

University College London

SURVEY OF ENGLISH USAGE

Annual Report 1967-68

I. FINANCE

From the time when the new Department of Education and Science grant became available (1 March 1967), we have called upon £6,530 from this source. Part of this expenditure fell within the period covered by last year's Annual Report, and in the academic year which is the subject of the present report (1 October 1967 to 30 September 1968), the DES grant has been used as follows:

Salaries, insurance, etc.	£3990
Miscellaneous expenses (books, equipment, maintenance, experimental subjects, etc.)	£ 440
	<u>£4430</u>

This represents a reduction by more than £2,000 of the Survey's running costs as compared with last year, largely reflecting the contraction of our activities so far as research on 'mechanised analysis' is concerned.

II. GENERAL

Once more, this part of the Annual Report must begin by recording a loss. After invaluable service to the Survey for three years, Dr Sidney Greenbaum has left University College with our good wishes and gratitude to take up a visiting professorship at the University of Oregon. As with other colleagues who have left us, there will be continued co-operation, and SG is involved in several tasks of collaboration with his former colleagues here. On the credit side, it is a pleasure to welcome Miss R.M. Kempson who joined us as Secretarial Assistant at the beginning of the academic year, and also Mr R.A. Close who in March 1968 further tightened his longstanding bonds with the Survey by becoming an Honorary Research Associate. We hope increasingly to benefit from his mature advice and experience in the analysis and application of the Survey data.

Among visits to the Survey this year it gives us especial pleasure to record that of our former colleague Dr Jan Svartvik (Gothenburg) who spent three weeks in the Survey during October and joined in an important psycholinguistic experiment. During November and December we were glad to make facilities at the Survey available to Mrs K. Aijmer (Stockholm) who is using

some of our materials in her doctoral thesis. Other visitors who were interested in our techniques in connexion with their own research projects were Professor W. Nelson Francis (Brown University), Mr Morris Jones (Bangor), Mrs G. Tottie (Stockholm), Dr Bengt Loman (Lund) and Professor Osmo Ikola (Turku). We enjoyed interesting visits also from Professor L. Orzagh (Hungary), Dr V. Markovic (Yugoslavia), Professor E. Lorenzo (Spain), Professor H.L. Lane, Professor A.A. Hill (USA), Professor A. Cohen (Netherlands), Dr V. Fried, Dr J. Nosek, Dr J. Firbas (Czechoslovakia), Professor F. Engels, Mr F. Planchon (Belgium), Professor H. Reinhold, Professor T. Finkenstaedt, Mr J. Hoaglund (Germany), Professor T. Mustanoja (Finland), and - happily on more than one occasion - Professor B. Strang (Newcastle).

III. THE YEAR'S WORK

Those engaged on the Survey in addition to RQ and DD this year have been principally Valerie Adams (VA), Caroline Bott (CB), Sidney Greenbaum (SG), Ruth M. Kempson (RMK).

The main emphasis was on continuing to build up the corpus with (a) the transcription of legal, conversational,

and informal interview material under DD's leadership with the help of VA and RMK; (b) the preparation of duplimat copy (RMK); and (c) the first-stage analysis of printed, manuscript, and spoken texts by most members of the team under VA's leadership. In the latter connexion we have begun to make use of 'piece-work' helpers; Mrs J. Goodman, a postgraduate student in the Department, has earned pin-money by filing the 'closed system' items of several texts, and our former colleague, Mrs Huddleston, has done some first-stage filing on a 'cottage industry' basis. Such farming out of work to experienced scholars, even though living fairly far from London, is something we are likely to develop increasingly and we hope it will compensate for our difficulties in recruiting suitable full-time research assistants. As envisaged in the last Report, transcription tasks have been undertaken by three M.A. students (Mr M. Riddle, Mrs J. Whitcut, and Mr P. Winterson), and three others have been engaged on M.A. projects which pursue second-stage analysis of Survey material (Mr S. Bolozky, Dr F. Fricker, and Mr R. Horrocks).

SG continued to do important second-stage work on adverbs, successfully completing a Ph.D. thesis on this subject as well as other pieces of writing which will be

mentioned in section IV below. DD continued with the analogous second-stage work on intonation and other aspects of prosody, with particular reference to these parameters as stylistic indices and to the reading aloud of written materials.

Thirdly, a good deal of further work has been done on elicitation techniques and acceptability testing. While there is little new experimental work to report, mention should be made of a carefully controlled comparison (worked out in co-operation with Dr Svartvik) of linguistic reactions according as subjects believed the purpose of the experiment was (a) linguistic or (b) medical. Moreover, with the co-operation of the Department of Linguistic Science at the University of Reading (especially Dr Crystal), we were able to mount an experiment comparing the effect of different 'operations' on compliance; at the same time Mr G.N. Leech used the occasion to experiment with the elicitation of semantic data. DD and RQ completed a paper recording results of an earlier experiment at the University of Reading (with oral output), and before SG left the Survey in August, he and RQ had almost completed a monograph on elicitation problems, using the data of several experiments

with computationally quantified results produced by CB on the College's 360 machine.

While the pursuit of 'mechanised analysis' no longer occupies a prominent place in our work (and still less in our budget) for the reasons already stated, we have happily not been obliged to discontinue it entirely. Mrs C. Easthope has made some progress in collaboration with CB, using the basic programming work of Mr Carvell. In this connexion, we gratefully record the co-operation of the Oxford University Press (specifically, of Mr A.J. Reeve, the Systems and Programming Manager), in providing tape-punching services to code Survey text material and corresponding structural description. This is a very promising development.

In the course of the year, RQ lectured on the work of the Survey at the universities of Cambridge, Essex, Reading, Louvain, Paris, and Canterbury (New Zealand), as well as at the Institute of United States Studies in London. He visited Copenhagen and discussed with several institutions ways of collaborating in the Survey. DD lectured at the University of Reading, and to the Warwickshire branch of the National Association for

Teachers of English; he gave two radio talks on intonation and acted as consultant to the BBC on English accents. SG gave several lectures in the Department of General Linguistics (UCL) and also visited the University of York to lecture on the Survey. VA and DD hence more conducted tutorial classes on the University of London Summer School of English.

IV PUBLICATIONS

Davy D., (with D. Crystal), Investigating English Style (London: Longmans). In press.

-- and Quirk R., 'An Acceptability Experiment with Spoken Output', Journal of Linguistics. In press.

Greenbaum S., Studies in English Adverbial Usage (London: Longmans). In press.

-- Investigating Collocations: An Experimental Approach (The Hague: Mouton). In press.

Quirk R., 'From Descriptive to Prescriptive: An Example'
(rev). ELT Selections, ed. W.R.Lee. (London:
Oxford University Press, 1967), 91-4.

-- (with A.C.Gimson, J.Warburg), The Use of English
(Second Edition. London: Longmans, 1968).

-- Essays on the English Language (London: Longmans).

In press.

[In addition to the foregoing which are produced strictly
under the Survey's aegis, it is relevant to mention the
following associated publications:

R. Bugarski, 'On the Interrelatedness of Grammar and Lexis
in the Structure of English', Lingua 19
(1968), 233-263.

D. Crystal, Prosodic Systems and Intonation in English
(Cambridge: University Press). In press.

G.N. Leech, A Linguistic Guide to English Poetry
(London: Longmans). In press.

J. Svartvik, The Evans Statements: A Case for Forensic
Linguistics (Göteborg: Gothenburg Studies
in English 1968).

-- 'Plotting divided usage with dare and need',
Studia Neophilologica XL (1968) 130-140.

-- 'A New Generation of Passives' (Proceedings
of the Tenth International Congress of
Linguists). In press.]

RANDOLPH QUIRK

September 1968

DEREK DAVY