

University College London

SURVEY OF ENGLISH USAGE

Annual Report 1976-7

I GENERAL

We record with great sadness the death of Jocelyn Goodman whose years of part-time service to the Survey made her a greatly valued as well as a much loved colleague. The year also saw the resignation of Derek Davy and his departure to take up an appointment at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand; the resignation, too, of Janet Whitcut to engage in full-time work with the Longman Lexicographic Unit. At the same time, we are happy to note the recruitment of new colleagues, all of them part-time: Sylvia Chalker, who has been with us for the whole session; Audrey Morris and Oonagh Sayce, who joined us in the summer.

A good number of scholars spent periods working on our data in pursuit of their own research:

- Dr K-D Barnickel (Erlangen) - sentence relators
- Dr H B Bienen (Amsterdam) - noun phrases
- Miss B Bird (Oslo) - nominal compounds
- Fräulein C Gdaniec (Berlin) - syntactic variation in English
- Dr A Hübler (Duisburg) - understatement
- Miss L Kemmeler (Erlangen) - descriptive linguistics
- Dr P Kussmaul (Germersheim) - informal speech acts
- Mr V K Mahandru (Reading) - inversion of object in English sentences
- Prof F Palmer (Reading) - modals
- Dr S Wyler (St Gallen, Switzerland) - relative pronouns

A month's visit by Sidney Greenbaum in June was the occasion for beginning plans to engage in a major revision of A Grammar of Contemporary English, and there were associated visits by Geoffrey Leech and Jan Svartvik.

Further visitors:

- Mr N Bajan (Galati)
- Dr V Bickley (Honolulu)
- Mr B Brömser (Frankfurt)
- Miss P Cassamada (Barcelona)
- Mr J Colson (Louvain)
- Prof J Fisiak (Poznan)
- Mr L Glinert (Israel)
- Prof M Gorosch (Copenhagen)
- Prof K Kadono (Kyoto)

Dr V Kohonen (Finland)  
Prof J D McCawley (Chicago)  
Dr R R Mehrotra (Delhi)  
Dr R Mohan (Hyderabad)  
Mr P E Monnin (Geneva)  
Dr A Nicolescu (Bucharest)  
Mrs N G Ozerova (Kiev)  
Prof W B Robinett (Minnesota)  
Prof S Rot (Budapest)  
Prof F Scott (Auckland)  
Dr L E Smith (Honolulu)  
Prof M Spevack (Münster)  
Mrs I C Staicu (Romania)  
Prof G Stein (Siegen)  
Miss Z Stojadinovic (Belgrade)  
Prof O Szemerényi (Freiburg)  
Mrs Tai Yu-Lin (Singapore)  
Mrs G Tottie (Stockholm)  
Mr A Vermeire (Hasselt)  
Mr G Watson (Cambridge)  
Miss N Y Zhuktenko (Kiev)

## II THE YEAR'S WORK

Rapid progress has been made on the associate project at Lund, the Survey of Spoken English, involving close collaboration with UCL as the SEU texts were computerised and problems of interpretation, consistency, error-identification etc were ironed out. A large proportion of this stage of the Lund project is already complete, and in a short time we hope to proceed with the production of a computer tape of the entire text-run.

In London, work proceeded on first-stage analysis (largely by Sylvia Chalker with VA's guidance). To remedy deficiencies in certain areas, additional spoken texts were transcribed (especially by Joy Bowes and RQ), and good progress was made in compiling valuable texts of manuscript material. SC and AM made rapid progress towards assimilating the intricacies of first-stage analysis, and OS resumed the work on closed-category items previously undertaken by Mrs Goodman. The preparation of duplimats has again been done by Leta Almeda, while Catherine Sweetman has continued her work of co-ordination, along with specific tasks of category filing and the proof-reading of text transcriptions with the generous assistance of René Quinault. Some further work on elicitation experiments was done by RQ and

Archibald Michiels. There has been continued co-operation with Paul Procter, Robert Ilson, Janet Whitcut and others of the Longman Lexicographic team, especially in connection with the description of closed-category items and degrees of formality in language usage. Two of the MA students, S Berge and J Brown, made use of Survey data in their dissertations (on aspects of prosody and the definite article, respectively).

In addition to several broadcasts and extra-curricular lectures in Britain, RQ read papers at conferences in Chicago and Kentucky.

### III PUBLICATIONS

- Abberton, E 'Nominal Group Premodification Structures' in Bald-Ilson
- Bald, W-D and Ilson, R Studies in English Usage, Lang: Forum Linguisticum 6, 1977
- Black, M 'An investigation into Factors Influencing the Choice between the Syllabic and Contracted Forms of is' in Bald-Ilson
- Boardman, G M 'A Study of Certain Kinds of Anacolutha in a Corpus of Spoken English' in Bald-Ilson
- Close, R A 'Some Observations on the Meaning and Function of Verb-Phrases having Future Reference' in Bald-Ilson
- 'The Problem of Grammar' in English for Academic Purposes, ed A P Cowie and J B Heaton, BAAL/SELMOUS 1977
  - 'Banners and Bandwagons', ELT 31 (1977)
  - English as a Foreign Language (2nd edition), Allen and Unwin 1977
- Coates, J 'A Corpus Study of Modifiers in Sequence' in Bald-Ilson
- Davison, B D 'Aspects of Information Structuring in Modern Spoken English' in Bald-Ilson
- Greenbaum, S 'Some Verb-Intensifier Collocations in American and British English' American Speech 49 (1974)
- 'Contextual Influence on Acceptability Judgments' International Journal of Psycholinguistics 1 (1976)
  - 'Syntactic Frequency and Acceptability', Lingua 40 (1976)
- Kussmaul, P 'In fact, actually, anyway: Indikatoren von Sprachakten im gesprochenen Englisch', Die Neueren Sprachen (at press)
- Michiels, A 'Relative Pronouns in Time Adjuncts', English Studies 58 (1977)
- 'Idiomatcity in English', Revue des Langues vivantes 43 (1977)
  - 'More on do so and Verb Phrase Substitution', Etudes Anglaises 30 (1977)
- Oreström, B 'Why "/>

- Svartvik, J 'Projektet Engelskt Talsprak' Survey of Spoken English Papers,  
Lund 1976
- Taglicht, J 'Relative Clauses as Postmodifiers: Meaning, Syntax and Intonation'  
in Bald-Ilson
- Thavenius, C 'A Select Bibliography of Studies in Spoken English' Survey of  
Spoken English Papers, Lund 1976
- Webster, J 'A Corpus-Based Exploration of Prepositional Phrases Post-Modifying  
Verbally-Related Heads' in Bald-Ilson

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