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)

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**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?
- ...

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**A bibliographic approach ...**

What has been done
- core studies
  - Kennedy 1927
  - Leonard 1929
  - Poldauf 1948
  - Alston 1965-74
  - Alston EL series
  - Michael 1970
  - Michael 1987
  - Sundby et al. 1991
  - Mitchell 2001
  - ECCO

What is to be done
- bibliography of primary sources (18thc EGr)
- 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**
  1. **Scholarly studies**
  2. **Bibliographies**
  3. **Collections/facsimiles/reprints**

(i) Scholarly studies


(ii) Bibliographies

  - Addenda/Corrigenda by Gabrielson, Arvid (1929). Professor Kennedy’s 'Bibliography of writings in English language'. A review with a list of additions and corrections.
- Volume I. *English grammars written in English and English grammars written in Latin*. 
(ii) Bibliographies

- ECCO = Eighteenth-Century Collections Online.


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 shorthand (1966)


(iii) Collections/facsimiles/reprints


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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>English grammatical tradition</th>
<th>period 1700-1800</th>
<th>bibliographical details</th>
<th>collections/reprints/facsimiles</th>
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<td>Smithy et al. 1991</td>
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Table 3. Selection according to the questionnaire

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<td>Michael 1987</td>
<td>XX</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mitchell 2001</td>
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Table 4a. Primary Sources - Selection Criteria in the core studies

- This volume is devoted exclusively to English grammars written in English as well as a very few grammars written in Latin by native speakers. (Sundby et al. 1991:15)

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

- 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

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<th>M.</th>
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Table 4b. Selection Criteria in our database

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Table 4b. Selection Criteria in our database

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<td>parts of speech and/or syntax/ varied</td>
<td>Eng, Am Scot, Irel</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>V</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Database Description

Database: homepage

Database: Fields

Database: Title

Full title and subtitle, number of volumes, place of publication, publishers (or printers, sold to or by ...)

Total = 344
Database: Type of Work

- Ch: Grammars for children
- D: Grammar prefixed to Dictionary
- Ea: Book of exercises
- FG: Grammars for foreigners
- Gr: English Grammar text book
- La: Language treatise
- Lat: Latin Grammar
- LeW: Letter writing manuals
- Misc: Miscellaneous
- MS: Manuscript
- RhE: Rhetorical or Elocution treatises
- Sch: School texts
- Sp: Spelling Book

Database: Author

- 55 authors with more than one work
- 30% known
- English
- Irish
- Scots
- Welsh
- American
- Foreigner

Database: Author's biographic details

- 70% with information
  - life dates
  - place of birth
  - places where they lived
  - occupation
  - network

Database: Year & Edition (I)

- Earliest extant edition – not necessarily first
- Popular years: 1768 (13), 1795 (11), 1765 (10)
Database: Editions (II)

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

Places of publication …
England: over 50 places; London ~ 55%
Scotland: 5 places; Edinburgh ~ 8%
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

Table 5. Primary Sources in the Database

14 works cited in all
Ash 1760, Bayly 1772, Buchanan 1762, Dilworth 1740, Gildon 1711,
Greenwood 1711, Harrison 1777, Lane 1700, Lowth 1762, Martineau 1712, Murray 1795, Priestley 1761,
H.Ward 1758, W.Ward 1765

12 in all but one
[just in EL series] Anon 1774s, Anon 1775s, Bushman 1773, Coote 1788,
Parro 1784, Fell 1784
[just in Leonard 1929] Fenning 1776, Fisher 1790, Gough 1754
[just in Mitchell 2001] Ussher 1785

TOTAL: 344 different EGs, ca. 1820 editions

TOTAL: 32 EGs, 9.3%

EGs

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<th>153 (44%)</th>
<th>312 (91%)</th>
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<th>241 (70%)</th>
<th>244 (71%)</th>
<th>49 (10%)</th>
<th>241 (70%)</th>
<th>45 (13%)</th>
<th>241 (70%)</th>
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[not in EL series] Anon 1774s, Anon 1775s, Bushman 1773, Coote 1788,
Parro 1784, Fell 1784
[just in Leonard 1929] Fenning 1776, Fisher 1790, Gough 1754
[just in Mitchell 2001] Ussher 1785

Table 5. Primary Sources in the Database
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</table>

TOTAL: 344 different EEs, ca. 1820 editions

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

- 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 database
  - 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.

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)