

CONTENTS

Introduction	1
1 The notion of context	5
1.1 Context and co-text	5
1.2 A theoretical overview	6
1.2.1 Malinowski and the theory of context	7
1.2.2 Firth and the context of situation	10
1.2.3 Halliday and the context of situation	13
1.3 Context of situation: some practical examples	16
1.3.1 Contexts across cultures	16
1.3.2 Contexts across the same language	20
1.4 Conclusion	22
2 Corpora	25
2.1 What is a corpus?	25
2.2 TextSTAT and WordSmith Tools	30
2.3 Assembling corpora	34
2.4 Conclusion	37
3 Collocation and units of meaning	39
3.1 Firth and the notion of collocation	39
3.2 Sinclair: collocation and the principles at the basis of language	41
3.3 Collocation and the phenomenon of delexicalisation	47
3.4 Collocation and the definition of meaning: naked eye	50
3.5 Conclusion	56
4 Translation and functionally complete units of meaning	59
4.1 Meaning as function in context	59
4.2 Applying the methodology: some examples	61
4.3 Conclusion	69

5 Textual colligation and thematic progression in English	71
5.1 Theme and Rheme in the Systemic-Functional tradition	72
5.1.1 Marked and unmarked themes	74
5.1.2 Other types of marked Theme	76
5.2 The clause as information unit: Given and New	80
5.3 External relationships between clauses: the concept of cohesion	82
5.3.1 Reference	82
5.3.2 Ellipsis and substitution	83
5.3.3 Conjunctions	84
5.3.4 Lexical cohesion	85
5.4 Thematic progression in English	86
References	95