

University College London

SURVEY OF ENGLISH USAGE

Annual Report 1975-6

I FINANCE

Expenditure during the academic session since October 1975 has been as follows:

Salaries and insurance	£4136
Part-time assistance	£2794
Equipment, maintenance, office services, books, elicitation expenses, etc.	£1836
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	£8766
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In addition, during the same period, we called upon £1457 from the Social Science Research Council in respect of the sub-project on questions. This year sees the completion of the SSRC project and we wish to record our thanks for the grant made in 1974.

This is also the last full year of the Leverhulme grant. We take this opportunity of expressing our profound gratitude to the many organisations that have contributed to Survey funds over the years, but above all to the Leverhulme Trustees for their generous support.

II GENERAL

The end of this academic year coincided with the resignation of Susan Boase (née Peppé) (to go to Brunei), Noel Burton-Roberts (to take up an appointment in Trondheim), and Michael Anthony (to a lectureship in linguistics at Bangor). Leiv Breivik also left, after his two-year study visit. Meanwhile, another Norwegian scholar, Anne-Marie Langvall, began a period of attachment to study modal auxiliaries. Peter Funken (Aachen) spent the year at the Survey working on copula sentences. There were shorter periods of study attachment by:

Prof D Crystal (Reading)	prosodics
Dr C Gnutzmann (Hannover)	intonation
Dr R Huddleston (Queensland)	auxiliaries
Mr M Jordan (Hatfield)	<u>this</u> and <u>that</u>
Dr P Kussmaul (Germersheim)	informal speech acts
Prof F Palmer (Reading)	modals
Miss E Sahlin (Uppsala)	<u>some</u> and <u>any</u>

Prof G Stein (Siegen)	finite passives
Mr A Wharton (Crewe)	comment clauses
Mrs J Wilding (Berks)	passive in discourse

Further visitors:

Mr M Bakir (Basrah)
Prof W-D Bald (Aachen)
Miss A Duszak (Warsaw)
Prof R Filipovic (Zagreb)
Prof A T Gaylord (Dartmouth)
Dr R Ilson (Longman)
Prof A H King (Brigham Young)
Prof G Leech (Lancaster)
Dr T Lindblad (Göteborg)
Prof Oleg Mutt (Tartu)
Prof F Nakajima (Tokyo)
Mr P Proctor (Longman)
Dr E Winter (Hatfield)

III THE YEAR'S WORK

It is a particular pleasure to report the successful launching in Lund of Engelskt Talspråk, the Survey of Spoken English. Directed by Jan Svartvik with two full-time linguist assistants (Bengt Orestrom and Cecilia Thavenius), the SSE is working in close collaboration with the Survey in London and is computerising a skillfully edited version of the transcriptions of the Survey corpus. In making the resulting magnetic tapes generally available, the SSE will contribute significantly to the widespread advanced study of spoken English, but in addition of course the computational analysis of syntax in Lund itself (and there are few centres with greater expertise) can be confidently expected to make outstanding progress.

In London, thanks largely to the hard work of Noel Burton-Roberts, Susan Boase and Janet Whitcut, this was a fittingly climactic year in the transcription of spoken material, with follow-up work on filing by Jocelyn Goodman. We continued to enjoy the help of home-based colleagues: Joy Bowes (transcription), Jennifer Coates (first-stage analysis), and Leta Almeda (duplimat preparation). Catherine Sweetman has played an increasingly responsible part in monitoring and co-ordinating the work. We profited as before from the regular help of René Quinault, and R A Close also maintained his association with the Survey. Michael Anthony made excellent progress writing up the results of his research on questions. Elicitation work continued in London and (more extensively) in Milwaukee, assembling data, for example, with the Michiels batteries.

JW became still more closely associated with lexicographic work of Longman, especially taking over responsibility for writing the Usage Notes for the forthcoming Dictionary of Contemporary English. She read a paper on the theory of limited vocabularies to the Lexicographical Advisory Committee (Longlex), has embarked on a lexicographical Workbook to be published by Longman, and she taught on the University of London Summer School.

RQ was appointed Chairman of the English Studies advisors to the British Council; he also became a member of Lord Briggs' BBC Archives Committee. On study leave for the year, he visited Brown, Harvard, MIT, the Center for Behavioral Studies in Palo Alto, Merriam's at Springfield, and gave many lectures and broadcasts in centres throughout the world (Dartmouth, Brown, Washington, Hawaii, Bucharest, Münster, Aachen, Cologne, Lund, Athens, Bombay, Singapore, Fiji, and all six of the New Zealand Universities).

IV PUBLICATIONS

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- Quirk, R 'A Tough Object to Trace' Journal of Linguistics (at press)
- Ryden, N 'Noun-Name Collocations in British English Newspaper Language' Studia Neophilologica 47, 1975
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