

University College London

SURVEY OF ENGLISH USAGE

Annual Report 1978-79

I GENERAL

The Survey's work was given most welcome support with a grant of £6,000 by the British Academy. It is hoped that this will sustain us in the period before the work can be established on a more permanently satisfactory financial basis.

We also benefited by the presence throughout the year of Dr Jan Rusiecki, former Assistant Director of the Survey, who was able to return for a year as holder of the Longman Fellowship.

In the course of the year we were joined by two new members of staff whom we were happy to welcome: Miss Rosalind Bell and (on a part-time basis) Mrs Grace Stewart. On the debit side we record with regret the loss of Mrs Jan Webb and Mrs Leta Almeda, whose secretarial skills will be greatly missed; and Mrs Sylvia Chalker who left on appointment to a British Council post in Singapore, taking with her a high level of linguistic expertise which will not easily be replaced.

The past year continued to demonstrate the Survey's importance in the eyes of the international scholarly community and the need on our part to have time and facilities to deal with inquiries from large numbers of correspondents and from those who are able to visit us in person. The following scholars spent periods in the Survey working on research problems:

- Professor W-D Bald (Aachen) - tags and intonation
- Dr K D Barnickel (Erlangen) - sentence connection
- Mr S Berge (Trondheim) - intonation
- Ms N Bonetti (Tucuman) - NP premodification
- Ms L Haegeman (Ghent) - expression of future
- Dr D J Hirst (Provence) - intonation
- Dr A Hübler (Duisburg) - modality
- Ms L Kemmeter (Erlangen) - negation
- Ms S Legrand Granger (Leuven) - passive
- Ms M Manninen (Edinburgh) - apposition
- Dr M Mepham (Quebec) - survey methods
- Mr B Orestrom (Lund) - prosody
- Ms A B Stenstrom (Lund) - response utterances
- Professor G Stein (Siegen) - voice auxiliaries
- Dr T Vermeire (Hasselt) - intensifiers
- Ms K Wales (London) - indefinite pronouns

Among visitors that we were pleased to welcome:

Ms C Alm (Umeå)  
 Ms S Carroll (Montreal)  
 Professor M Cerrudo (La Plata)  
 Ms A A D'Aste-Surcouf (Birzeit)  
 Professor F Engels (Leuven)  
 Ms I Erdmann (Trier)  
 Professor C A Ferguson (Stanford)  
 Dr J Firbas (Brno)  
 Professor S B Heath (Pennsylvania)  
 Mr J W Hellendoorn (The Hague)  
 Mr P Howard (London)  
 Dr S Jacobson (Stockholm)  
 Professor G Leech (Lancaster)  
 Dr H P Lütjen (Hamburg)  
 Mr M Morinaga (Hokkaido)  
 Mr T Matsushita (Nagara)  
 Mr M Matsumoto (Tokyo)  
 Mr C Matthiessen (Lund)  
 Professor D Munro (S California)  
 Mr M Nordin (Lund)  
 Professor I Poldauf (Prague)  
 Dr G Radden (Trier)  
 Professor R K Redfern (Clarion State College)  
 Professor Michael Smith (Tennessee)  
 Mr T J Taylor (Oxford)  
 Dr M E Wrolstad (Cleveland)

## II THE YEAR'S WORK

Work developed on three fronts. In the first place, there was important progress in first-stage analysis (Sylvia Chalker, Audrey Morris, Oonagh Sayce, Grace Stewart, Jan Webb). Secondly, Jan Rusiecki and RQ conducted a fairly large programme of elicitation tests on several grammatical and semantic problems. Thirdly, there was considerable work - chiefly by René Quinault - in continued liaison with the associated project in Lund (Survey of Spoken English).

The London and Lund projects were prominent in a symposium on computational linguistics held in Bergen (March 1979). This was organised and financed by the Norwegian Research Council for Science and the Humanities, thanks to the energetic work of Dr Stig Johansson. Several related research projects (coordinated within ICAME) were represented at this very fruitful meeting, and participants included Geoffrey Leech from Lancaster, W N Francis and Henry Kucera from Brown, Jan Svartvik from Lund, as well as Jan Rusiecki and RQ from London.

During the year, R A Close gave courses to teachers of English in Sydney, Athens and Cambridge. René Quinault continued as Secretary-Treasurer of IATEFL and in that capacity attended and helped to organise the conference at Poznan in April 1979 in association with the Modern Language Teachers Association of Poland. He also taught on the University of London Summer School of English Studies. Jan Svartvik lectured at the State University of New York at Albany and in addition to his work at the Bergen symposium (above) lectured also at the EF Institute in Cambridge.

RQ gave lectures at the Universities of St Andrews and Sussex. In the course of visits abroad, he lectured also in Paris, Tokyo, Kyoto, Witwatersrand, Bergen, Shanghai, Peking, Ottawa, Montreal, and Athens. In addition, he made several radio and television broadcasts in this country as well as in Japan, South Africa and Canada.

### III PUBLICATIONS

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