

## A bibliographic approach to the study of 18thc English grammars

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### Alston's *Bibliography - English Grammars*

This volume is devoted **exclusively** to English grammars written in English by Englishmen, Americans, and in one or two cases foreigners, as well as a very few grammars written in Latin by native speakers.

[...] the following **sorts of books** are **specifically excluded** here: (1) spelling-books containing abstracts of grammar; (2) miscellaneous works, epistolary manuals, &c., containing brief grammars; (3) dictionaries containing grammars; (4) polyglot grammars; (5) grammars of English written in foreign languages, as well as grammars written in Latin by foreigners and published abroad.

(Alston 1965:I.xiv)

## Research Questions

- Which are the English grammars Alston included in Volume I of his *Bibliography*?
- Which are the 18thc grammars excluded by Alston?
- Has any other (earlier or later) scholar investigated those excluded grammars in Alston?
- Which are the 18thc grammars most commonly studied by scholars?
- ...

## A bibliographic approach ...

- | What has been done   | What is to be done                            |
|--|---|
| ■ core studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Kennedy 1927</li><li>■ Leonard 1929</li><li>■ Poldauf 1948</li><li>■ Alston 1965-74 [bibliog]</li><li>■ Alston EL series</li><li>■ Michael 1970</li><li>■ Michael 1987</li><li>■ Sundby et al. 1991</li><li>■ Mitchell 2001</li></ul> | ■ bibliography of primary sources (18thc EGr) |
| ■ ECCO   | ■ unique primary sources                      |
|  | ■ excluded primary sources                    |
|  | ■ secondary sources in our core studies       |

## Core studies

■ **Definition:** The scholarly works from which we have drawn the bibliographic references of our primary sources.

### • Three groups

(i) Scholarly studies

(ii) bibliographies

(iii) collections/facsimiles/reprints

## (i) Scholarly studies

- Leonard, Sterling A. (1929). *The doctrine of correctness in English usage 1700-1800*.
- Poldauf, Ivan (1948). *On the history of some problems of English grammar before 1800*.
- Michael, Ian (1970). *English grammatical categories and the tradition to 1800*.
- Michael, Ian (1987). *The teaching of English from the sixteenth century to 1870*.
- Sundby, Bertil, Anne Kari Bjorge and Kari E. Haugland (1991). *A Dictionary of English Normative Grammar 1700-1800*.
- Mitchell, Linda C. (2001). *Grammar Wars. Language as cultural battlefield in the 17th- and 18th-century England*.

## (ii) Bibliographies

■ Kennedy, Arthur G. (1927). *A bibliography of writings on the English language from the beginning of printing to the end of 1922*.

• **Addenda/Corrigenda** by Gabrielson, Arvid (1929). Professor Kennedy's 'Bibliography of writings in English language'. A review with a list of additions and corrections.

## (ii) Bibliographies

- Kennedy, Arthur G. (1927). *A bibliography of writings on the English language from the beginning of printing to the end of 1922*.
- Alston, R.C. (1965). *A bibliography of the English language from the invention of printing to the year 1800*.
  - *Volume I. English grammars written in English and English grammars written in Latin*.

## (ii) Bibliographies

- Alston. *A bibliography of the English language*
  - Volume I. *English grammars written in English and English grammars written in Latin*. Leeds: Arnold & Son. (1965)
  - Volume II. *Polyglot dictionaries and grammars*. (1967)
  - Volume III. *Old English, Middle English, early Modern English, miscellaneous work* (1970)
  - Volume IV. *Spelling books* (1967)
  - Volume V. *The English dictionary* (1966)
  - Volume VI. *Rhetoric, style, elocution, prosody, rhyme, pronunciation ...* (1969)
  - Volume VII. *Logic, philosophy, epistemology, universal language* (1967)
  - Volume VIII. *Treatises on short-hand* (1966)
  - *Supplement with addenda and corrigenda*. Printed for the author at the University of Leeds, 1973.

## (iii) Collections/facsimiles/reprints

- Alston, R.C. *English linguistics 1500-1800. Facsimile reprint series*.
- ECCO = *Eighteenth-Century Collections Online*. [Farmington Hills, Michigan] Gale Group.

⇒ "ECCO"

⇒ "ECCO other"

works containing English grammars excluded from the search, but available in the collection

66 entries in our database

## Selection Criteria

- have based to a large extent their research in English grammars written between 1700-1800
- cover at least the period 1700-1800
- offer bibliographical details of 18th-century English grammars
- are collections/reprints/facsimiles of 18th-century English grammars

Table 1. Core studies and selection criteria

	English grammatical tradition	period 1700-1800	bibliographical details	collections/reprints/facsimiles
Kennedy 1927		✓	✓	
Leonard 1929	✓	✓		
Poldauf 1948	✓	✓		
Alston 1965 (+ other vols.)	✓	✓	✓	
Alston EL series		✓		✓
Michael 1970	✓	✓		
Michael 1987	✓	✓		
Sundby et al. 1991	✓	✓		
Mitchell 2001	✓	✓		
ECCO		✓	✓	✓

Table 2. Selection according to the questionnaire

First sources consulted	
Alston <i>Bibliography</i>	XXXX
Alston EL series	XX
Leonard	XXX
Sundby et al.	X
} 6	
others	
Fleming, P. 1988. <i>Print history of Canada until 1850 (and complementary volume prior to 1800)</i>	
Finegan, E. (1998) "English grammar and usage", in Romaine, S. (ed.) <i>The Cambridge history of the English language</i> (vol. 3: 1476-1776), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 536-587.	

[where x = scholar]

Table 3. Selection according to the questionnaire

Other sources consulted	
Alston <i>Bibliography</i>	X
Alston EL series	X
Sundby et al.	XX
Michael 1970	XXX
Michael 1987	XX
Mitchell 2001	X

[where x = scholar]

Table 4a. Primary Sources - Selection Criteria in the core studies

	K. 1927	L. 1929	P. 1948	A. Bib+ EL series	M. 1970	M. 1987	DENG 1991	M. 2001	ECCO 2006
written in English	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	x
written by native speaker									
18thc									
contents									
type of work									
place of public.									
editions other than first									
female author									

"This volume is devoted exclusively to English grammars written in English ... as well as a **very few grammars written in Latin** by native speakers" (1965; preface to Vol. I, p.xiv)

Table 4a. Primary Sources - Selection Criteria in the core studies

	K. 1927	L. 1929	P. 1948	A. Bib+ EL series	M. 1970	M. 1987	DENG 1991	M. 2001	ECCO 2006
written in English	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	x
written by native speaker	v	v	v	v	v	v	v or naturalized speakers	v	x
18thc									
contents									
type of work									
place of public.									
editions other than first									
female author									

"The Dictionary material comes from works written by **native or naturalized English speakers.**" (Sundby et al. 1991:15)

Table 4a. Primary Sources - Selection Criteria in the core studies

	K. 1927	L. 1929	P. 1948	A. Bib+ EL series	M. 1970	M. 1987	DENG 1991	M. 2001	ECCO 2006
written in English	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	x
written by native speaker	v	v	v	v	v	v	v or naturalized speakers	v	x
18thc	to the end of 1922	1700-1800	by 1800	by 1800	by 1800	1571-1870	1700-1800	by 1800	1701-1800
contents	scientific study of English; grammatical usage	on the subject of the English language	English grammars term not defined	English grammars written in English by Englishmen	English grammar - at least parts of speech	English grammars parts of speech; verbs; syntax	Standard English grammar: sounds; spelling; grammar; syntax; improper expressions	'grammar' can mean anything from parts of speech to spelling and pronunciation	English grammars
type of work									
place of public.									
editions other than first									
female author									

Table 4a. Primary Sources - Selection Criteria in the core studies

	K. 1927	L. 1929	P. 1948	A. Bib+ EL series	M. 1970	M. 1987	DENG 1991	M. 2001	ECCO 2006
written in English	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	x
written by native speaker	v	v	v	v	v	v	v or naturalized speakers	v	x
18thc	to the end of 1922	1700-1800	by 1800	by 1800	by 1800	1571-1870	1700-1800	by 1800	1701-1800
contents	scientific study of English; grammatical usage	on the subject of the English language	English grammars term not defined	English grammars written in English by Englishmen	English grammar - at least parts of speech	English grammars parts of speech; verbs; syntax	Standard English grammar: sounds; spelling; grammar; syntax; improper expressions	'grammar' can mean anything from parts of speech to spelling and pronunciation	English grammars
type of work	varied	varied		English grammars and grammatical treatises	varied	varied	varied	varied	varied
place of public.									
editions other than first									
female author									

excluded spelling-books; miscellaneous works; dictionaries; polyglot grammars; written in foreign languages or in Latin by foreigners and published abroad (Alston 1965:1)

Table 4a. Primary Sources - Selection Criteria in the core studies

	K. 1927	L. 1929	P. 1948	A. Bib+ EL series	M. 1970	M. 1987	DENG 1991	M. 2001	ECCO 2006
written in English	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	x
written by native speaker	v	v	v	v	v	v	v or naturalized speakers	v	x
18thc	to the end of 1922	1700-1800	by 1800	by 1800	by 1800	1571-1870	1700-1800	by 1800	1701-1800
contents	scientific study of English; grammatical usage	on the subject of the English language	English grammars term not defined	English grammars written in English by Englishmen	English grammar - at least parts of speech	English grammars parts of speech; verbs; syntax	Standard English grammar: sounds; spelling; grammar; syntax; improper expressions	'grammar' can mean anything from parts of speech to spelling and pronunciation	English grammars
type of work	varied	varied	English grammars and grammatical treatises	varied	varied	varied	varied	Varied	varied
place of public.	Engl, Am Scot, Irel	Engl, Am Scot	Engl, Am Scot, Irel	Engl, Am Scot, Irel	Engl Scot, Irel	Engl, Am Scot, Irel	Engl, Am Scot, Irel	Engl, Am Scot, Irel	Engl, Am Scot, Irel
editions other than first	v (for important books)	Inconsistency	Inconsistency	v (consulted & cited)	v (consulted & cited)	v (consulted & cited)	v	v	v
female author	v	x	v	v	v	v	v	v	v

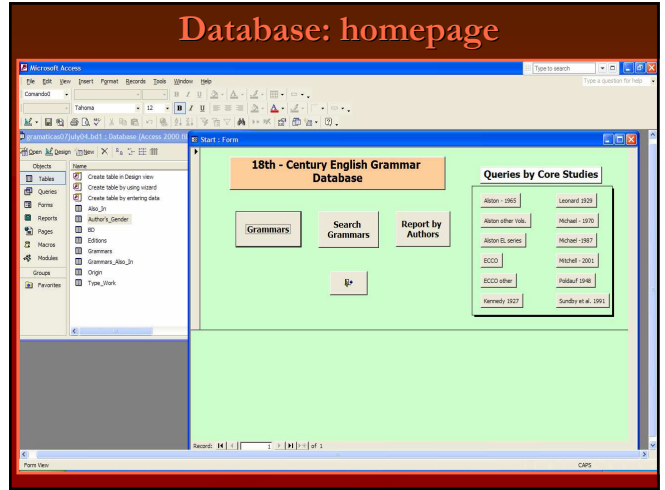
Table 4b. Selection Criteria in our dbase

criteria	
written in English	v
written by native speaker (naturalized speakers)	v
18thc	1700-1800
contents	parts of speech and/or syntax
type of work	varied
place of publication	Engl, Am Scot, Irel
editions other than first	v
female author	v

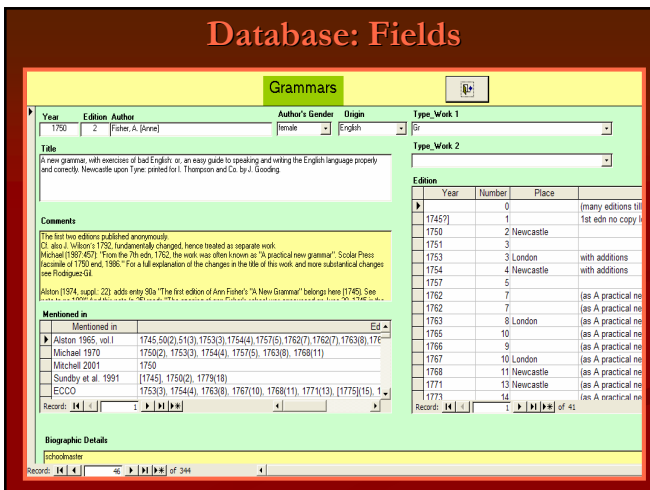
344 total number  
 ↓  
 200 distinct EGs  
 ↓  
 144 different types of work

# Database Description

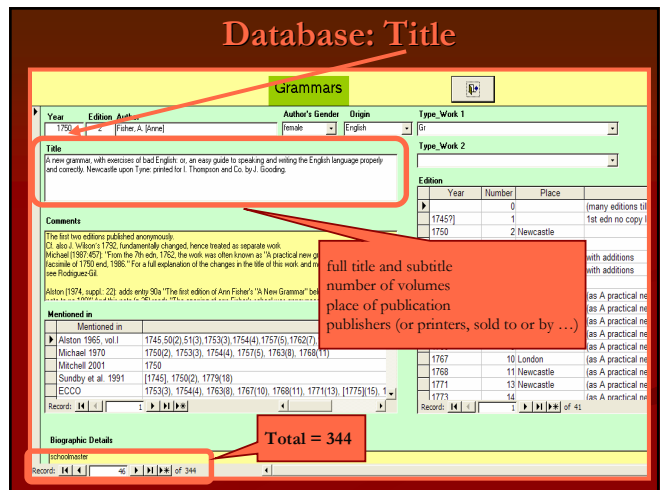
## Database: homepage



## Database: Fields



## Database: Title





## Database: Editions (II)

**'and many more editions' ...**  
 Dilworth ~ 140 editions  
 G. Fisher ~ 93 edns  
 Lowth, Entick, Ash, Fenning ~ +60  
 Johnson ~ +50

**year of publication  
number of edition  
place of publication**  
 description of that particular edition of that  
 particular year and place

**Places of publication ...**  
 England: over 50 places; London ~ 55%  
 Scotland: 5 places; Edinburgh ~ 6%  
 Ireland: 4 places; Dublin ~ 4%  
 Wales: 1 place  
 America: 25 places; Philadelphia ~ 5%, Boston ~ 5%  
 ...

**Description ...**  
 another, corrected, amended, abridged, enlarged, revised  
 ... edition, including combinations  
 American editions (if numbers different from British)  
 edition of a particular publisher  
 different title  
 no copy located ...

## Database: Editions (III)

**One for each 'core study'  
Year (edition)**

## Database: Comments

**title  
author  
contents of the work  
notes made by scholars  
our annotations  
inconsistencies amongst scholars**

### Table 5. Primary Sources in the Database

	Kennedy 1927	Leonard 1929	Poldauf 1948	Alston bibliog.	Alston EL	Michael 1970	Michael 1987	DENG 1991	Mitchell 2001	ECCO 2006
EGs	143 (42%)	57 (17%)	153 (44%)	312 (91%)	45 (13%)	241 (70%)	244 (71%)	162 (47%)	99 (29%)	215 (62%)
<b>TOTAL: 344 different EGs, ca. 1820 editions</b>										
unique	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; width: 45%;"> <p><b>14 works cited in all</b>                      Ash 1760, Bayly 1772, Buchanan 1762, Dilworth 1740, Gildon 1711, Greenwood 1711, Harrison 1777, Lane 1700, Murray 1795, Priestley 1761, H.Ward 1758, W.Ward 1765</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; width: 45%;"> <p><b>12 in all but one</b>                      [not in EL series] Anon 1745, Anon 1755, Buchanan 1753, Coote 1788, Farroe 1754, Fell 1784                       [not in Leonard 1929] Fenning 1771, Fisher 1750, Gough 1754                       [not in Mitchell 2001] Ussher 1785</p> </div> </div>									



Table 5. Primary Sources in the Database

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EGs	143 (42%)	57 (17%)	153 (44%)	312 (91%)	45 (13%)	241 (70%)	244 (71%)	162 (47%)	99 (29%)	215 (62%)
TOTAL: 344 different EGs, ca. 1820 editions										
unique	---	1 (1.8%)	1 (0.7%)	16 (5.1%)	---	6 (2.5%)	1 (0.4%)	---	---	7 (3.2%)
TOTAL: 32 EGs, 9.3%										

Anon 1750, Anon 1759, Anon 1768, Anon 1770, Anon 1773, Anon 1775, Anon 1776, Anon 1786, Anon 1796a, Anon 1796b, Anon 1797, Brown 1779, Brown 1789, Carter 1787, Chase 1792, Cousteil 1757, Dilworth 1758, Douglas 1720, Dyche 1732, Fenn 1798, Hall 1789, Hastings 1800, Jones 1769, Martin 1737, Mica 1793, Osborne 1785, Owen 1765, Seymour 1763, Turner 1783, Wild 1719, Williams 1780, Wilson 1797

## Summary & Conclusions

### Aspects for future presentations:

- description of other **scholarly** studies consulted
  - e.g. Vorlat, Beal, Görlach ...
- the analysis and description of the so-called ‘**unique**’ primary sources, mainly those in ECCO
  - e.g. Dilworth, Seymour and [Williams]
- the analysis of those primary sources we have **excluded** from our dbase
  - Johnson, Richard (1703a) *Grammatical commentaries: being an apparatus to a new national grammar.*
  - Badly, Anselm. 1758. *An introduction to languages, literary and philosophical; especially to the English, Latin, Greek and Hebrew.*
  - Sheridan, Thomas. 1762. *A Dissertation on the Causes of the Difficulties which occur, in Learning the English Tongue.*

## Summary & Conclusions

- a wealth of information compiled from the major works in the field and complemented with our own research
- Advantages:

- can be updated any time
- can always add a new field
- can perform individual searches depending on the field we are interested in, e.g. author, title, date, type of work, place of publication, gender

## Summary & Conclusions

This bibliography has a two-fold purpose:

to provide for all students of English a simple but complete book of reference, and, at the same time,

to assist those special students who may desire to follow the history of linguistic investigation in this field.

(Kennedy 1927:vii)