Contents

List of figures and tables ix
To readers xi

1 Historical pragmatics: Communicative patterns of the past 1
1.1 Introduction 1
1.2 The *scope of* pragmatics 2
1.3 Recent paradigm changes in pragmatics and in historical linguistics 5
1.4 Communicative patterns of the past 9
Exercises 10
Further reading 12

2 The widening perspectives of the digital era: Data in historical pragmatics 13
2.1. Introduction 13
2.2 The 'digital turn' in the humanities 14
2.3 Recent developments 18
2.4 Pragmatics of early speech recordings 26
2.5 Conclusions 27
Exercises 29
Further reading 30

3 Excavating usage patterns: Methods in historical pragmatics 31
3.1 Introduction 31
3.2 How are research questions translated into methods? 32
3.3 Qualitative studies 38
3.4 Corpus linguistics and historical pragmatics 41
3.5 Different types of corpora, research questions, and suitable methods 43
3.6 Applications of corpus-linguistic methods 46
3.7 A possible research agenda 49

3.8 Future prospects 50
Exercises 51
Further reading 52

4 'Lo, which a greet thyng is affecciouni': Discourse markers and interjections 54
4.1 Introduction 54
4.2 Definitions: Discourse markers and interjections 55
4.3 Genre-specific developments 58
4.4 Two case studies: *Oh!* and *Alas!* 64
4.5 Conclusions 70
Note 70
Exercises 71
Further reading 72

5 'For I thou thee, thou Traitor': Terms of address 73
5.1 Introduction 73
5.2 An overview of pronominal and nominal address terms 74
5.3 Old English 76
5.4 Middle English 77
5.5 Early Modern English 83
5.6 Present-day English 87
5.7 Conclusions 88
Exercises and research projects 88
Further reading 91

6 'No one can flatter so prettily as you do': Speech acts 92
6.1 Speech act theory: From philosophical reflections to corpus searches 92
6.2 Typical patterns, IFIDs and metacommunicative expressions 94
6.3 From 'God be with you' to 'goodbye' 96
6.4 Promises 99
6.5 Directives 102
6.6 Insults and compliments 105
6.7 Conclusions 108
Note 109
Exercises 109
Further study 111
Further reading 111

7 'For your curteisie': Forms of politeness and impoliteness 113
7.1 Introduction 113
7.2 Approaches to the study of politeness and impoliteness 114
7.3 Old English: Mutual obligation, kinship loyalty, *caritas* and *humilitas* 116
7.4 Middle English: *Curteisie* 119
7.5 Early Modern English: Positive and negative politeness 121
7.6 Present-day English 125
Notes 127
Exercises 127
Further study 129
Further reading 129

8 The pragmatics of language change: Grammaticalisation and pragmaticalisation 130
8.1 Can we find regularities in the way in which language changes? 130
8.2 Grammaticalisation 131
8.3 Pragmaticalisation 134
8.4 Conclusions 143
Exercises 143
Further study 144
Further reading 145

9 'Take a pounde of sugir and halfe a pounde of tendir roses lyues . . .': Genres and text types 146
9.1 Introduction 146
9.2 Finding one's way through the maze 147
9.3 A two-tier model 148
9.4 Genres as communication 151
9.5 Shopping for an eclectic methodology for historical studies 153
9.6 Case studies of genres 156
Exercises 159
Further reading 163

10 'I pray thee friend Humfrey, what is phisicke?': Scientific and medical discourse 164
10.1 Introduction 164
10.2 Science and pseudo-science 166
10.3 Science and the changing world view 168
10.4 From the shadows of Latin to the Royal Society 169

10.5 Attitudes to the vernacular 173
10.6 Dissemination and appropriation of scientific knowledge 174
10.7 Conclusion 178
Exercises 179
Further reading 182

11 'By letters from Riga we have advice': Historical news discourse 183
11.1 Introduction 183
11.2 Early beginnings: The revolution of the printing press 184
11.3 The newspaper revolution in the seventeenth century 187
11.4 Structuring the news 190
11.5 Recent trends: The internet revolution 195
11.6 Outlook 197
Exercises 197
Further reading 199

12 'Fire! Help! Sir Walter has studied till his Head's on fire': Narrative patterns and historical pragmatics 200
12.1 What are narratives and how are they relevant to historical pragmatics? 200
12.2 Fairy tales and their analysis 201
12.3 Natural narratives and prototypical story-telling structures 207
12.4 Culturally salient underlying influences 211
12.5 Conclusion: At the crossroads 213
Exercises 214
Further reading 217

Corpora and other electronic data sources 218
References 220
Index 234