

University College London

SURVEY OF ENGLISH USAGE

Annual Report 1980-81

I GENERAL

We are grateful to the British Academy for a second research grant, this time in the sum of £5,225, for the academic year 1981-82. This is to enable the work to continue unabated while our Trust Fund is built up to the extent of producing an income from investment sufficient to meet the costs of hourly paid assistants, equipment maintenance, etc. The Trust Fund now stands at just over £44,000, and although this still falls far short of our goal, we can be confident that the invested total will be in the region of £50K by the time we need to start using the annual interest (probably in the autumn of 1982). Efforts are continuing, in a bleak economic climate, to attract capital donations.

Demands upon the Survey's data resources during 1980-81 have been as heavy as ever, and long-term visiting scholars have included:

Ms J. Crocker	(London)	- affirmation
Ms A. Gago	(Seville)	- negation
Dr D. Gutch	(Regensburg)	- adverbials
Ms I.M. Ionova	(Kiev)	- lexical semantics
Mr W.J. Judenmann	(Regensburg)	- colloquial speech
Prof. Lee Dae-Yung	(Seoul)	- comparative study (BrE/AmE)
Ms S. Legrand-Granger	(Louvain)	- the passive
Dr K. Mulligan	(Hamburg)	- prepositions
Ms T. Nevalainen	(Helsinki)	- focussing adverbials
Mr B. Oreström	(Lund)	- aspects of discourse
Ms M. Rekawek	(Warsaw)	- discourse stylistics
Prof. Song Byong Hak	(South Korea)	- linguistic semantics
Prof. G. Stein	(Hamburg)	- lexicology
Ms A-B Stenström	(Lund)	- intonation
Dr J. Taglicht	(Jerusalem)	- focussing adverbials
Ms C. Thavenius	(Lund)	- referential <u>it</u>
Ms K. Wales	(London)	- pronominal reference
Ms P. Zheng	(Peking)	- grammatical analysis
Mr A. Oyeleye	(Nigeria)	- literary stylistics

In addition, we have been pleased to welcome on short visits:

Dr F.G.A.M. Aarts	(Nijmegen)
Prof. W-D Bald	(Aachen)
Dr M.T.C. Biderman	(Rio de Janeiro)
Ms P. Poussa	(Helsinki)
Ms S. Chalker	(London)
Ms L. Chase	(Queensland)
Ms M. Dorao	(Cadiz)
Prof. R. Filipovič	(Zagreb)
Prof. T. Finkenstaedt	(Augsburg)
Mr M. Gaspar	(London)
Dr M. Görlach	(Heidelberg)
Dr L. Haegeman	(Ghent)
Dr E. Hajičová	(Prague)
Mr M. Hocke	(Turin)

Ms J. Huddleston	(Brisbane)
Prof. L. Ihalainen	(Helsinki)
Prof. G. Leech	(Lancaster)
Ms E. Meehan	(Argentina)
Dr R.R. Mehrotra	(Banaras)
Ms A. Mittwoch	(Jerusalem)
Prof. E. Penmanen	(Helsinki)
Dr K. Tahal	(Prague)
Dr M.L. Tickoo	(Hyderabad)
Mr G. Whallby	(Kingston, Ontario)
Mrs J. Whitcut	(London)
Mr Tan Seng Chye	} (SEAMES)
Mr Wee Choon Siang	

II THE YEAR'S WORK

Audrey Morris has continued to co-ordinate the work of first-stage analysis being done by Oonagh Sayce, Grace Stewart, Anthony Neale and Lucie Morgan. Grace Stewart has been exclusively engaged on certain categories (Intonation and Exclamatory Noises), taking this work far ahead of the general progress in first-staging. Work on second-stage analysis has been continued by René Quinault (finite clauses), Bernard Lott (prepositional phrases) and John Thompson (adverbial positioning in spoken texts).

During the year, Oonagh Sayce has conducted a detailed study of the first-stage Work-Book in its various recensions and with the liberal accretions of marginalia that have accumulated. In June 1981, we seized on the opportunity provided by the return to London of Ms Sylvia Chalker to organise a day-long seminar, chaired by Robert Ilson, with a view to bringing out a consolidated new and improved version of the Work-Book, for the benefit both of Survey assistants and (perhaps especially) of visiting scholars. The seminar, which was attended by all the current part-time assistants, together with Ms Chalker, Valerie Adams, and Janet Whitcut, concentrated on the most vital and controversial issues (previously identified by Audrey Morris, Oonagh Sayce, and Anthony Neale). With the assistance of her colleagues, OS is now working on a draft of the new Work-Book on lines agreed by the seminar, obliterating inconsistencies and infelicities that she and others have encountered.

In addition to several BBC radio and television talks on aspects of contemporary English, RQ visited FIAT headquarters in Turin to present a seminar paper on problems of communication; delivered a paper on 'Nuclear English' at the English-Speaking Union international conference in London; addressed the University of London Convocation on comparing English with other international languages; visited Singapore and read papers at the National University and at RELC, as well as doing some radio and tv work; visited Dubrovnik and gave a paper at the Linguaphone conference there. On his appointment as Vice-Chancellor of the University from 1 September, he has of course resigned from the Quain Chair of English but will continue to work as time permits in UCL as an Honorary Research Fellow. The Provost generously guaranteed the College's support for the Survey in continuing to provide accommodation as at present. The academic direction of the Survey will now be in the hands of Robert Ilson, assisted in such matters as financial administration by Valerie Adams and (especially with reference to care of the archive and equipment, monitoring requests for access, and liaison with the associated Lund project) by René Quinault.

Preparatory work continues on a new grammar of English by Sidney Greenbaum, Geoffrey Leech, Jan Svartvik and RQ. A work on grammar and rhetoric has been completed by Sidney Greenbaum in collaboration with Morton Bloomfield of Harvard. In addition to his labours on the Survey of Spoken English in Lund, Jan Svartvik has been heavily involved (understandably, as President) in organising the very successful AILA conference in Lund (August 1981); and in editing, with Bengt Sigurd, the volume of preprints. Geoffrey Leech and his Lancaster colleagues have completed a grammar of English for students and teachers under the aegis of the English Association. In addition to his normal duties at the Institute of Education, Robert Ilson has done some broadcasting and given several lectures on lexicography and other topics at summer schools and elsewhere. He was active at the Lund AILA, reading a paper on 'Definition Structure and Clause Structure', and chairing one of the major sessions. R.A. Close paid two visits to Singapore, advising on the teaching of English; he also gave seminars in Adelaide and Melbourne; in March, he did a lecture tour of Sweden; in July, he recorded a talk on English as a world language for the BBC. Oonagh Sayce has completed (and submitted) her thesis on The Owl and the Nightingale for the London PhD. René Quinault organised the IATEFL overseas conference held this year in Athens, and is attending the FIPLV Triennial Conference in Ibadan, Nigeria. Bernard Lott continues to work as a Course Tutor in the Open University, and as General Editor of the New Swan Shakespeare. Anthony Neale has done some work as an etymologist for Longman, and has helped Reader's Digest to compile vocabulary lists. In the autumn he takes up a tutorial appointment in Richmond, but will continue to give part-time help to the Survey. John Thompson has been working part-time as an assistant on the London Review of Books as well as being Quain Student in the Department. He now leaves to begin research at Oxford, though he will maintain his contact with the Survey in 1981-82 when he will be working with Liliane Haegeman on women's language.

IV PUBLICATIONS

- Close, R.A. English as a Foreign Language, 3rd ed. London: Allen & Unwin, 1981
- Ilson, R.F. 'Forms of Address' Times Ed.Sup. Aug.80
- 'Old Friends and New: A Survey of Dictionaries' Practical English Teaching 1 (1981)
- (with S. Ilson) 'Bouncing Words: The Language of the Playground', Times Ed.Sup. Jan.81
- (with C.L. Barnhart et al) The Second Barnhart Dictionary of New English. Bronxville: Barnhart 1980
- Greenbaum, S. 'Current Usage and the Experimenter' American Speech 51
- & J. Taylor 'The Recognition of Usage Errors' College Composition and Communication, May 1981
- Haegeman, L. 'Modal shall and Speaker's Control' Jl of English Linguistics 15
- 'The Use of will and the Expression of Futurity in Present-Day British English'. 3 vols, mimeo: Ghent
- 'Observations on the Use of Won't' English Language Teaching J135
- Quirk, R. 'Speaking into the Air' The Future of Broadcasting, ed. R. Hoggart and J. Morgan. London: Macmillan, 1981
- 'Public Words' London Review of Books, 3.3
- 'A Problem of Modality' Vilém Fried Festschrift, ed. J. Esser & A. Hübler. Duisburg: Gesamthochschule, 1981
- 'International Communication and the Concept of Nuclear English' English for Cross-Cultural Communication, ed L. Smith. London: Macmillan, 1981

- Quirk, R. (with B. Kachru) 'Introduction'. English for Cross-Cultural Communication, ed. L. Smith. London: Macmillan, 1981
- (with J. Rusiecki) 'Grammatical Data by Elicitation'. Language Form and Linguistic Variation, ed. J.M. Anderson. Amsterdam: Benjamins, 1981
- Svartvik, J. and B. Sigurd (edd) Sections and Workshops: AILA 81, Proceedings Vol. I, Lund
- Tottie, G. 'Affixal and Non-Affixal Negation in English' Studia Linguistica 34

Valerie Adams
Robert Ilson
Randolph Quirk

September 1981