

# Q

**qualia structure** /'kweɪliə/, singular **quale** /'kweɪli:/ In LEXICAL SEMANTICS, a mode of REPRESENTATION which builds on the logical connection between SENSES to arrive at a richer semantic representation for NOUNS and ADJECTIVES. The 'qualia' refer to modes of explanation for the object. This kind of approach is used to account for such matters as how a hospital can be both an institution and a building, or a window both an aperture and a physical object.

**qualification** (*n.*) A term used in SYNTAX to refer to certain types of STRUCTURAL DEPENDENCE of one grammatical UNIT upon another. In some TRADITIONAL GRAMMARS, for example, dependent ITEMS in a NOUN PHRASE (such as ADJECTIVES, PREPOSITIONAL phrases) were said to **qualify** the noun (act as **qualifiers**). In HALLIDAYAN grammar, on the other hand, the term is reserved for structures following the HEAD of the noun phrase: *the car in the street* would be analysed in terms of M–H–Q, standing for MODIFICATION–head–qualification.

**quality** (*n.*) (1) A term used in AUDITORY PHONETICS and PHONOLOGY to refer to the characteristic resonance, or TIMBRE, of a sound, which is the result of the range of FREQUENCIES constituting the sound's identity. Variations in both VOWELS and CONSONANTS are describable in terms of quality, e.g. the distinction between [i], [e], etc., would be called a **qualitative** difference. In this sense, the term 'quality' is generally opposed to QUANTITY or LENGTH. Voices are also described as having a characteristic 'quality' (see VOICE QUALITY).

(2) A term identifying one of the MAXIMS OF CONVERSATION: the **maxim of quality** states that a person's contribution to a conversation should ideally be true – for example, people should not say what they believe to be false.

**quantal theory** see QUANTUM

**quantifier** (*n.*) (Q) A term used in SEMANTIC or logical analysis, referring to a set of ITEMS which express contrasts in quantity, such as *all*, *some*, *each*. The status of some of these items has particular significance in the construction of logical systems, and the distinctions made in logic between **universal quantification** (i.e. 'for all X, it is the case that . . .') and **existential quantification** (i.e. 'for some X, it is the case that . . .') may be found in semantic studies. In some

MODELS OF GRAMMATICAL description, quantifiers refer to a class of items expressing contrasts in quantity occurring with restricted DISTRIBUTION in the NOUN PHRASE, e.g. *much/many, several, a lot of*. **Adverbs of quantification** (e.g. *usually, seldom*) may also be recognized, especially in semantic studies. The rule of **quantifier-floating** has been proposed by some TRANSFORMATIONAL LINGUISTS, to handle the mobile properties of quantifiers in SENTENCES, as in *All the people arrived v. The people all arrived*. **Quantifier-raising** is a process assumed in GOVERNMENT-BINDING THEORY which applies in the mapping from S-STRUCTURE to LOGICAL FORM and moves a **quantified** noun phrase such as *everyone* into CLAUSE-INITIAL position, giving structures similar to those assumed in logic.

**quantitative linguistics** A branch of LINGUISTICS which studies the frequency and DISTRIBUTION of linguistic UNITS using statistical techniques. The subject has both a pure and an applied side: the former aims to establish general principles concerning the statistical regularities governing the way WORDS, sounds, etc., are used; the latter investigates the way statistical techniques can be used to elucidate linguistic problems (such as FUNCTIONAL LOAD, STYLISTIC DISTINCTIVENESS, authorship identity). Considerable use is made of CORPORA.

**quantity** (*n.*) (1) A term used in PHONOLOGY to refer to the relative DURATIONS of sounds and SYLLABLES when these are linguistically contrastive; also referred to as LENGTH. The term is particularly used in historical studies of VOWEL and syllable length, and is contrasted with the notion of QUALITY; but a **quantitative** analysis also applies to CONSONANTS, as seen in such notions as ‘long’ *v.* ‘short’ consonants and GEMINATION.

(2) A term identifying one of the MAXIMS OF CONVERSATION: the **maxim of quantity** states that a person’s contribution to a conversation should ideally be just as informative as is required for the purposes of an exchange – for example, avoiding verbosity.

**quantity sensitivity** In METRICAL PHONOLOGY, a FOOT-shaped PARAMETER governing the DISTRIBUTION of light and heavy SYLLABLES in TERMINAL NODES of feet. In **quantity-insensitive** feet, all syllables are treated as equally light or equally heavy; there are no restrictions. In **quantity-sensitive** feet, heavy syllables may not occur in RECESSIVE positions, and are STRESSED. **Quantity-determined** feet are quantity sensitive, with the additional requirement that DOMINANT terminal nodes must dominate heavy syllables. Quantity sensitivity may also be formalized using MORAS (as in METRICAL GRID theory).

**quantum** (*n.*) In PHONETICS, a term sometimes used for an anatomical region within which relatively large variations in ARTICULATION have no or minor ACOUSTIC consequences. However, a small shift outside of this zone will produce a large acoustic change. For example, when a CONSTRICTION reaches a critical cross-sectional area, there is a sudden shift as the sound moves from an APPROXIMANT to a FRICATIVE mode of articulation. It is argued that articulation is evolutionarily organized to make maximum use of the vocal tract’s ability to produce such changes, which are thus critical in the development of PHONOLOGICAL DISTINCTIVENESS. The notion is central to the **quantal theory** of speech proposed by US phonetician Kenneth N. Stevens (b. 1924). In a development of

this approach, quantal relationships are proposed both between articulation and acoustics and also between acoustics and perception.

**question** (*n.*) (Q) A term used in the classification of SENTENCE FUNCTIONS, typically used to elicit information or a response, and defined sometimes on GRAMMATICAL and sometimes on SEMANTIC or SOCIOLINGUISTIC grounds. SYNTACTICALLY, in English, a question is a SENTENCE with INVERSION of the SUBJECT and first VERB in the verb PHRASE (YES–NO QUESTIONS, such as *Is he going?*), commencing with a **question word** (WH-questions, such as *Where is he?*), or ending with a question TAG (e.g. *He's going, isn't he?*). Some would include the use of sentences with a rising INTONATION to be a class of question. Semantically, questions express a desire for more information, usually requesting a reply from the listener (exceptions include **rhetorical questions** (e.g. *Isn't that awful?*)). The term is usually contrasted with three other major sentence functions: STATEMENT, COMMAND and EXCLAMATION. In grammatical discussion, questions are usually referred to as INTERROGATIVE in form. Sentences which contain a SUBORDINATE CLAUSE which is interrogative in form are sometimes called **indirect questions** (or **embedded questions**), as in *They asked what they should do*. See also DIRECT (2).

**Quirk grammar** The approach to grammatical description pioneered by British linguist (Charles) Randolph Quirk (Lord Quirk, b. 1920) and his associates, and published in a series of reference GRAMMARS during the 1970s and 1980s, notably *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language* (1985). It is a synthesis of knowledge about the grammatical structure of English, bringing together information from a range of DESCRIPTIVE approaches, informed by copious illustration from CORPUS materials, and paying special attention to STYLISTIC and regional VARIETIES. Terminology generally falls within the European tradition of reference grammars (CLAUSE, SUBJECT, VERB, OBJECT, etc.), but a number of novel terms are introduced, such as COMMENT clause, ECHO utterances, and the distinction between CONJUNCT, DISJUNCT and SUBJUNCT.

**quotative** (*n.*) In DISCOURSE ANALYSIS, a term used for a form which introduces a piece of DIRECT speech (e.g. *she said, he goes*). A **zero quotative** is the reporting of direct speech with neither a reporting verb nor an attributed speaker.