

that sets this grammar apart from others that follow more traditional approaches. Organized in three parts. Part I, 'A guide to the use of this book', Part II, 'Grammar in use', and Part III, 'A-Z in English grammar', it provides the ESL/EFL student with a brief road map to the book in Part I, 'the communicative choices that grammar offers' in Part II, and 'the structural grammatical choices through which communication is channeled' in Part III (8).

Part I (1-35) gives a comprehensive, albeit rather obscure, explanation of how the book is organized, what to find where, and the focus of each section. The amount of detail included in the explanations combined with a rather unimaginative layout in black and white render Part I rather unclear.

Part II (37-211) justifies the title of the book. According to the authors, 'The question it tries to answer . . . is: Given that I want to communicate certain meanings in certain situations or contexts, which grammatical forms and structures can I use?' (6). The four sections in Part II—'Concept'; 'Information, reality and belief'; 'Mood, emotion and attitude'; and 'Meanings in connected discourse'—successfully explain the semantics and pragmatics of language use to nonnative speakers. The items explained in this section are cross-referenced with other items both in this part and in Part III.

Complementary to Part II, Part III (213-403) is a comprehensive description of grammatical items such as adjective patterns, main verbs, and word classes. The items in this section are cross-referenced with the most relevant sections of *A comprehensive grammar of the English language* (1985 Longman), also by Geoffrey Leech and Jan Svartvik. Traditional as the approach to Part III is, this part contains brief explanations that constitute an effective reference source for the student.

Although the book fulfills its goals as a descriptive grammar of English with a strong semantic and pragmatic component, the teacher and student of American English should be cautioned that the default variety used and explained is British English. Where differences exist between British and American English, an explanation of American English is provided. In addition, when the dialectal differences merit an explanation, there are also references to other varieties such as Australian English. The default spelling used is British, and the phonetic transcriptions used are IPA.

The layout of the book is not terribly imagina-

tive. Printed in black and white, it relies mostly on font type, boldfacing, and italics to differentiate among different types of entries and among different parts of individual entries. Poor use is made of white space, relying mostly on indentation. Overall, the layout conveys meaning adequately to the reader; however, the book would fare poorly compared to other educational publications on the market nowadays in which page layout is closely interwoven with the pedagogical concerns of publication.

Definitely communicative and comprehensive, the book may be an asset for an ESL/EFL teacher of British English; however, given the dialectal differences, teachers of American ESL/EFL should be cautious about using it in their classes. [GABRIEL DECIO, *McHenry County College*.]

Issues in the structure of Arabic clauses and words. By ABDELKADER FASSI FEHRI. (Studies in natural language and linguistic theory, 29.) Dordrecht: Kluwer.

Seeing only the title of this book, the reader might think that it was of limited interest to researchers outside the fields of Semitic morphology and syntax. However, there is much in this work to hold the attention of non-Semiteists. It will interest syntacticians who work on any VSO language and those who work more generally on the syntax and semantics of tense, agreement, and the structure of NPs, as well as people interested in a general survey of topics in Arabic syntax and morphology.

Fassi Fehri is working under the generative Principles and Parameters approach to syntax, and Ch. 1 provides an outline of the basic assumptions and principles of this approach. In Ch. 2, FF deals with issues in word order derivation. Standard Arabic (SA) is a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO)/Verb-Subject-Object (VSO) alternating language. FF argues that these two orders can only be derived via the raising of the verb to the highest functional category under C⁰ (Agr⁰). He notes that SVO order arises only when the verb bears rich agreement (number, person, gender), whereas VSO order appears with poor agreement on the verb (gender only). On the basis of this observation FF proposes an AGR-criterion, which licenses the various word orders.

He further concludes that Agr in languages allowing VS order is 'nominal' rather than verbal in character. The evidence for this comes from auxiliary structures, ECM constructions, and nominative case assignment. FF closes the second chapter with two appendices—one on SA morphology, the other on the characterization of the various inflectional categories in an expanded INFL model. In the third chapter, FF discusses the status of pronouns and agreement in SA. He notes that, like the Celtic languages, SA disallows the cooccurrence of overt subject pronouns with rich agreement. He derives this fact from an incorporation analysis of SA pronouns, arguing against a pro-drop or inflectional analysis of the pronoun-agreement complementarity. In Ch. 4, FF discusses the syntax and semantics of temporal and aspectual categories in SA. He claims that the traditional aspect-only model of Arabic grammar is insufficient and that a full range of tenses, aspects, and moods is motivated for the language. He also argues for a bitemporal analysis of clauses in which there are two complete temporal complexes and presents arguments that participles are deverbal but adjectives are not. In the final chapter, FF discusses inflection within the noun phrase. He argues for a complex DP structure with two inflectional categories between the D⁰ and N⁰ heads: Agr⁰ and Poss⁰. He claims that there is parallel movement of arguments and heads within the DP to the movement of arguments and heads within the CP/IP system.

FF is to be commended for his attempt to bridge the gap often found between traditional grammarians and generative syntacticians—he frequently explains how the two approaches complement each other.

Occasionally, the theoretical technology that FF presents could easily strike the reader as baroque. Take for example, his explanation of the lack of determiners on the head noun in construct state nominals. In the generative literature, many authors claim that head nouns have raised to D⁰. The appearance of N in D⁰ thus explains the lack of an overt lexical determiner. FF has ALL nouns raising to D⁰, whether they allow a determiner or not. He explains the complementarity of determiners and construct state nouns with the stipulation that 'AGR in D does not occur with lexical determiners' (231). It would seem to me that by making this move, he has lost one of the fundamental motivations for movement of nouns to D⁰. This kind of detail aside, however, FF provides a wealth of data

that are not easily dealt with in more standard approaches, and the thoroughness with which he approaches his topic make this book a useful reference piece for any syntactician. [ANDREW CARNIE, *University of California, Santa Cruz*.]

Die nomina agentis auf -tar- im Vedischen. By EVA TICHY. Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag C. Winter, 1995. Pp. viii, 416.

A revised and enlarged version of Tichy's 1988 Marburg University *Habilitationsschrift*, this work attempts to address exhaustively the relation between Vedic (Old Indian) -tār- and -tar-nomina agentis suffixes and to offer some theoretical considerations about Vedic and IE nominal accent as a guideline for future investigation.

The deverbative -tar-formations in Vedic had two different inflections called by T (1) 'akroton' and (2) 'hysteroton'. The first type (*dātār-*) is always accented on the root: ACC. *hōtāram*, DAT. *hōtre*; the second one (*dātār-*) has an accent variation between suffix and ending: ACC. *stotāram*, DAT. *stotrē*. As for the examples which show no accent (few Vedic words are accented), it is possible to see to which class each name belongs because class 1 (*dātār-*) has verbal rection, i.e. constructed with the ACC.; and class 2 (*dātār-*) has nominal rection, i.e. constructed with the GEN. While several theories have been developed to explain the function of the shifting accent of the nouns in -tar- and also its syntactic use, scholars have never before undertaken exhaustive philological research and analysis of the functions of these formations.

The book is organized into a comprehensive introduction (which explains the aim of the work and sets out clearly the problems and the material to be studied in the following pages), three chapters, and a conclusion. In Ch. 1, T sets out the 'morphologische und syntaktische Eigenschaften' ('morphological and syntactical properties'). This detailed analysis deals with defining aspects and some grammatical questions of the nomina agentis in -tar-: (1) derivation, (2) accent, (3) inflection, (4) motion, (5) neutra, (6) comparison, (7) attributive use, (8) composition, and (9) syntactic construction.

The second chapter examines in several sections the 'Verwendung und Funktion' ('use and function') of the -tar-formations. T examines