

University College London

SURVEY OF ENGLISH USAGE

Annual Report 1973-74

I FINANCE

Alarming increases in costs continued and those arising from national pay awards, threshold agreements, and the adjustment of London Allowance were covered by supplementary grants from our benefactors, the Leverhulme Trust and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. By reason of staff turnover, however, our accounts for the academic year October 1973 to September 1974 in fact show a down-turn on expenditure:

Salaries and insurance	£3,874
Part-time assistance	1,723
Equipment, maintenance, books, office services, conference expenses, experimental subjects, etc	630
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	£6,227
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In addition, as from 1 July we began to call upon the grant made by the Social Sciences Research Council for the sub-project on questions, expenditure on which to 30 September 1974 amounted to £445.

Longer term

Meanwhile, with the end of our grant period in sight and two further years of work to be done on the Survey beyond this period, we approached the Leverhulme Trust, and in March 1974 we received the welcome assurance of a final grant to cover the period January 1975 to December 1976 at the rate of £8,000 p.a. This is subject to supplementation in respect of inflation and there is also an understanding that we could spread expenditure somewhat beyond January 1977 if staffing difficulties meant that we were unable to use the grant fully during the two-year period.

II GENERAL

Over the years we have benefited enormously from willing offers of entirely voluntary help; our fruitful association with Mr R A Close is an outstanding example. This year we have been delighted to welcome Mr R J Quinault who, following his retirement from the BBC, has generously put a day or so a week aside in order to put his skills at the Survey's disposal.

At the end of May, Dr R Ilson left to take up editorial duties with Longman but happily both his new tasks and his continuing research interests provide good opportunities for continued contact. On completion of her MA project in September, Miss Susan Peppé began transcriptional work for the Survey on a part-time basis.

Over the past year we have been very pleased to welcome the following visitors to the Survey:

Dr F G A M Aarts, Nijmegen
Dr D M Bakker, Amsterdam
Professor W-D Bald, Aachen
Professor D L Bolinger, Palo Alto
Mr L Breivik, Bergen
Mrs R Courtney, Calgary
Dr Christina Ekengren, Stockholm
Professor T Finkenstaedt, Augsburg
Professor G Forgue, Paris
Professor T Gardner, Göttingen
Dr R Gläser, Leipzig
Mr C Gnutzmann, Hannover
Professor Shiro Hattori, Tokyo
Miss H Hirsch, Berlin
Mrs J Huddleston, Queensland
Professor G Leech, Lancaster
Dr D Nehls, Stuttgart
Mr K U Panter, Hamburg
Professor G Polletta, Geneva
Mr P Proctor, Longman
Professor T Pyles, Florida
Mr A Hood Roberts, Washington DC
Miss E Sahlin, Uppsala
Professor M Spevack, Münster
Dr J A Strauss, Trier
Professor G Stein, Siegen
Professor Jan Svartvik, Lund
Dr T Wollpers, Göttingen
Dr A Zettersten, Lund

III THE YEAR'S WORK

A decision early in the year to concentrate work on the prosodic transcription of spoken English has meant that the main burden has been carried by Noel Burton-Roberts, Janet Whitcut, and (until the early summer) Robert Ilson. Meanwhile, first-stage analysis has continued on a part-time basis by Jennifer Coates and Jocelyn Goodman.

The meticulous and skilled work of preparing duplimats of text-copy is now largely done by part-time secretarial assistants, some domestically-based, and we would particularly like to acknowledge the current work of Miss Jane Walter and Mrs A Rhys-Williams.

The questions sub-project of the Survey got off to a good start when Michael Anthony was appointed as Research Assistant on the SSRC grant from 1 July. He devoted his MA project to a preliminary study and in late September we were happy to welcome Professor D L Bolinger for a short but exceedingly valuable consultative visit.

Among the numerous outside activities undertaken by the Survey team, mention may be made of the following:

JW wrote items for the item research and development unit of the Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate; assisted in editing the ARELS Journal; and contributed material on spoken English for the ARELS examination.

JC continued her research on modifier sequences and completed a paper for publication on this subject.

JG has continued to write papers on creative writing and in August attended the Writers' Summer School in Derbyshire.

NB-R completed a paper on apposition which is being published in Foundations of Language, conducted research on generics, lectured to foreign teachers for the Educational Interchange Council, and read a paper on meaning and reference in fiction at Professor Kermode's seminar.

DD acted as Director of Studies in a British Council Summer School for teachers of English in Rakovník, Czechoslovakia; gave visiting lectures at the University of London Institute of Education Summer School of English; at Wall Hall College of Education; and Hendon Polytechnic.

RQ read a paper at the seminar on grammar held by the British Association for Applied Linguistics in Nottingham; gave the opening lecture at the German Association for Applied Linguistics in Stuttgart; lectured at the University of Calgary and at several institutions in Britain; made several broadcasts in Canada and also contributed to a number of BBC language programmes. In September 1974 he was elected a Governor of the British Institute of Recorded Sound.

IV PUBLICATIONS

- Algeo, J., Exercises in Contemporary English, New York 1974
- André, E., Studies in the Correspondence between English Intonation and the Noun-Phrase in English, Liège 1974
- Ericsson, G. Tottie, 'The Case for Elicitation,' Studia Neophilologica 46 (1974)
- Gnutzmann, C., 'Zur Graduirbarkeit von Adjektiven im Englischen', Linguistische Berichte 31:1-12 (1974)
- Gnutzmann, C., Ilson R., & Webster, J., 'Comparative Constructions in Contemporary English', English Studies Vol 54, No.5, October 1973
- Greenbaum, S., Acceptability and Language Teaching (mimeo 1973)
- Frequency and Acceptability (mimeo 1974)
- Some Verb-Intensifier Collocations in British and American English (mimeo 1974)
- Frequency in Linguistic Theory (mimeo 1974)
- Quirk, R., 'The Social Impact of Dictionaries in the United Kingdom', in Lexicography in English, ed. R I McDavid and A R Duckert, New York 1973
- The Linguist and the English Language, London 1974

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Randolph Quirk
Valerie Adams
Derek Davy