

University College London

SURVEY OF ENGLISH USAGE

Annual Report 1962-63

I FINANCE

The application to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (noted in the last Report) has resulted in a grant of £8000 spread over the four years beginning October 1963. The grant is for work on computational linguistics to be done jointly by the Communication Research Centre and the Survey of English Usage.

The grant of \$28,000 from the Ford Foundation for the English Department's research training programme has been of great indirect benefit to the Survey, partly through the work done by Ford Foundation Research students (Miss E. Abberton and Mr M. Tickoo) and partly through the seminars given by Professor J. H. Sledd, Mrs B. M. H. Strang and others, financed by the grant. It is hoped that a renewal of the grant may be made for 1963-64 which will be of similar benefit.

Financially our greatest need now is provision for a Senior Research Assistant. As will be seen from the Statement that follows, our total income provides only for junior assistants on a most modest salary, and Mr Crystal's resignation to take up an appointment in Bangor is a reminder that on present funds the Survey must face the constant uneconomic training of new assistants for short periods. Application has been made to the Research Department of the Ministry of Education in order to

remedy this situation, and if it is successful we shall seek to attract and retain a Senior Assistant who can pursue the work faster and give it greater continuity than has been possible hitherto.

Statement of Income

Recurrent Grants	
Longmans (third instalment)	£2000
Cambridge University Press (second instalment)	£250
Repayment on funds allotted to distributing research paper	£100
	<u>£2350</u>

Statement of Expenditure

Salaries, Insurance etc., to	
Mr J. Svartvik (part-time)	
Mr D. Crystal	
Miss J. Godfrey	
*Part-time secretarial help (since May 27 1963)	£1993
Books, maintenance of equipment, etc.	£134
College Administrative charges	£112
	<u>£2239</u>

* As this item, which has cost only about £80 this year, will account for £320 in the year 1963-64, it will be seen that we shall exceed our present income of £2250 in that year. If our income is not meantime increased as a result of the application

to the Ministry of Education, we shall meet the deficit from a reserve fund that we have built up over the past two years from savings which include the balance of the non-recurrent grants from the Clarendon Press and Naturmetodens Sproginstitut.

II GENERAL

Though working for the Survey only in a part-time capacity, Mr Svartvik has provided invaluable help by giving the work continuity, in helping to train the new assistants Mr Crystal and Miss Godfrey, and in taking charge of the Survey during the month that the Director was in India. Mr Crystal, who became seriously ill at the time of his appointment, recovered sufficiently to begin work in January 1963. Though with the Survey therefore only for eight months, he rapidly mastered the work and began to make advances in the field of prosodic characteristics; it is a tribute to his energy, skill and fast-growing reputation that he was offered the post of Assistant Lecturer in Linguistics at the University College of North Wales. His departure is a serious blow to the Survey, but he leaves with our warmest wishes and he intends to retain as close links as possible with the Survey's activities. Miss Godfrey, though also dogged by ill health, has become expert in the work and has latterly been responsible for all the first-stage filing; as part of her training, she took a typing course so that she could help in the meticulous task of preparing copy for file materials. Miss J. Mulholland, an Edinburgh graduate, started work as part-time

secretary on the Survey at the end of May, and her skill has already made a most welcome contribution.

Mr D. Davy, a new graduate with a First Class Honours London degree in English, has been appointed as Research Assistant from October 1 in place of Mr Crystal.

From April 1 1963, Dr M. A. K. Halliday was appointed to the newly established Directorship of the Communication Research Centre, and we look forward to the closest relationship between the Survey and the Centre. One important area of collaboration is the application of computer techniques to linguistic analysis in which we hope to do intensive work with the help of the DSIR grant already noted. The Research Assistant provided by this grant has been appointed and will take up his duties on October 1 1963; he is Mr H. T. Carvell who holds a degree in mathematics of the University of Cambridge.

III THE YEAR'S WORK

So far as first-stage analysis is concerned, the most notable advance was made with the special problems of scientific materials, and texts in four branches of science have been treated. On spoken materials, valuable new recordings were made in the informal unscripted categories, and a good deal of work was done on the auditory analysis of 'paralanguage'. On this subject there is an article by Mr Crystal already at press; he and the Director have collaborated on a second which is going to press almost immediately and they are at present engaged on a third and longer paper.

Mr Crystal's London M.A. thesis in this field is in advanced preparation. Miss Godfrey is collecting material for a London M.A. thesis on the English verbal group, and Miss E. Abberton (Research Student) is likewise using Survey materials for a dissertation on the nominal group in scientific writing. Mr D. Kalogjera (Lecturer at Sarajévo University, formerly a Research Student) has successfully presented a thesis for the Diploma in English Linguistic Studies on modal auxiliaries in the 'Literary Colloquial' category of English. Mr J. Svartvik has made important progress with his doctoral dissertation on the manifestation of voice in the English verb; in collaboration with Mr A. Colin of the University Computer Unit he has experimented in the field of heuristic rule-finding, and has submitted a good deal of Survey material to computational analysis, investigating the factors determining the selection of the passive.

The Survey work-book has been valuably expanded and revised in the light of the year's experience.

Mr Svartvik gave lectures on the Survey at the University of London Institute of Education. The Director spent a month in India reporting on the problems of teaching English there, and he visited Berlin to lecture on the Survey at the Free University.

A computational linguistics project for English has been established at Brown University having methodological links with

the Survey, and in February 1963 the Director visited Providence, Rhode Island, to discuss procedures with Professor Freeman Twaddell and Professor Nelson Francis.

In these ways further progress has been made in establishing fruitful contact with scholars doing analogous or complementary work and in ensuring the continued growth of our off-print collection.

IV RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

- R. Quirk, A. P. Duckworth, J. Rusiecki, J. Svartvik, A. Colin,
 'Studies in the Correspondence of Prosodic to Grammatical
 Features in English', Proceedings of the Ninth International
 Congress of Linguists (The Hague 1963), pp 483-495.
- J. Svartvik, 'From Phoneme to Transform', Moderna Språk
 (at press).
- D. Crystal, 'A Perspective for Paralanguage', Maitre Phonétique
 (at press).

REPORT ON
THE SURVEY OF ENGLISH USAGE
TO SEPTEMBER 1961

I Finance

	£	£
Longmans Grant (recurrent)		2000
Salaries to Research Assistants, Miss Duckworth and Mr Rusiecki with Nat. Ins. and (in Miss Duckworth's case) FSSU	1675	
Maintenance and non-capital equipment	85	
Petty Cash	25	
University College Administration Charges	100	
	1885	
Non-recurrent capital grants (reserved for capital equipment):		
Naturmetodens Sproginstitut		300
Clarendon Press		1000
Electronic equipment	260	
Two-tier working table, recorder trolley and other equipment	110	
Books	40	
	410	

It will be observed that while there remains a useful balance from the outright grants for the further expenditure on capital equipment which will shortly be necessary, the recurrent expenditure even on this year's very modest programme has come uncomfortably close to matching the Survey's income.

II General

One of the Research Assistants, Miss Anne P. Duckworth, was appointed in Durham and the other, Mr J. P. L. Rusiecki, assumed his duties in November 1960 on a short-term appointment and is shortly leaving to resume his normal work in Warsaw. He will be replaced by Mr J. Svartvik, from Uppsala.

The Survey had only just begun in Durham when, on the Director's appointment to University College, it moved to London where the work has greatly benefited from access to superior libraries and close contact with interested scholars and organisations. On the other hand - naturally enough in view of the space limitations in University College - it has been necessary to make do with drastically less accommodation than that made available in the Durham Colleges. The Survey and the two assistants are at present managing in a room with an area of 110 sq. ft. and the archives can only be assembled in cabinets along the wall of a corridor outside it. Moreover, the increased costs (notably in salaries) consequent upon moving to London have meant that no margin remains out of the grants so far promised to make it possible to secure additional accommodation.

III The Work to Date

Since there is no precedent for a descriptive grammar of a language the Survey's principle, and no contemporary analogue, work has in the first place been directed to establishing procedures, compiling a work-book, and assembling the necessary equipment and basic books. At the same time, considerable progress has been made in the following directions:

- (a) augmenting the spoken English material collected in Durham, and preparing transcriptions;

- (b) devising means of analysing spoken English, notably intonation this work has been especially carried out by Mr Rusiecki;
- (c) filing and first-stage analysis of written English material;
- (d) experimental work on second-stage analysis.

The Director has lectured on the Survey in several universities in this country, Holland, Austria and the Soviet Union in the course of the year, and valuable contacts have been made with many scholars throughout world. On special points, the collaboration of several scholars in this country and abroad has been secured, and the staff of the University of London Computer Unit have been most co-operative in discussions which are at present in progress for using the computer for analysis. An excellent off-print library has been built up and is receiving regular additions from many sources.

IV Relevant Publications

R. Quirk, 'Towards a Description of English Usage', TPS 1960.

" The Study of the Mother-Tongue, London 1961.

" and A. P. Duckworth, 'Co-Existing Negative Preterite Forms of Dare' in Language and Society, Copenhagen 1961.

An account of the Survey appeared in The Linguistic Reporter (Washington D.C.), Vol. III, April 1961, and another was broadcast in the overseas service of the BBC in March 1961.

September 1961

RANDOLPH QUIRK