

University College London

SURVEY OF ENGLISH USAGE

Annual Report 1979-80

I GENERAL

By operating with careful economy on the basis of hourly-paid assistants, we have continued to manage financially this year on the balance of the British Academy grant. At the same time, efforts have been made to build up the Survey Trust Fund so that in due course our work can be maintained on interest income. Approaches have been made to a number of organisations for contributions to the Fund, and I am grateful for supportive responses already from Messrs Edward Arnold, the Macmillan Press, and the Westinghouse Electric Corporation.

The Department of English has been fortunate in appointing Ms Queenie Jeffrey as Executive Officer (in place of Ms R. Bell), and she has energetically added to her departmental duties the general administrative management of the Survey. In January, on his retirement from the British Council, Dr Bernard Lott generously began to share with the Survey what time he could spare from other new activities, notably in the Open University. Throughout the year we have enjoyed the collaboration of Ms Claire Terry as a part-time research assistant, and towards the end of the session two further hourly-paid assistants started work, Ms Lucie Morgan and Mr Anthony Neale. At the same time, Mr John Thompson was appointed Quain Student in the Department, with part-time duties on the Survey.

Long-term visiting scholars included not only Ms Liliane Haegeman (Ghent), who in August returned to Belgium having completed her research on expressions of the future, but Professor Wolf-Dietrich Bald (Aachen), as holder of the Longman Fellowship, who carried out important work on the pronoun one. Other scholars spending periods working on specific projects in the Survey included:

Mr S. Berge	(Trondheim)	- intonation & repetition
Ms N. Bonetti	(Tucuman)	- negation
Ms J. Coates	(Lancaster)	- modals
Dr C. Gnutzmann	(Hanover)	- demonstratives
Ms S. Legrand-Granger	(Louvain)	- the passive
Dr D. Gutch	(Regensburg)	- pronominal case forms
Dr N. Gvishiani	(Moscow)	- multifunctional items
Mr J.M. Kirk	(Sheffield)	- auxiliary verb forms
Dr G. Leitner	(Hanover)	- language of broadcasting
Prof. G. Stein	(Siegen)	- grammar & lexicology
Ms C. Thavenius	(Lund)	- referential <u>it</u>
Ms A. Virkkunen	(Helsinki)	- intensifiers
Ms K. Wales	(London)	- indefinite pronouns

In addition, we had visits from:

Prof. Florent Aarts	(Nijmegen)
Mr B. Aiken	(Aachen)
Ms A.A. d'Aste Surcouf	(Birkeit)
Prof. H. Brekle	(Regensburg)
Prof. B. Carstensen	(Paderborn)
Prof. R. Dixon	(Canberra)
Dr. R. Gläser	(Leipzig)
Prof. S. Greenbaum	(Wisconsin)
Mr J.W. Hellendoorn	(The Hague)
Prof. L. Ihalainen	(Helsinki)
Prof. B. Kachru	(Illinois)
Mr A. Kapišovsky	(Czechoslovakia)
Dr G. Kedzielska	(Warsaw)
Ms L. Kemmeter	(Nürnberg)
Prof. A.H. King	(Brigham Young University)
Dr R. Kirsner	(Los Angeles)
Prof. M. Kohda	(Kyoto)
Mr S.I. Landau	(New York)
Prof. G. Leech	(Lancaster)
Dr R.H. Leek	(Amsterdam)
Dr U. Magnusson	(Umeå)
Mr M. Neubert, M.P., and party	
Mr V. Messmer	(Budapest)
Ms A. Olsen	(Trondheim)
Prof. K.I. Sandred and party	(Umeå)
Mr Y. Serikawa	(Japan)
Ms A. Skweres	(Warsaw)
Mr M. Smith	(Tennessee)
Prof. M. Spevack	(Münster)
Ms S. Stuart	(London)
Mr M. Tada	(Japan)
Prof. P. Taylor	(Geneva)
Dr G. Tottie	(Lund)
Prof. I. Umeda	(Kyoto)
Dr D. Vamdatt	(South Gujarat)
Dr M. Votruba	(Bratislava)
Ms J. Whitcut	(London)
Mr M. Wrolstad	(Cleveland)
Prof. J. van der Westhuizen	(Cape Town)
Dr K. Yamakawa	(Japanese Defense Academy)

II THE YEAR'S WORK

A major building operation in the Department during the three months from June seriously affected progress, and indeed necessitated for a short period the entire close-down of the Survey. Nonetheless, it has been a productive year, with Audrey Morris supervising and co-ordinating the work of first-stage analysis by Oonagh Sayce, Claire Terry, Grace Stewart, and - latterly - Lucie Morgan and Anthony Neale. Second-stage analysis has proceeded with the work not only of Liliane Haegeman and Wolf-Dietrich Bald but also of René Quinault (finite clauses), Bernard Lott (prepositional phrases) and - latterly - John Thompson (adverbials).

The continued collaboration between London and Lund bore splendid fruit in the 900-page volume making available Survey conversation data, reproduced in the Lund modification of the Survey's prosodic transcription. A Lund Studies in English brochure giving details of this book and the independently available computer tape is circulated as an enclosure with the present Report.

R.A. Close undertook an arduous lecture tour in Holland and Germany, gave the inaugural lecture in Edinburgh of the Scottish Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language, and continued his important advisory work for ARELS and Longman. Bernard Lott lectured at the Department of Language, University of York. René Quinault once more helped organise the annual IATEFL conference, and he also attended the FIPLV meeting in Hamburg. Jan Svartvik read a paper at the Nobel Symposium on Text Processing in Stockholm, and played a leading role in a contrastive linguistics meeting in Yugoslavia. RQ addressed an ES-U symposium in San Francisco at the publication of The State of the Language; lectured at the University of Santiago de Compostela; organised (in collaboration with Wolf-Dietrich Bald) the language section at the IAUPE conference held in Aberdeen. He was an invited speaker in the Writers' Conference at the Edinburgh Festival, and during the year took part in several radio and television programmes concerned with the English language.

III PUBLICATIONS

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|----------------|---|
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| " | 'Tag Questions, Transformational Grammar, and Pragmatics'. <u>Papers in Contrastive Linguistics</u> 9 (1979), Poznan. |
| Close, R.A. | ' <u>Will</u> in <u>if</u> -clauses', in Greenbaum et al. |
| " | review of Girard's <u>Grammaire Raisonnée</u> , in <u>ELT</u> 34 (1980). |
| " | review of Wekker's <u>Expression of Future Time</u> , in <u>Dutch Qly Rev. of Anglo-American Letters</u> 9 (1979). |
| Crystal, D. | 'Neglected Grammatical Factors in Conversational English', in Greenbaum et al. |
| Greenbaum, S., | Leech, G. & Svartvik, J. <u>Studies in English Linguistics</u> . London: Longman (1980). |
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| " | 'The English Language Today', <u>Wisconsin English Journal</u> 22 (1980). |

- " 'Syntactic Frequency and Acceptability', in Evidence and Argumentation in Linguistics, ed. T.A. Perry, Berlin: de Gruyter, 1980.
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- Palmer, F.R. 'Can, will, and actuality', in Greenbaum et al.
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- Sahlin, E. 'Some and 'Any' in Spoken and Written English, Uppsala 1979.
- Svartvik, J. 'Information processing in speech', Preprint for Nobel Symposium on Text Processing, Stockholm, 1980.
- " 'Computer-aided grammatical tagging of spoken English', Survey of Spoken English Report. Lund (1980).
- " 'Well in conversation', in Greenbaum et al.
- " 'Interactive parsing of spoken English', Preprint for the 8th International Conference on Computational Linguistics, Tokyo, 1980.
- Svartvik, J. & Quirk, R. (eds.) A Corpus of English Conversation, Lund Studies in English 56. Lund: Liber 1980.
- Wilding, J.M. 'Indefinacy as Hyper-Case for the Agentive By-phrase', Proceedings of the 12th International Congress of Linguists, Innsbruck 1978.