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# WRITTEN LANGUAGE

*General problems and problems of English*

*by*

JOSEF VACHEK

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## PREFACE

When, some thirteen years ago, the present writer was preparing for print his rather lengthy paper, "Two Chapters on Written English" (VACHEK 1959), he earnestly believed that this was his last word on the subject he had followed, at that time, for some twenty-five years. However, during the decade that followed the publication of the said paper, the problems of written language were to prove so attractive to many students of language both in Europe and outside it that the survey of the problems that had been adequate in 1959 was becoming slowly but surely rather antiquated, even if the basic approach of the present author to the main problems could have remained virtually unchanged. Still, the formulation of those problems can now, after the said decade, be more precise and, profiting by some new arguments that were brought up both by the supporters and by the opponents of the importance of written language, the theoretical groundwork can now be presented much more adequately than before.

For these reasons, the present writer could not very well refuse the flattering invitation by Professor Werner Winter to contribute a booklet on the problems of Written Language to the newly founded Series Critica. It may not be too immodest to hope that the summarizing survey of the approaches to the involved problems will at least arouse the interest of those linguists who have so far not considered the given issue worth investigating.

Prague, April 1971

J. V.



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