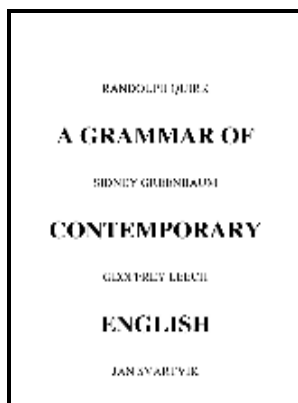


Studies in English linguistics - for Randolph Quirk

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Notes: Bibliography: p. 294-304

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In memory of Randolph Quirk

I have a small anecdote about my brief meeting with Randolph Quirk.

Studies in English linguistics for Randolph Quirk

We were never quite sure whether he was genuinely displeased, or merely teasing us. His influence on me and on my ideas about language has been profound; he was a giant in the field of modern English language, and my debt to him is vast.

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I was reminded of how he effortlessly deployed what we now call emotional intelligence as well as powerful scholarship. In short, he taught me how to do research — reinforced by his role as a supervisor for my PhD. Recording this material was a major undertaking and a great achievement.

Studies in English linguistics for Randolph Quirk (1983 edition)

The world is a poorer place without him. He would come into the Survey office after a day of lecturing, administering, and heaven knows what else, sit down by me, and we would go over the transcription, tone unit by tone unit, on the time-honoured phonetic principle that four ears are better than two.

Studies in English linguistics for Randolph Quirk

I asked him whether he will allow us to use his name, otherwise I will have to call it System quirk. The authors were listed as Crystal and Quirk. Gimson, four years after his untimely death in 1985.

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