contribution to diachronic linguistics, particularly to the issue of methodology for such studies. It is also of interest to anyone studying exclusive adverbs, in English or in other languages—where the semantic parallels among languages are obvious, but even the syntactic ones may be strong, as between English and the Romance languages. [DONNA JO NAPOLI, *Swarthmore College.*]

Diphthong dynamics: A cross-linguistic perceptual analysis of temporal patterns in Dutch, English, and German. By WILLEM J. M. PEETERS. Kampen, Netherlands: Mondiss, 1991. Pp. 365. Paper ƒ 45.00.

Peeters' monograph *Diphthong dynamics* investigates the hypothesis that differences in articulatory movements in the time domain characterize diphthongs across languages. The monograph is P's University of Utrecht dissertation. In six chapters P presents his hypotheses, extensively reviews the literature, describes the methods and results of his experiments, and draws some implications from his work.

The first chapter presents P's position. He rejects the view that diphthongs should be characterized by steady-state vowels as initial and final targets with a glide serving as a transition between the two. Instead, he proposes that

diphthongs are characterized by a planned articulatory movement in the time domain and that this trajectory may contain language-specific and distinctive temporal patterns (24). Ch. 2 surveys phonetic studies of diphthongs, separating work done before and after 1950. This date serves as a boundary between primarily mechanical vs. electronic instrumentation. The chapter includes descriptions of early instruments used for phonetics research and is interesting not only for the details of studies of diphthongs but also for the history of phonetics that it contains. The discussion of pre-1950 work focuses as much on experimental techniques as on findings.

Ch. 3 deals with experimental method; Chs. 4 and 5 present results of listening tests; and the final chapter summarizes the findings and offers some speculations about the perceptual processes responsible for diphthong identification. Since the work is a dissertation, it contains a wealth of detail about methods and results.

The experiment used synthesized diphthongs of the same overall duration but with different portions devoted to the onset steady-state vowel, the glide, and the offset steady-state vowel. The diphthongs /ai/ and /au/, the diphthongal long vowels /e(i)/ and /o(u)/, and the vowels in hiatus position were synthesized and presented to listeners in paired preference judgments in order to find the 'best diphthong' in each language. The listeners were speakers of Standard Dutch, English, northern German, and southern Standard German from Austria, termed Middle Bavarian. In addition, East Frisian listeners were tested.

The listening tests supported P's hypothesis in that listeners from various language groups prefer different time domain patterns within diphthongs. Listeners from the standard languages were most sensitive to diphthong glide durations. English listeners selected long complex vowels with longer onsets than Dutch listeners; listeners from the German dialects preferred monophthongs with the formant values of the offsets. East Frisian listeners did not agree on a 'best diphthong'. This may have been a function of the language, as P suggests, or it may show inconsistent influence of neighboring standard languages.

Even though the overall finding of different temporal preferences is supported, no one study resolves all the issues of phonetic categories, particularly crosslinguistically. P used the same spectral values for all diphthongs—although, as