

## Jasper Willem Holmes

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## Work and Experience

- October 2002 to present. **Consultant** to various organisations, including the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES) and SoulSim Ltd. I have advised on curriculum design and marking schemes, contributed to an internet based dialogue application and carried out data work.
- September 2002 to February 2003. **Lecturer** in Linguistics at the University of Hertfordshire. I taught undergraduate courses in Historical Linguistics, Language Acquisition, Pragmatics and Discourse and Research Methods.
- November 2000 to March 2002. **Analyst** at 3f Ltd. I maintained and expanded the grammar used by a natural language parsing system that produces representations of both syntactic and semantic structure as part of a commercial QA application ([www.flexanswer.com](http://www.flexanswer.com)). A recent project involved using lexical semantic information (derived from the *Cambridge International Dictionary of English*) to resolve structural ambiguity. I was also responsible for quality control, running routine tests and introducing new testing procedures. I gained experience in a wide range of software platforms and utilities including HTML, XML, perl and SQL. Since leaving (due to redundancy) I have worked for a sister company in a freelance capacity, writing generation rules for an interactive dialogue system.
- June to October 1998-2002. **Consultant** to UCLES. I contribute to a Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) funded investigation into the use of language in Key Stage 1, 2 and 3 English examinations (SATs). The project involves preparing and applying frameworks for analysing the language used and the organisation of ideas (lexical, syntactic and discourse structure) in written

answers and processing and interpreting the results using ACCESS and SPSS. I am closely involved in all aspects, whether academic, technical or administrative, and personally produce the technical reports as well as sections of the final reports, which are published by QCA.

- September 1999 to August 2000. **Lecturer (UD)** in the English department at the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen. I taught courses, including MA courses, in theoretical linguistics (syntax, semantics, sociolinguistics), cultural issues and language skills and supervised students in individual research projects contributing towards the MA. I also participated in three series of research seminars (general linguistics, semantics, NLP) and followed a course in statistics.
- February 1999 to July 2000. **Consultant** to Dr Nik Gisborne at Hong Kong University, researching the development of verbs of perception in Old, Middle and Early Modern English, using the Helsinki Corpus on the ICAME cd-rom. I classified all examples of the relevant verbs according to their meaning and grammatical function and investigated the distribution of each class over time, text type etc.
- September to December 1998. **Teaching assistant** in the English department, King's College London. I assisted Dr Anna Round on the course *Introduction to Language*, preparing and presenting seminars for undergraduate students in English grammar and linguistics, style and sociolinguistics.
- In November 1998 I taught a number of classes in English as a foreign language on an individual basis at the Lillian Bishop School of English.
- April to July 1998. **Researcher/editor** for the Survey of English Usage at UCL. I worked on a computer database consisting of 1,000,000 words of parsed English, written and spoken, part of the International Corpus of English. I used ICE-cup, a custom made database management system, to edit the database for consistency and to amend the analysis where necessary.

- September 1996 to June 1998. **Teacher** in English as a foreign language at the College of Central London. I taught a variety of classes at all levels, from beginner to proficiency, and developed two classes from their first arrival (as beginners), finally preparing them for the (Cambridge) First Certificate in English examination.
- November 1994 to December 1997. **Research assistant** for the Technical Chamber of Greece. I collaborated on an EU funded trilingual (German, Greek, English) technical dictionary of terms from the field of energy generation and use, having sole responsibility for the English part. I wrote definitions for some 1300 terms and arranged them into a conceptual database.
- September 1994 to December 1996. **Teaching assistant** to Professor Richard Hudson at UCL. I assisted on two courses: *Foundations of English Grammar* and *Introduction to Word Grammar*. I prepared and presented lectures, classes and seminars in English grammar and syntactic theory to undergraduate students, and set and marked relevant exercises. In 1994 I attended the UCL training course, *Working with Small groups*.
- June 1993 to December 1994. **Director** of Tin Drum theatre company. I produced and directed work for the company, which I cofounded in 1993. We presented shows in fringe theatres in London and on tour. I have continued to be active in the theatre, appearing in 1997 and 1998 in *The Warp*, and in 1999 in *Makbed* (a Bislama translation of Macbeth), directed by Ken Campbell. I am working on two scripts with Blow Up Theatre.
- July to October 1994. **Researcher** for Schools Curriculum and Assessment Authority (SCAA, now called QCA). I investigated the use of Spoken Standard English among school pupils. I surveyed a sample of tapes from the 1988 APU oracy survey for evidence of non-standard usage. I identified thirty non-standard features and calculated the frequency of their use, as well as the frequency of use of the standard variant in each case. The results were published in a report (Hudson and Holmes 1995) and a journal article (Holmes 1996).

- Gap year and vacation employment includes computer data input and manipulation, statistical analysis, word-processing etc. Also light engineering, technical drawing and product design.

## **Qualifications**

- I am reading for a PhD in Linguistics at University College London (UCL), supervised by Dick Hudson. While in London I assumed responsibility for the organisation of a research group meeting weekly to discuss a variety of topics in linguistics. I selected readings and topics and coordinated speakers.
- 1993. BA Hons. Linguistics (1<sup>st</sup>). UCL.
- 1986. 3 'A' levels (French, German, Mathematics). St Paul's School, London.

## **Publications and Conference Papers**

- Jasper Holmes and Richard Hudson. 2002. 'Constructions in Word Grammar.' in J-O. Ostman and M. Fried eds. *Construction Grammar(s): cognitive and cross-language dimensions*.
- J. Holmes. 2001. *Words are constructions*. Paper given to the spring meeting of the LAGB special session on Construction Grammar, Leeds.
- J. Holmes and R. Hudson. 2000. *Just because X doesn't mean Y*. Paper given to the spring meeting of the LAGB, UCL.
- R. Hudson and J. Holmes. 2000. 'Re-cycling in the encyclopedia.' in B. Peeters ed. *The interface between lexicon and encyclopedia*. Elsevier. ISBN 0-08-043591-2

- J. Holmes. 1999c. 'The syntax and semantics of causative verbs.' *UCL Working Papers in Linguistics*, 323-348. ISSN 0956-7194
- J. Holmes. 1999b. *The resultative construction, a lexical semantic account*. Paper given to the International Cognitive Linguistics Conference, Stockholm.
- J. Holmes. 1999a. 'A new typology of verbs of motion.' *Papers in Linguistics from the University of Manchester*.
- J. Holmes. 1998b. *Making, becoming and doing*. Paper given to the autumn meeting of the LAGB, Luton.
- J. Holmes. 1998a. *Resultatives, a semantic account*. Paper given to the spring meeting of the LAGB, Lancaster.
- R. Hudson, A. Rosta, J. Holmes, N. Gisborne. 1996. 'Synonyms and syntax.' *Journal of Linguistics* 32, 439-446.
- J. Holmes. 1996. 'A study in standard English.' *Speech and Drama* 45.
- R. Hudson and J. Holmes. 1995. *Children's use of Spoken Standard English*. SCAA discussion paper.

## **Skills**

- I speak Dutch, French and German. I can also cook, sail and ride a bicycle.