Contents

List of figures ix

List of abbreviations x

1 Introduction 1

2 The structural development of English
1 *Introduction* 2
2 *Spelling* 2
2.1 *Complementation and losses* 2
2.2 *Development of digraphs* 2
2.3 *Other French influences and effects of legibility* 3
2.4 *Disuse of allographs* 3
2.5 *Other functionalizations* 3
2.6 *Conflicting objectives* 4
2.7 *Summary* 4
3 *The sound system* 4
3.1 *Types of phonological change* 4
3.1.1 *Merger* 5
3.1.2 *Split* 5
3.1.3 *Loss* 5
3.1.4 *Shift* 5
3.1.5 *Summary* 5
3.2 *Distributions* 6
3.3 *Word stress* 6
3.4 *Causes of sound change* 6
4 *Inflexion* 6
4.1 *Nominal inflexion* 6
4.2 *Verbal inflexion* 7
4.2.1 *Personal endings* 7
4.2.2 *Tense formation* 7
4.3 *Interpretation* 8
5 *Word formation* 9
5.1 *Introduction* 9
5.2 *Old English* 9
5.3 *Middle English* 10
5.4 *Early Modern English* 10
5.5 *Late Modern English to 2000* 10
5.6 *Summary* 10
6 *Syntax* 11
6.1 *Introduction* 11
6.2 *OE and ME* 11

6.3 *Early Modern English* 12
6.4 *Late Modern English (to 2000)* 13
7 *Lexis* 14
7.1 *Introduction* 14
7.2 *Old English* 15
7.3 *Middle English* 15
7.4 *Early Modern English* 15
7.5 *Late Modern English* 16
7.6 *Summary* 16
8 *Style* 16
9 *Conclusion* 16

3 Some reflexions on corpus linguistics
1 *Introduction* 18
1.1 *Corpus-based statements in the philological tradition* 18
1.2 *Limitations of the traditional approach* 20
2 *Modern corpora* 21
3 *Historical corpora* 22
3.1 *Introduction* 22
3.2 *Limitations: text-type classification* 23
3.3 *Limitations: size of corpora* 24
4 *Conclusions* 25

4 Linguistic problems of editing
1 *Introduction* 28
2 A *Beowulf* crux: *wundini golde* 28
3 *Two Chaucer cases:* General Prologue '*armee*' *and* '*Aprill*' 29
4 *A fictive case of quasi-Chaucerian English* 30
5 *A fossil form in an early 16th-century text* 31
6 *Scottish and English: What language did James I write?* 31
7 *Renaissance spelling problems* 32
8 *Grammatical arguments in the edition of EModE authors* 33
9 *Problems with ModE varieties* 35
10 *Editing non-standard varieties* 35
11 *Conclusion* 36

5 Terms designating text types and the history of English
1 *Introduction* 37
2 *Polysemy* 39
2.1 *Processes, speech acts and genre classification* 39
2.2 *Polysemy and phraseological disambiguation* 40
2.3 *Polysemy arising from repeated borrowing* 43
2.4 *Distinction of form and meaning – the EModE* **recipe** 44
2.5 *Words drifting out of the field of designations for text types* 45

3 *Development towards precision* 45
3.1 *Introduction* 45
3.2 *An old name and a new text type: the advertisement* 45
4 *Encyclopaedic changes without effect on meaning* 46
4.1 *Introduction* 46
4.2 *Three items: the dedication, advertisement and cooking recipe* 46
4.3 *Summary* 47

6 The place of rhetoric in 18th-century discussions of (correct, good) English
1 *Introduction* 48
2 *18th-century English stylistic ideals* 50
2.1 *Introduction* 50
2.2 *The stylistic status of words* 52
2.3 *The critique of poetic diction and figures of speech* 52
2.4 *Appropriate prose style* 57
3 *Epilogue* 58

7 Conceptual and semantic change in the history of English
1 *Basic assumptions* 59
2 *Methods of semantic analysis* 60
3 *Reasons for change* 64
4 *Disguised diachronic relations* 69
5 *Changes in other languages and repeated borrowings* 69
6 *Conclusion* 69

8 The translation of Medieval and Renaissance texts
1 *Introduction: Is there a science of translation?* 71
2 *Contrastive linguistics (CL)* 72
2.1 *Introduction* 72
2.2 *Syntax* 72
2.3 *Lexis* 74
2.4 *Style* 76
3 *The translation of older texts in the same language* 78
3.1 *Introduction* 78
3.2 *Translation of texts from earlier periods of the same language* 79
3.2.1 *Old English poetry* 79
3.2.2 *Translations of ME texts* 81
3.2.3 *Shakespeare in Present-day English?* 86
4 *Backward translations against the time* 88
5 *Summary* 92

9 Attitudes towards BrE dialects in the 19th century
2 *The erosion of dialect* 101
3 *Dialect literature* 104
4 *The question of Cockney* 109

10 English grammar and grammarians in the 19th century
1 *Introduction* 113
2 *Numbers of grammars* 114
3 *Structural features and developments* 118
4 *The continuation of Latin grammar and the impact of German grammarians* .. 119
5 *The value of 19th-century grammars as evidence of language history* 120

11 The challenge of New Englishes for historical linguistics
1 *Introduction* 125
2 *England* 125
3 *Scotland* 126
4 *Ireland* 126
5 *The United States* 127
5.1 *Colonial levelling* 127
5.2 *Colonial lag and innovation* 128
5.3 *Language contact* 129
5.4 *Divergence and convergence* 130
5.5 *Canada* 130
6 *The Caribbean* 131
7 *West Africa* 131
8 *South Africa* 132
9 *South Asia* 132
10 *Singapore and Malaysia* 133
11 *The Philippines* 133
12 *Australia and New Zealand* 133
13 *Summary* 134

12 A critical bibliography of English historical linguistics 135

13 References 158

14 Indexes 172

List of figures

Fig.1: Tense marking in OE and PDE 8
Fig.2: Componential analysis of fifteen text types 38
Fig.3: Analysis of seven religious text types 38
Fig.4: A frequency comparison of related verbs and nouns in the field of text types 41
Fig.5: Referential, conceptual and semantic stability and change 64
Fig.6: The first part of the OE *Seafarer* and four modern translations 81
Fig.7a: Chaucer's *General Prologue* and eight modern translations 84
Fig.7b: Retentions and translation equivalents in renderings of a passage from Chaucer's *General Prologue* 85
Fig.8: A passage from Shakespeare's *Hamlet* compared with the modernized version in Durband 87
Fig.9: A passage of a PDE translation by W. Arndt of the beginning of the fourth prank of *Max and Moritz* by W. Busch compared with renderings into rhymed OE, ME and EModE 91
Fig.10: In-migration in the period of early industrialization 100