

University College London

SURVEY OF ENGLISH USAGE

Annual Report 1965-6

I FINANCE

Our sources of recurrent income remained as follows:

OSTI (transferred from DSIR)	£2000
Department of Education and Science (not claimed in toto)	£2000
Longmans Green (sixth instalment)	£2000
Cambridge University Press (fifth instalment)	£ 250

£6250

In addition, we are grateful to Mr E. Hoder (Naturmetoder Sproginstitut, Copenhagen) for a further non-recurrent gift of £250, thus bringing up to £750 the Institut's grant to the Survey since 1960.

Expenditure:

Salaries, insurance, etc	£4950
Research expenses (especially books, equipment, maintenance)	£ 560
College Administrative charges	£ 145

£5655

The excess of potential income over actual expenditure is more apparent than real: in the first place, through the accident of staff changes, we have not been able to claim the whole of the DES grant; in the second place, as noted last year when we showed a deficit of almost

£1000, capital expenditure on a Flexowriter necessitated unevenly spreading the OSTI grant. Our financial position in fact becomes critical as, with the Cambridge University Press grant already ended, we embark on the last year of the OSTI, DES, and Longmans grants.

II GENERAL

From 1 January 1966, Miss Valerie Adams joined the staff as Research Assistant in place of Mrs Judith Carvell; happily, Mrs Carvell has continued to make a valuable contribution to the Survey on a part-time basis. In September, Mr N. Fairclough takes up an assistant lectureship at the University of Lancaster and leaves the Survey with our warmest wishes for his future. A new colleague will join us in October to assist Mr Carvell on the mathematical and computational side of our work.

The former Assistant Director, Dr Jan Svartvik, has our delighted congratulations on the publication of his book On Voice in the English Verb and on the outcome of his doctoral disputation at Uppsala in May 1966 when he

earned the rare distinction of the highest grade report ("Berömlig"). Another former colleague, Mr David Crystal, now of Reading University, continues to maintain close links with us and is engaged on a book on style, based on Survey materials, in collaboration with Mr Derek Davy.

Visitors who spent some time working in the Survey this year have included M. G. Brézard (Besançon), Professor S.B. Greenfield (Oregon), and Miss Janice Williams of the University College of N. Wales and the Welsh linguistic survey. Briefer visits have been paid by Professor D.L. Bolinger (Harvard), Jan Firbas (Brno), Professor W. Nelson Francis (Providence R.I.), Ramesh Mohan (Lucknow), Professor Gerhard Nickel (Kiel), and David Shillan (Cambridge Language Research Unit).

In view of the ever-increasing demands made on our resources, it is a great pleasure to record our gratitude to University College for assigning us an additional room which has admirably alleviated the accommodation problem noted in the last Annual Report.

III THE YEAR'S WORK

Those engaged on the Survey this year in addition to the Director have been Valerie Adams (VA), H.T. Carvell (HC), Judith A. Carvell (JAC), Derek Davy (DD), N. Fairclough (NF), S. Greenbaum (SG), Mrs Huddleston (Joan Mulholland - JM).

The prosodic transcription of spoken material (DD,VA) has continued, and Miss E. Osmer, on completing her MA thesis on intonation in sermons, has assisted the Survey by making available to us much valuable taped sermon material together with corresponding prosodic transcriptions. Copies of Survey tapes are now housed in the College strong-room and it is hoped that ways can be found of similarly protecting against fire or other accident our other materials, perhaps by means of photocopying. Important additions have been made to the basic slip-file (JM) and further texts have received first stage analysis by JAC, JM and VA (including more spoken material and some spontaneous manuscript material for the first time).

Second-stage analysis was continued on 'lexical item plus particle' sequences by NF who is writing a monograph on this subject, on adverbial expressions by SG, on nominal groups and nonfinite verb clauses (VA, JAC), and

on finite verb clauses (JAC, RQ). HC and SG continued to help with the final preparation of Dr Svartvik's monograph on the passive.

Acceptability investigation (using the 'ILA' procedure) made considerable progress. With the collaboration of Mr Crystal, DD and RQ experimented with an 'oral output' test, and SG designed several modifications of the 'written output' procedure and drew up two batteries of tests in connexion with the use of adjuncts which were conducted in collaboration with DD and RQ. We are indebted to Dr Wason and Dr Jonckheere of the Psychology Department for advice given to SG, HC, and RQ in experimental design and analysis, and it is now clear that ILA work will play an increasingly important role in the Survey.

In a series of seminars, special attention has been given to the type of analysis to be used in the computational handling of data; DD has completed the revised prosodic transcription to be used, and JM has taken the initiative in planning the technical details of flexo-writing texts and structural descriptions.

As to the OSTI-financed computational project itself, HC has devoted much attention to gauging the Compiler

Compiler's usefulness for our purposes and has devised a computer grammar of Nominal Group structures. Largely because of its guaranteed future, it has been decided to use Algol and work has begun on the analysis program to read in structural descriptions. Parts I and II of the working paper by HC and Dr Svartvik (distributed in 1965 as noted in the last Annual Report) have been extensively revised to constitute a monograph, Computational Experiments in Grammatical Classification, which will go to press this autumn. As well as amplifications of a routine kind, HC has written much additional material, involving the compilation of results for a Statistical Appendix, the construction of a new diagnostic key, and the devising of a mapping program so that the OFU's should be a fair sample and so that the diagnosed groups should be represented adequately. In addition, HC has given much help at various times to NF, SG, DD, and RQ, with statistical calculations and the construction of diagnostic keys.

In November, RQ attended the NCTE Conference in Boston, Massachusetts and lectured on the Survey; during a visit to Nigeria to assemble material for a report on the teaching of English, he lectured at the

five universities; at Easter, as guest of the Slovak and Polish Academies of Sciences, he lectured in Prague, Brno, Bratislava, Warsaw, and Krakow; in addition he gave lectures at the Universities of Lancaster and Newcastle, at the Royal Society of Arts, the London Institute of Education, the BBC's Summer School and the Royal Shakespeare Theatre Summer School. DD lectured at the Rachel McMillan Training College, the Sidney Webb Training College, the Hillingdon Teachers Conference, the Presentation of Technical Information Study Group, and gave a broadcast on intonation on the BBC's Overseas Service. SG lectured at Ealing Technical College and at the Beaconsfield Army School of Education. In addition, SG and NF addressed members of the Institute of Education Teachers course, and DD, JM, NF, SG, and RQ participated in the University of London Summer School of English.

IV PUBLICATIONS

- R. Quirk, 'Types of Deviance in English Sentences',
A Common Purpose, ed. J. Squire (at press).
-- 'On English Usage', Journal of the Royal Society
of Arts (at press).

- 'Acceptability in Language', Proceedings of the University of Newcastle Philosophical Society (at press).
- and D. Crystal, 'On Scales of Contrast in Connected English Speech', In Memory of J.R. Firth (Longmans 1966), pp. 359-69.
- and J. Svartvik, Investigating Linguistic Acceptability, The Hague (Mouton: Janua Linguarum) 1966.

J. Svartvik, On Voice in the English Verb, The Hague (Mouton: Janua Linguarum) 1966.

In addition, the English Language Series (Longmans) was launched, quickly establishing itself as a promising medium of publication for new studies in the field of English usage.

RANDOLPH QUIRK

September 1966