Contents

1 Introduction 1

1.1 The contrastive programme 1
1.2 What our book is and what it is not 3
1.3 Establishing comparability 5
1.4 The structure of the book 6

2 Phonology I: Phoneme inventories 8

2.1 The consonants of English and German 8
2.1.1 Parameters of consonant classification 8
2.1.2 The inventories of consonants 10
2.1.3 Phonetic differences between phonologically corresponding consonants 14
2.2 The vowels of English and German 18
2.2.1 Parameters of vowel classification 18
2.2.2 The vowels of German 21
2.2.3 The vowels of English: Received Pronunciation 22
2.2.4 The vowel systems of English and German 24
2.2.5 Other varieties of English: GA and SSE 26

3 Phonology II: Phonotactics and stress 32

3.1 Syllable structure and phonotactic rules 32
3.1.1 The structure of the syllable 32
3.1.2 Distributional restrictions on phonemes 33
3.1.3 The Sonority Hierarchy 34
3.2 The syllable nucleus 35
3.3 The onset 36
3.3.1 An 'exceptional' segment: The prependix 36
3.3.2 Consonant clusters in the onset 37
3.4 The rhyme and the coda 39
3.4.1 An exceptional segment at the right syllable margin: The 'appendix' 39
3.4.2 The rhyme 40
3.4.3 Consonant clusters in the coda 40
3.4.4 The appendix 42
3.5 Stress assignment 43
3.5.1 External language history and stress 43
3.5.2 Words, syllables and affixes 45
3.6 Stress rules for mono-morphemic words 46

3.6.1 Disyllabic words 46
3.6.2 Trisyllabic words 49
3.7 Stress in morphologically complex words 52
3.7.1 Stress-neutral and stress-shifting suffixes 52
3.7.2 Stress-neutral and stressed prefixes 53

4 Inflectional morphology 55

4.1 Nouns and pronouns 55
4.1.1 The inflection of NPs in German 55
4.1.2 Plural formation in German 57
4.1.3 The inflection of pronouns in German 60
4.1.4 The inflection of pronouns and NPs in English 61
4.2 Adjectives 64
4.2.1 Adjectives in German 64
4.2.2 Adjectives in English 65
4.3 Verbs 68
4.3.1 The inflection of verbs in German 68
4.3.2 The inflection of verbs in English 70
4.4 Uses of the suffix *-ing* 71
4.4.1 Deverbal adjectives 72
4.4.2 The Progressive aspect 73
4.4.3 Adverbial participles 73
4.4.4 Gerunds 74
4.4.5 Non-finite relative clause 75
4.4.6 Action nominalizations 75
4.4.7 Deverbal prepositions 76
4.5 Summary 77

5 Tense and aspect 79

5.1 Introduction 79
5.2 Establishing comparability 81
5.3 Future time reference 83
5.3.1 Future time reference in German 83
5.3.2 Future time reference in English 84
5.4 The German *Perfekt* and the English Present Perfect 86
5.4.1 The German *Perfekt* 86
5.4.2 The English Present Perfect 88
5.4.3 Summary 90
5.5 Some remarks on aspect 91
5.6 Summary 95

6 Grammatical relations 98

6.1 Identifying grammatical relations in English and German 98
6.2 Encoding grammatical relations 101

6.2.1 Case marking and word order 101
6.2.2 Grammatical relations in ditransitive predications 102
6.2.3 Source and Recipient in predicates of transfer of possession .. 103
6.2.4 Prepositional and non-prepositional objects: Alternations, case and derivation 104
6.3 Case and semantic distinctions: Location vs. direction 106
6.4 The semantic versatility of grammatical relations 108
6.5 Summary of contrasts 109

7 Internal and external possessors 112

7.1 Introduction 112
7.2 Constraints on external possessors 113
7.2.1 Syntactic constraints 113
7.2.2 Constraints concerning the possessor 114
7.2.3 Constraints concerning the possessum 115
7.2.4 Constraints on predicates 116
7.3 Meaningful choices in German: External versus internal possessors .. 117
7.4 Implicit possessors 119
7.5 Historical remarks and summary 120

8 Voice: Active and passive 122

8.1 Basic concepts 122
8.2 Passivization in English 124
8.2.1 Monotransitive verbs 124
8.2.2 Passive auxiliaries 125
8.2.3 Ditransitive verbs 126
8.2.4 Passivization of prepositional verbs 127
8.2.5 Directional complements and locative adjuncts 128
8.2.6 Multi-word predicates 129
8.3 Passivization in German 130
8.3.1 Accusative objects and dative objects 130
8.3.2 Intransitive verbs 131
8.4 The middle voice 132
8.4.1 Basic properties of the middle voice 132
8.4.2 Constraints on verbs 134
8.4.3 The distribution of middle constructions in German 136
8.5 Summary of contrasts 136

9 Reflexivity and intensification 139

9.1 Introduction 139
9.2 The use of *self*-forms in English 140
9.3 The use and meaning of intensifiers 143
9.3.1 The adnominal use of intensifiers 143
9.3.2 The adverbial uses of intensifiers 144

9.4 Reflexive use of *sich* in German 145
9.5 Some further English-German contrasts 148
9.5.1 Inventory of forms 148
9.5.2 'Non-reflexive' uses of reflexive pronouns 148
9.5.3 Contextual constraints 152
9.6 On the historical development of reflexives 154
9.7 Summary and explanation 156

10 Word order and sentence types 159

10.1 The basic word order of English 160
10.1.1 Intransitive and monotransitive sentences 160
10.1.2 Sentences with ditransitive predicates 162
10.2 The basic word order of German 164
10.2.1 Main clauses and subordinate clauses 164
10.2.2 Constituent order within the German Middle Field 167
10.3 Inversion vs. verb-first and verb-second structures 169
10.3.1 Inversion to encode mood distinctions 169
10.3.2 Inversion after 'negative adverbials' 172
10.3.3 Inversion in direct speech 173
10.3.4 Presentational constructions 175
10.4 The order of adverbials and the position of negation 176
10.4.1 Adverbials 176
10.4.2 Negation 178
10.5 The structure of the noun phrase 179
10.6 Summary of major contrasts 181

11 Wh-movement and relativization 186

11.1 Introduction 186
11.2 Wh-movement 187
11.2.1 Wh-movement within clauses 187
11.2.2 Wh-movement across clause boundaries 190
11.2.3 Summary: Wh-movement in English and German 193
11.3 Relative clause formation 193
11.3.1 Relativization and movement 194
11.3.2 Inventories of relative markers 195

12 Non-finite subordination 201

12.1 Introduction 201
12.2 Raising 203
12.2.1 Raising in English 203
12.2.2 A comparison of English and German 205
12.3 Control verbs and non-finite complements 207
12.3.1 Subject control verbs 207
12.3.2 Object control verbs 209

12.3.3 Control shift 210
12.3.4 Summary 211
12.4 Adverbial participles and absolute participles 211

13 Contrasts in the lexicon 217

13.1 Problems of translation 217
13.2 Content words 219
13.2.1 Nouns 220
13.2.2 Adjectives 221
13.2.3 Verbs 224
13.3 Function words 229
13.3.1 Minor classes of pronouns 230
13.3.2 Focus particles 237
13.3.3 Modal particles 245

14 Generalizations and explanations 250

14.1 Two questions 250
14.2 Towards some generalizations 251

Answers and solutions 258

List of references 269

Sources 281

Author index 282

Subject index 285