

University College London

SURVEY OF ENGLISH USAGE

Annual Report 1961-62

I Finance

The Syndics of the Cambridge University Press have kindly undertaken to make a grant to the Survey of £250 per annum for five years and the first instalment appears in the statement below. We are grateful to record also the further gift of £200 from the Naturmethodens Sproginstitut bringing the total of the Institut's non-recurrent grant to £500.

An application for financial help on certain aspects of the Survey's work is at present being considered by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

An appeal has been made to the Ford Foundation to assist the development of English Language work at University College, and the Foundation has already offered the College \$28,000 in this connexion. The needs of the Survey were of course included in the Development Appeal, and in consequence a part of this grant will be available to help the Survey's work.

Statement of Income:	£
Balance brought forward (all sources) at 31st August, 1961.	1425
Additional non-recurrent grant, Naturmetodens Sproginstitut	200
Standing recurrent grant: Longmans - second instalment	2000
New recurrent grant: Cambridge University Press first instalment	250
	<u>3875</u>

Statement of Expenditure:

Salaries, Insurance, etc. to:-	
Mr. J. Rusiecki (until September 1961)	
Miss A.P. Duckworth (until August 1962)	
Mr. J. Svartvik	1551
Recording and listening equipment	278
Books, miscellaneous expenses, travel, preparation and distribution of research paper in Edinburgh and Boston	409
College Administrative Charges	112
	<u>2350</u>

Thus although a reserve has been built up (thanks to the non-recurrent grants from the Clarendon Press and the Naturmetodens Sproginstitut) our expenditure this year has rather exceeded the recurrent grants of £2,250 which constitute our income.

III The Year's Work

Plans were laid for an investigation of the use of English in British and American scientific publications; there was an excellent response from editors and publishers, and a good deal of material has been assembled. Work continued with the filing of written English texts, and progress was made with second-stage analysis of this material, especially with respect to the nominal group and verbal group. Procedures for handling spoken English were completed and two texts were put through a first-stage analysis. The same two texts of spoken English were used as the material for an experiment in conjunction with the University of London Computer Unit to examine ways in which the Survey work could be assisted by the use of a computer. The experiment attempted a limited investigation of the relation between intonation and grammar, and it yielded useful results as well as providing a good deal of useful experience. We would wish to record our gratitude to the Director of the Computer Unit and to his staff for the facilities so readily put at our disposal in conducting the experiment. A paper was prepared reporting the work in this connexion of the Survey staff and of Mr. A. Colin (of the Computer Unit); this paper was presented by the Director in Edinburgh in August 1962 at the Third Conference of the International Association of University Professors of English, and in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in early September, 1962, at the Ninth International Congress of Linguists.

II

General

After one year's valuable service, Mr. J.P.L. Rusiecki left the Survey in September 1961 and returned to Poland to take up his appointment in the English Department of the University of Warsaw. He was replaced by Mr. J. Svartvik, fil.lic., who came to us from Uppsala; in April 1962 he was awarded a Swedish doctoral stipend and from that date transferred to a part-time research assistantship on the Survey. Miss A.P. Duckworth resigned her assistantship as from August 1962 on being appointed Lecturer in English at Goldsmiths' College; she leaves with our warmest wishes and our gratitude for the excellent work she has done in the Survey's earliest years.

Two new research assistants, graduates of University College, are being appointed from October 1962, Miss J. Godfrey and Mr. D. Crystal, although it is uncertain when the latter (who is at present in hospital) will be able to take up duties.

It is a pleasure to report an outstanding improvement in the accommodation position. In May 1962, we moved into two large pleasant rooms on the first floor of Foster Court which provide adequate working space for the present staff, together with space for books, archives and equipment.

With the evacuation of Tristan da Cunha, the Survey was asked to make itself responsible for assembling adequate recordings of the refugees before their variety of English should disappear through contact with British English. Although such activity is not part of the Survey's work, we naturally responded to the emergency and Mr. Svartvik collaborated with Mr. Denis Gerroult of the BBC in interviewing and recording speakers of both sexes over a wide range of ages. Copies of the recordings amounting to several hours have been made on the Survey equipment and are being distributed to interested university centres in this country, the U.S.A. and elsewhere.

The Director has given university lectures in Dublin, Paris and Gothenburg on aspects of the Survey work, and further progress has been made in enlisting the collaboration of scholars overseas. The working library and off-print collection have continued to grow.

IV Relevant Publications

R. Quirk: The Use of English (London 1962: Longmans, pp. viii + 333; with Supplements by A.C. Gimson and J. Warburg).

" 'Research Problems in English Language', in English Teaching Abroad and the British Universities.

ed. H.G. Wayment (London 1961: Methuen), pp. 51-57.

J. Svartvik: 'Thirty Years of Linguistics', Moderna Sprak, vol. 56, pp. 8-17.

A statement on the Survey now appears in Current Research and Development in Scientific Documentation, the Directory issued by the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C.

September 1962.

RANDOLPH QUIRK