

University College London

SURVEY OF ENGLISH USAGE

Annual Report 1974-5

I FINANCE

The grant from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation came to an end within the period of this report and we record afresh our gratitude for the support received. Our costs are now met by the fresh and final grant by the Leverhulme Trust reported last year.

Expenditure during the academic session October 1974 to September 1975 has been as follows:

Salaries and insurance	£3598
Part-time assistance	£3440
Equipment, maintenance, office services, books, conference expenses, experimental subjects etc	£ 994
	<hr/>
	£8032
	<hr/>

During the same period we called upon £2200 from the Social Science Research Council in respect of the sub-project on the investigation of questions.

II GENERAL

Apart from the welcome resumption of work by Joy Bowes (née Webster) on a part-time basis, there have been no changes in the full-time or part-time research staff this year, and the consequent stability has been a great advantage. We were however joined by two doctoral students, Mr Leiv Breivik (Bergen) and Mr Archibald Michiels (Liège), who contributed energetically to the activity of the unit. There were shorter periods of study attachment by:

J Bates (Cambridge)	English prepositions
Dr H Bienen (Amsterdam)	tagmemic grammar of English
W Bublitz (Hamburg)	modal particles
E Kaum (Aberdeen)	future time
M O'Neil (Paris)	questions
Prof G Stein (Siegen)	complementation
Dr J Taglicht (Jerusalem)	relative clauses

T Vestergaard (Aarhus)	prepositional verbs
H W Viethen (Aachen)	perfect tense
D Witt (Braunschweig)	speech act sequences

Other visitors included:

Florent Aarts (Nijmegen)
A Basien (Erlangen)
Dr S Dayras (Lille)
J de Rooij (Amsterdam)
E A Dörrie (Braunschweig)
Mrs S Hamilton-Toovey (Chile)
R W A H Hillebrecht (Braunschweig)
Professor K Kihara (Ochanomizu)
Mr V Kohonen (Finland)
Prof G N Leech (Lancaster)
Dr R Mareschall (Ottawa)
Prof Y Morimoto (Nara)
Mrs K Nicholson (Hawaii)
Prof I Simon (Liège)
Prof P Taylor (Geneva)
Prof K Wächtler (Berlin)

III THE YEAR'S WORK

The policy of heavily concentrating resources upon the prosodic transcription of speech has continued throughout the year, with highly fruitful results. A well-planned and well-coordinated programme of work, chiefly by Noel Burton-Roberts, Janet Whitcut, and Susan Peppé, has been fully realised, with good progress in post-transcription filing by Jocelyn Goodman and Jennifer Coates. Managerial aspects of materials preparation and access provision have been increasingly handled by Catherine Sweetman, aided in duplimat preparation by Jane Walter, Leta Almeda and Connie Miles. René Quinault has continued to give his generous help in maintaining the Survey reference collection and in other indispensable tasks such as proof reading and of course providing liaison with the BBC for access to recorded material.

Michael Anthony has advanced well with the SSRC Questions project. In addition to intensive examination of the corpus data and to study of the considerable recent literature on the nature of questions, he has written a lengthy analysis of the problems raised by any.

In this, the progress of his thought and research has happily coincided with the work of NB-R on generic, indefinite, and non-specific features of the noun phrase. In addition to the papers reflecting NB-R's work in this area (Section IV), he has completed a further study, relating generic and analytic statements.

Leiv Breivik continued his work towards a doctoral dissertation on existential sentences, and completed a review article for publication examining some recent work in this area.

Archibald Michiels, in an exceptionally intensive year's work on the eve of Belgian military service, made excellent progress on a doctoral thesis which will be concerned with questions of syntactic cohesion. Some elicitation experiments were conducted and more have been prepared for next year.

JW has been engaged on definition and usage annotation for the Longman lexicographical unit; she has done a good deal of writing and reviewing, in addition to EFL examination design both for Cambridge and for ARELS; she and SP attended the AILA conference in Stuttgart, along with the Survey associate, Dr Robert Ilson, who read a paper on reciprocals.

SP gave lectures and courses at Westminster College (ILEA), the Educational Exchange Council, and the University's Summer School of English.

JG continued her contributions on the art of writing and the application of linguistic study to improved performance.

JC completed a paper on 'A Corpus Study of Modifiers in Sequence' and in September begins work with Professor Leech on the computerised archive of Modern English at Lancaster.

In addition to the publications recorded in Section IV, Mr Close has done a great deal of advising and coordinative work in English grammatical studies as well as participating in conferences, summer schools, and other teaching activities.

RJQ has become the secretary of IATEFL and played a large part in the Easter conference of the Association. He has also been broadcasting and took part in the University's Summer School of English.

DD went on a second lecture visit to Czechoslovakia and in addition spent several months teaching at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand.

RQ lectured at the University of Moscow and at the University of the South Pacific (Fiji), participated in a Salzburg Seminar on current developments in American English, made some broadcasts, and lectured at Cambridge and elsewhere in this country.

IV PUBLICATIONS

- Adams, V. Rev: M. Ljung, English Denominal Adjectives
(Gothenburg 1970), Studia Neophilologica 46, 1974
- André, E., 'Tonal Contrasts and the English Noun Phrase',
Revue de phonétique appliquée 32, 1975
- Burton-Roberts, N., 'Nominal Apposition', Foundations of Language 13,
1975
- 'On the Generic Indefinite Article', Language
(at press)
- Close, R.A., A University Grammar of English Workbook, London 1974
- A Reference Grammar for Students of English,
London 1975
- Greenbaum, S., 'Language Variation and Acceptability', Tesol
Quarterly, 9, 1975
- 'Problems in the Negation of Modals', Moderna
Språk 1974
- Johansson, S., 'Investigating Linguistic Acceptability through
Perception under Masking Noise' (mimeo)
- Leech, G.N. & A Communicative Grammar of English, London 1975
Svartvik, J.,
- Michiels, A., 'Relative Pronouns in Time, Place, and Manner
Adjuncts', English Studies (at press)
- 'Idiomaticity in English', La Revue des langues
vivantes (at press)
- 'A Note on the Relation between Agent and
Stativity', La Revue des langues vivantes (at
press)
- Svartvik, J. & 'The Use of Ought in Teenage English' (mimeo)
Wright, D.
- Whitcut, J., 'The Survey of English Usage', ARELS Journal
1 (8), 1975