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Glottometrics 14, 2007 (including abstracts)

Ludmila Uhlířová,

Word frequency and position in sentence

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Abstract. The author hypothesizes that in sentences, there exist positional intervals in which some frequency rhythm is manifested, and applying various techniques and tests she finds relevant arguments in favour of this hypothesis. Data from Bulgarian texts are used.

Sergey Andreev,

Some properties of a metalinguistic verbal system

(in the metalanguage of the Macmillan English Dictionary's defining vocabulary)

21-31

Abstract. The study of metalanguage in linguistics has shifted from largely theoretical to more practical questions. In trying to achieve a more precise, universal and objective way of defining the meanings of lexical units, compilers of many dictionaries have started to work out 'defining vocabularies'. These are characterized by such features as a relatively short and closed list of elements, and the capability of expressing the various shades of meanings of all the lexical units in a language. Systems of 'defining vocabulary' actually represent empirically devised metalanguages which possess certain features of the natural languages from which they have been created, but at the same time differ from those natural languages, because they describe an already existing linguistic system.

The paper deals with (1) the predictive relevance of formal characteristics, singled out at different linguistic levels, for choosing words for the metalanguage and (2) a comparison of the relationship between the characteristics in a metalanguage and in the natural language from which that metalanguage was derived. The study is based on the verbal systems of the English language and the defining vocabulary in the Macmillan English Dictionary (2002). Correlation analysis (the coefficients of Cole for alternative characteristics and Jaccard) is used in the study.

Karl-Heinz Best

Quantitative Untersuchungen zum deutschen Wörterbuch

32-45

Abstract. This paper deals with some properties of the German lexicon. The purpose of the paper is to present some further data concerning morphs, syllables, parts of speech, and borrowings and to show that entities and processes in the lexicon abide by language laws, too.

Svitlana Kiyko

Wortlängen im Weißrussischen

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Abstract. The aim of this paper is to show that word lengths in Belorussian texts follow the hyper-Poisson distribution.

Ioan-Iovitz Popescu, Karl-Heinz Best, Gabriel Altmann,

On the dynamics of word classes in text

58-71

Abstract: In this study, the distributions of certain parts of speech, especially auxiliaries, is investigated. Using the definition of the *h*-point, we define the thematic concentration of the text and introduce the concentration unit *tcu*.

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