Table of Contents

Acknowledgements 11

Introduction 13

1. Full-verb Inversion in Present-day English: A Preliminary Account 17

1.1 Definition 18
1.2 Types of inversion excluded from the analysis 19
1.2.1 Subject-operator inversion 19
1.2.2 Inversion in conditional clauses and formulaic expressions 21
1.2.3 Inversion in interrogative and exclamative clauses 22
1.2.4 Additional types of inversion excluded 23
1.2.5 Quotation or journalistic style inversion 23
1.3 A classification of full inversion based on formal criteria 25
1.4 Some structural patterns related to full inversion 34
1.4.1 Existential-'there' 35
1.4.2 Preposing 39
1.4.3 Left-dislocation 41
1.4.4 Equatives 43

2. Research on Full Inversion 47

2.1 Syntactic accounts 49
2.2 Functional accounts 52
2.2.1 The textual or discourse-related account 53
2.2.2 The information-packaging account 61
2.3 Point of view and focus management: Dorgeloh (1997) 70

2.4 Syntactic complexity and information status: Kreyer (2006) 76
2.5 Full inversion as a ground-before-figure construction: Chen (2003) 90
2.6 Summary and conclusions 104

3. Survey of the Corpora 109

3.1 The written corpora: FLOB and FROWN 109
3.2 The spoken corpora: ICE-GB and CSPAE 114
3.3 Database design: sampling the corpus 120
3.3.1 Sampling the written data 121
3.3.2 Sampling the spoken data 128
3.4 Methodology: manual vs. automated searching systems 130
3.4.1 Automated search strategies: ICE-GB and *ICECUP 3.0* 131
3.4.2 The retrieval of full inversions on the basis of a parsed corpus 132

4. Full-verb Inversion in Present-day Written and Spoken English 135

4.1 Full inversion in present-day written English: obligatory and non-obligatory uses 135
4.1.1 Obligatory full inversion in fiction and non-fiction 143
4.1.2 Non-obligatory full inversion in fiction and non-fiction 152
4.1.2.1 Prepositional phrase, adverb phrase and verb phrase inversions in fiction and non-fiction: spatial experiential iconic markers and text-structuring devices 157
4.1.2.2 Noun phrase, adjective phrase, and subordinator inversions in fiction and non-fiction: text-structuring devices 171
4.1.3 Summary and conclusions 182
4.2 Full inversion in present-day spoken English: obligatory and non-obligatory uses 186

4.2.1 Obligatory full inversion in spoken English 189
4.2.2 Non-obligatory full inversion in spoken English 198
4.2.2.1 Prepositional phrase, adverb phrase and verb phrase inversions in spoken English: spatial experiential iconic markers and text-structuring devices 200
4.2.2.2 Noun phrase, adjective phrase, and subordinator inversions in spoken English: text-structuring devices 203
4.2.3 Summary and conclusions 205
4.3 Prospects for future research: full inversions as *constructions* 207

5. Summary and Conclusions 219

Appendix I: The corpora 231

Appendix II: Texts selected from the corpora 239

References 243

Index 259