

University College London

SURVEY OF ENGLISH USAGE

Annual Report 1969-70

I FINANCE

Because of the financial uncertainty of our future which overshadowed a large part of the year, it was not thought prudent to make full-time appointments to the extent of our income: nor would it have been practicable to attract a senior assistant with so little security to offer. The net result has been that the third (and concluding) year of DES support has necessitated a holding operation at approximately the reduced expenditure rate recorded in our last annual report:

Salaries and insurance	£3595
Part-time help	475
Miscellaneous (books, equipment, maintenance, experimental subjects, conference attendance, etc.)	330
	<hr/> £4400

In July we learnt to our intense relief that, following prompt and sympathetic action by Lord Murray of Newhaven, support was to be given by the Leverhulme Trust Fund and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. Each benefactor, in the absence of further subvention from government agencies, is to provide £12,000 spread over the next four years. We are glad to take the present opportunity to express our profound gratitude to the two bodies of trustees.

II GENERAL

The only new members of the staff this year are Mr Michael Black (who has pursued studies for the M.A. as well as rapidly acquiring skill as Research Assistant) and Mrs Janet Whitcut (who did her M.A. in the Department in 1968 and rejoined us in January in a part-time capacity). Miss Thelma Blackwood has resigned from the end of the present session to take up an appointment at home in the West Indies. Miss Rosemary Leonard has ceased to give part-time help on appointment to the Computer Corpus project at Lancaster (see below). Following his successful year as an M.A. student, Mr W-D Bald continued as a most welcome visiting member of the Survey throughout the session. Another visitor for the entire session was Dr F. Aarts. Both have now returned to their university posts in Mainz and Nijmegen respectively.

Short term visitors have included: Mrs I. de Albuquerque (Lisbon), Professor C.S. Bhandari (British Council, India), Mr M. Biddulph (British Council, Germany), Mr. L. Billows (Uganda), Dr. R. Bugarski (Belgrade), Mr J. Carswell (DES), Dr. D. Crystal (Reading), Dr A.L. Davis (Illinois Institute of Technology), Mr H. Dow (Melbourne), Dr J. Firbas (Brno), Dr W. Kuhlwein (Stuttgart), Professor J.D. McCawley (Chicago), Professor R.I. McDavid, Professor R. Nasr (Lebanon), Mrs M. O'Brien (Dublin), Professor H. Oliver (Sydney), Professor E. Pennanen (Finland), Mr F. Planchon (Mons), Professor A. Puglielli (Rome), Mr R.H. Richter (Cologne), Professor L. Rogers (Sydney), Mr Shine (Copenhagen), Professor I. Simon (Liège), Professor J. Söderlind (Uppsala), Professor E. Standop (Cologne), Dr J. Taglicht (Hebrew University), Professor R. Tschumi (St Gallen), Professor H. Voitl (Erlangen), Mr J. Walmsley (Newcastle), Mr E. Walton (BBC).

In a special class, we are happy to record a month's visit by Professor Sidney Greenbaum (now of Wisconsin), Dr Geoffrey Leech (now of

Lancaster) and Professor Jan Svartvik (to be congratulated on succeeding to the Chair of English in Lund), who joined RQ in an intensive period of writing aimed at the completion of a Grammar begun when all four co-authors were members of the UCL staff.

Co-operation with Dr Leech is on the point of beginning in a further way with the establishment at Lancaster of a computer corpus project (with initial financial help from the Longman Group). The Lancaster project, while being in close association also with Brown University's Linguistics Department, will include spoken and manuscript Survey texts, and it will resume and develop the computerised analysis work begun as an OSTI subproject of the Survey [see Annual Report for 1966-67].

III THE YEAR'S WORK

In addition to signatories of this report (RQ, DD, and VA), those contributing to the Survey work this year have been Michael Black (MB), Thelma Blackwood (TB), Margot Charlton (MC), R.A. Close (RAC), Jennifer Coates (JC), Jocelyne Goodman (JG), Ruth M. Kempson (RMK), Rosemary Leonard (RL), Judith Perryman (JP), and Janet Whitcut (JW), though only TB and RMK were full time. Under DD's and VA's direction, good headway was made in the transcription of taped speech in various categories (chiefly by RMK, JW and MB but also by JP) and in the first-stage analysis of filed material (chiefly by MB, JW, JP and JC). JG has worked on the filing of closed-system items, and on a second-stage analysis of the hesitation phenomena of speech, while TB did second-stage analysis of prosodic and paralinguistic features. Florent Aarts worked on an aspect of nominal group function [see § IV]. RAC continued his work on the expression of the future [see § IV]. MB made a special study of contracted verb forms in the corpus. M.F. Riddle made interesting progress on the analysis of

punctuation, and RMK began work (also for the Ph.D.) on interrogation.

Elicitation work was carried out by RMK and RQ as well as by Wolf Bald [see § II] and - in the United States - by Sidney Greenbaum. Help with statistical testing (especially in connexion with elicitation results) was again given on a consultancy basis by Caroline Bott.

In addition to the exacting preparation and checking of Duplimat copy and material for publication, MC has kept up to date the off-print file and the working library.

MB and RMK attended the Manchester meeting of the Linguistics Association where RMK read a paper on activation of latent contrast by elicitation technique. JP attended a conference in Cambridge on the use of computers in linguistic and literary studies. Several members of the team played a prominent part in the University of London Summer School (VA, DD, RMK, JP, JW). VA gave a seminar on word-formation at the Institute of Education and RMK lectured on elicitation techniques at the University of Cambridge Vacation Course in Linguistics. MB taught for three days in July for the Educational Interchange Council.

DD visited Mons and gave staff seminars on the Survey at the Centre Universitaire. He gave seminars on intonation at the University of Leeds and at the Technical University of Berlin. For the Extra-Mural Department (London) he gave a course on stylistic theory and varieties of English, and in these fields he lectured also to the University of London Summer School, the Cambridge Vacation Course in Linguistics, Hendon College of Technology, the Institute of Education, and at the Stockwell and Wall Hall Colleges of Education. In addition, he lectured on modern English usage to groups of foreign teachers under the auspices of the Educational Interchange Council, and to a national course in Brighton in further education work.

RQ visited the universities of Gothenburg and Helsinki, giving public lectures as well as graduate seminars on aspects of the Survey's work. He also lectured to the Society for Research in English (London), to the Association for Teaching English (Dublin), to the Institute of Contemporary Arts (London), to the Institute of Linguists Conference (Luxembourg), and to a Conference on Teaching English in Germany (Erlangen). He gave several broadcasts. In addition to continuing his work as Chairman of the Committee of Enquiry into the Speech Therapy Services, he served once more as Extern Examiner in Linguistics at the National University of Ireland.

In short, despite the unwelcome proportion of our time and energy that was absorbed by efforts to secure our financial situation, it was a busy, successful and productive year, some fruits of which can already be shown in § IV.

IV PUBLICATIONS

- Aarts, F., 'On the distribution of Noun-Phrases in English Clause-Structure' (at press)
- Adams, V., rev. H. Marchand, Categories and Types of Present Day English Word Formation, 2nd ed., in Journal of Linguistics (at press)
- Bald, W-D. & Quirk, R., 'A Case Study of Multiple Meaning', Essays and Studies (1970)
- Carvell, H.T. & Svartvik, J., Computational Experiments in Grammatical Classification, The Hague 1969
- Close, R.A., 'Problems of the Future Tense', English Language Teaching 24 (1970)
- Crystal, D. & Davy, D., Investigating English Style, London 1969
- Davy, D., rev. D. Crystal's Prosodic Systems and Intonation in English in Speech and Drama 19 (1970)
- Greenbaum, S., Verb-Intensifier Collocations in English: An Experimental Approach, The Hague 1970
- " & Quirk, R., Elicitation Experiments in English: Linguistic Studies in Use and Attitude, London 1970
- Kempson, R., 'The Generation of Words', TLS 3569 (July 1970)
- " & Quirk, R., 'Controlled Activation of Latent Contrast' (mimeo)
- Quirk, R., 'Linguistics and Usage', The Listener 84 (13 Aug. 1970)
- " 'Taking a Deep Smell', Journal of Linguistics 6 (1970)
- " 'Aspect and Variant Inflexion in English Verbs', Language 46 (1970)
- " 'English in Twenty Years', Incorporated Linguist 9 (1970)
- " 'English Today: A World View', Tesol Quarterly 3 (1969)

Svartvik, J., 'Computational Linguistics Comes of Age', TLS 3569 (July 1970)

" 'A New Generation of Passives', Actes du X^e Congrès Internationale des linguistes, Bucharest 1970, pp. 1137-44

Associated Publications

Lee, W.R., 'A Point about in and into', Brno Studies in English 8 (1969)

Leech, G.N., 'On the Theory and Practice of Linguistic Testing',
Lingua 24 (1970)

Taglicht, J., 'The Choice of Relative Pronouns in Written English:
Grammatical and Stylistic Factors', Scripta Hierosolymitana
(Jerusalem: at press).

[Copies of some two dozen theses written by associated students are housed in the Survey and a list is available on request]

September 1970

Randolph Quirk

Derek Davy

Valerie Adams

