

Original Preface

This small volume is very much an interim report, and I dare say it shows all the signs of being brought to term in unseemly haste: the establishment of categories and the criteria used to underpin them lack the solidity that I would like; in terminological matters there is much arch and evasive use of inverted commas; important considerations such as *thematicity* and the choice of *active* or *passive* have been merely trifled with; and often the writing itself falls below even the indifferent standard that I usually set for myself. Nevertheless, there are a number of reasons why I have decided to offer the following “quick and dirty” analysis of journal introductions. First, my Department has rightful expectations of seeing some tangible return on their investment. Second, in the last year, there has been a sudden upsurge of interest by ESP-oriented Applied Linguists and others in the information-structures and language employed in journals over and above that traditionally given to textbooks—one instance being the article “On the Use of the Passive in Two Astrophysics Journal Papers” by Tarone et al. (1981) in *The ESP Journal*, received too late to be considered in this report. In view of this new interest, I have felt it worthwhile to offer my preliminary findings to a larger number of potentially interested parties than I had originally imagined. Third, I do not see myself having the time in the coming months to produce, even if I were capable of it, a more polished and rigorous final version. Finally, the data itself is of a certain interest and a report of this length does allow a much larger proportion of that data to be scrutinized by others than would be possible in an article. I can only hope that if any do embark on such a scrutiny they will feed their comments back to me.