

Geoffrey Neil Leech

PLIN041 Vývoj počítačové lingvistiky

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Czech Language with Orientation on Computational Linguistics
Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University

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Overview

- 1 Life
- 2 English grammar
- 3 Stylistics
- 4 Semantics and pragmatics
- 5 Corpus linguistics

Main points

- 16th Jan 1936 – 19th Aug 2014 England
- English language and linguistics
- main academic interests:
English grammar, corpus linguistics,
stylistics, pragmatics and semantics
- author, co-author or editor of over
30 books and over 130 published papers
- gifted pianist and organist



His life and career

- 1968 graduated from *University College London*
- 1964–5 Harkness Fellow at the *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*
- 1974–1996 Professor of English Linguistics at the *Lancaster University* (then emeritus)
- 1987 fellow of the *British Academy*
- 1987 member of the *Academia Europaea*
- honorary doctor of three universities (*Charles University*)

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English grammar

- co-author *A Grammar of Contemporary English* (R. Quirk, S. Greenbaum and J. Svartvik; 1972)

“fullest and most comprehensive synchronic description of English
ever written”

Journal of Linguistics, Vol. 11, No. 2 (Sep., 1975), p. 277

Stylistics

- *A Linguistic Guide to English Poetry* (1969)
 - rapprochement between the two approaches (linguistic x literary)
- *Style in Fiction* (with M. H. Short; 1981)
 - theory of prose style

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Semantics and pragmatics

- **Semantics: the Study of Meaning (1974/1981)**
- **Principles of Pragmatics (1983)**
 - six maxims of the politeness: tact, generosity, approbation, modesty, agreement, and sympathy
- **The Pragmatics of Politeness (2014)**

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Corpus linguistics

- 1977 with Quirk, Svartvik, Francis, Johansson founded the **International Computer Archive of Modern English (ICAME)**
- 1978 completed first corpus of British English the **Lancaster-Oslo/Bergen Corpus** (or the LOB Corpus)
- developed programs for the annotation of corpora (tagger CLAWS1 and parsers)
- in 1980s coined term *treebank*, cooperation with Geoffrey Sampson
- in 1990s a leading role in the compilation of the **British National Corpus (BNC)**

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Bibliography

Autobiography

[http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/doc_library/
linguistics/leechg/Autobiog.pdf](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/doc_library/linguistics/leechg/Autobiog.pdf)

Curriculum vitae

[http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/doc_library/
linguistics/leechg/CV.pdf](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/doc_library/linguistics/leechg/CV.pdf)

In memory of Geoffrey Leech

<http://wp.lancs.ac.uk/geoffreyleech/>
(source of the portrait)