UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
SURVEY OF ENGLISH USAGE

Annual Report 1986-87

1. The Computerization of the Survey

During the past year the Survey has made rapid advances in the computerization of its corpus, thanks in large measure to help, both financial and human, from the IBM UK Scientific Centre.

The written texts have been converted to machine-readable form. They are installed on an IBM PC AT computer (acquired this year) with specially developed supporting software.

The texts have been concordanced using a technique that enables the whole concordance of 410,000 words of running text (82 texts of 5,000 words) to be stored on 20 megabytes of disk. (The one remaining written text—handwritten notices—will soon be added.) A high-speed interactive concordance browser enables a researcher to extract all occurrences of a particular lexical item, identified by up to 20 characters starting on a word boundary, with a response time of about one second. The data are presented as conventional concordance entries together with the whole sentence in which each concordance entry occurs. Preceding and succeeding sentences can also be called for. The entries or the full sentences can be reproduced on a printout. We enclose a description of the concordance and the browser.

A relational database to contain the detailed grammatical data associated with the texts has been designed and a prototype is operational. Associated with the database is a set of programs for the computer-assisted collection of grammatical data. In the coming year an interactive database browser will be developed.

Work has started on a word-level grammatical tagger that will run on the PC. This is based on programs developed at the University of Lancaster. We are grateful to Professor Geoffrey Leech for making the programs available to us, and to Mrs Lita Taylor (University of Lancaster) for her help in their conversion. All the texts will be word-tagged and the concordance browser extended to enable items to be selected using an orthographic word and its tag. The tagging will greatly enhance the computer assistance that can be given in the coding of grammatical data into the database.

Work is also progressing on converting spoken texts into computer-readable form. Like the 87 Survey spoken texts that are available in the London-Lund Corpus, these texts offer a prosodic transcription that is reduced from the fuller version printed on slips. We expect to have completed by the end of next year 30 texts additional to those in the London-Lund Corpus, including 17 that were read aloud from written material.

The work on the spoken texts has been made possible through a contract with the Department of Phonetics and Linguistics at the College as part of the Esprit Project. We are grateful to Professor Adrian Fourcin and Dr John

Wells for their help in securing the contract and look forward to continuing cooperation between the Survey and the Department. The additional texts will eventually be made available to researchers through the Computing Centre for the Humanities at Bergen University.

In the coming year our computational resources will be extended, and we hope eventually to connect all the computers via a Local Area Network, thereby offering the concordance and database to all the machines without the need for a copy on each machine. The spoken texts will be added to the concordance when the tagging of the written texts is complete.

2. Finances

We are grateful to a number of sources for financial support of the Survey's work. We are continuing to receive an annual donation of £1,000 from the Sir Sigmund Sternberg Charitable Foundation. Longman has renewed its annual payments of £5,000 for another four years. This year we received £12,000 from the IBM UK Scientific Centre under a contract. Another contract with the Esprit Project has provided an initial payment of £5,000 for the past six months and another payment of £5,000 is committed to the Survey for the next six months.

The Survey is fortunate to have a Research Fellowship funded by Longman. The Longman Fellow for 1986-87 will be Professor Josef Taglicht of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, whose most recent book is *Message and Emphasis: On Focus and Scope in English* (London: Longman 1984).

3. Visitors

The Longman Research Fellow for 1986-87 was Professor Yoshihiko Ikegami of the University of Tokyo. During his stay at the Survey, Professor Ikegami worked on expressions of causation in Modern British English, drawing on the material in the Survey. He taught a postgraduate course at University College in the second term, entitled 'English from outside: Some aspects of its grammar, semantics, and pragmatics'. He gave lectures at universities in Lancaster, Kassell, Munich, Birmingham, Antwerp, Leuven, Trier, Hamburg, Bamberg, and Konstanz. He also gave papers at conferences, symposia, and colloquia at Bochum, Brussels, Hamburg, Toronto, East Berlin, and Essex. He worked as a member of Longman's LINGLEX committee and served as an external examiner for a Ph.D. thesis at SOAS.

Professor John Algeo of the University of Georgia was the recipient of a Fulbright Research Fellowship tenable at the Survey for 1986-87, and was also awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for the same period. During his stay at the Survey he conducted research into the grammatical and lexical differences between British and American English, and made extensive use of Survey data. Several important publications resulting from his research are forthcoming or under way. He contributed lectures to some classes at University College, and he also lectured at the universities of Lancaster, Reading, and Sheffield; gave papers at the MLA in New York City, at a conference on historical English linguistics in Cambridge, and at the

ICAME meeting in Helsinki; and he chaired a session at a Medievalists' meeting in Newcastle.

Dr Chris Mair of the University of Innsbruck spent a full year at the Survey, straddling two academic sessions. Apart from his research on nonfinite complementation, he conducted several postgraduate seminars in the English Department at University College. He is greatly missed for his ever-readiness to help and for his unfailing cheerfulness.

During the year we have been pleased to welcome the following scholars who have made use of our materials:

Dr W.-D. Bald	Institüt für Anglistik der Technischen Hochschule Aachen	contracted forms
Miss H.-J. Cockbain	Roehampton Institute of Higher Education	indirectness and hedging
Prof. R.P. Fox	American University, Washington D.C.	relative clauses
Dr. H. Günther	Friedrich-Schiller Universität, Jena	*come* and *go*
Mr R. Geluykens	Trinity College, Cambridge	pragmatics
Ms D.A. Hills	Roehampton Institute of Higher Education	political speeches
Ms I. Kampl	University of Gratz	advertising
Dr M. Kontra	Hungarian Academy of Sciences	transcription
Ms K. Kanno	Institute of Education, London	pragmatics
Ms G. Kirby	University of Reading	locative and temporal adjuncts
Dr M.N. Kozyreva	State University of Moscow	phonetics and phonology
Mr G. Moxnes	University of Tromsø	existential *there*
Dr C. Mair	University of Innsbruck	nonfinite complementation
Prof. J. Rusiecki	University of Warsaw	syntax and semantics
Dr J. Schmied	University of Bayreuth	relative constructions
Ms S. Sekine	School of Oriental and African Studies	phrasal verbs
Prof. J. Stalker	Michigan State University	discourse markers

Among scholars who paid us briefer visits were:

Mr D. Attwooll	Oxford University Press
Prof. R.W. Bailey	University of Michigan
Dr Y. Bentolia	Ben-Gurion University, Israel
Dr S. Bicanic	University of Zagreb
Dr R. Burchfield	Oxford University

Prof. Z. Chen	Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
Mrs C. Bozena	University of Silesia
Dr J.M. Channell	University of Nottingham
Prof. F. Dolezal	University of Southern Mississippi
Dr Z. Feng	Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
Dr W.J.M. Haeseryn	University of Nijmegen
Prof. S.M. Lederer	Hostos Community College (CUNY), New York
Mr M.H. Manser	Lexicographer, UK
Mr K. Müllner	University of Frankfurt
Prof. C. Rabin	Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Dr E. von Randow	University of Passau
Ms B. Sadler	University of Reading
Prof. S. Tanaka	Sugiyama Women's University, Japan
Ms T. Tobin	Edward Arnold, UK publisher
Prof. K. Togo	Waseda University, Japan
Prof. L. Tong	Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
Prof. F.Y. Usui	Nihon University, Japan
Mr N.W. Wilson	Oxford University Press
Dr R. Wu	State Language Commission, China

4. Staff

This year the Survey has been extremely fortunate in acquiring the services of Professor Geoffrey Kaye of the IBM UK Scientific Centre. For most of the year he has been an Honorary Research Fellow and is now a Visiting Professor in the Department of English at University College. He has been responsible for supervising the computerization of the written texts, for compiling the concordance and the interactive concordance browser, and for supervising work on word-tagging. He is now developing a database for syntactic analysis. We look forward to a long and fruitful period of Professor Kaye's participation in the Survey, and through him to a continuing association with IBM.

Dr Maurice Chayen of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem volunteered six months of his sabbatical to work at the Survey. He was heavily engaged in the editing of the written texts and in testing and applying the Sentence Divider Program, and he trained Andrew Rosta in these tasks. He also worked on a preliminary formulation of rules for automatic grammatical analysis.

Tom Lavelle is leaving the Survey after four years. His guidance and advice have been much appreciated by all visitors and researchers. He has efficiently controlled the collection of material for the final batch of texts of the Survey corpus. He is likely to remain in London for the next few months to complete his Ph.D. thesis.

We welcome two new part-time assistants to the Survey team. Rosalind Tricker, who was recently awarded an MA from the Department of Phonetics and Linguistics at the College, is working on the transcription of spoken texts. Andrew Rosta, an undergraduate from the same Department, has been working full-time in the Survey throughout the summer. We are

pleased to have secured the services of Jackie Carby to type the remaining texts of the corpus in the slip format.

Sylvia Chalker and Oonagh Sayce have continued to work on first-stage grammatical analysis, and have now completed a further six texts, leaving just 17 more texts to be analysed. In addition, they have filed closed-category items for 20 texts. Oonagh Sayce proofread newly transcribed spoken texts, entering them into the computer, and converting them to IBM format for transmission to the University of Lund, where they will be incorporated into the London-Lund corpus. Sue Boase transcribed two spoken texts with the full transcription, entered two texts into the computer in the reduced system, and transferred them to Lund; she has taught Rosalind Tricker to do the full transcription and has taught Oonagh Sayce to keypunch the spoken texts in the required format. Valerie Adams and Tom Lavelle finished the selection and collection of our targeted 200 texts, and proofread the typed texts. Tom also helped with the development of the machine-readable version of the written texts. Andrew Rosta worked on the production of versions of the concordance, helping to perfect it; he also contributed greatly to keypunching the remaining written texts and editing them in their final format. René Quinault has continued to maintain the files of the extensive Survey offprint collection and to select and prepare tapes for the corpus.

Sir Randolph Quirk lectured in London, Oxford, Munich, Tokyo, Sendai, Kyoto, Honolulu, and Washington, and made several broadcasts by radio and TV in the UK and abroad. He was made a Trustee of the Wolfson Foundation and a Fellow of the Royal Swedish Academy.

Professor Greenbaum lectured at the University of Leeds and the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, gave a paper at the Georgetown University Round Table in Washington D.C., and chaired a session at the ICAME conference in Helsinki. He is currently Dean of Arts in the University of London, and chaired a committee that produced a report on the state of the arts in the University. A book of his essays, entitled *Good English and the Grammarian*, is due to be published at the end of 1987. During the past year he has become a member of the Editorial panel of *Issues and Development in English and Applied Linguistics*, the Editorial Board of *Journal of American Studies*, and the Advisory Board of *ICAME Journal*. He has been awarded a British Academy research grant to appoint a personal research assistant for 1987-88. He visited the University of Tromsø as an external examiner for a Ph.D. disputation, and was external examiner for a Ph.D. from the University of Sheffield and judge for a D.Litt from the University of Oxford.

Dr Robert Ilson has continued to check the transcription of spoken texts. He has been appointed Editor of the *International Journal of Lexicography*, which Oxford University Press will publish as a quarterly from Spring 1988; contributions to the journal are invited, and a leaflet describing the journal is obtainable from him.

Sylvia Chalker taught on the University of London Summer School of English. She gave talks and conducted seminars at a number of places: the Scottish TESOL in Edinburgh, the British Council English Grammar and

Language Learning Course at the University of Lancaster, the meeting of the English Association of Switzerland at Zurich, and a Communicative Teaching Course at the British School of Turin. She also ran two materials and methodology courses for the British Council in India. She is now book reviews editor on the *EFL Gazette*.

Several members of the Survey staff contributed to the teaching in the English Department at University College.

5. Publications

We would like to remind scholars who have used Survey material to send books and offprints to the Survey, so that we can include them in our library. The publications will be listed in our annual reports and in our Survey bibliographies. We do not list reviews (unless they are review articles) or articles in newspapers and popular magazines.

We are enclosing with this report a tentative composite list of publications. We hope that you will send us additions or corrections.

Two recent publications by Survey members were honoured at the same ceremony this year. *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language* by Randolph Quirk, Sidney Greenbaum, Geoffrey Leech, and Jan Svartvik (Longman 1985) was awarded first prize in the English Speaking Union's Duke of Edinburgh Language Award. *The Right Word at the Right Time* (Reader's Digest U.K. 1985), of which Robert Ilson was Consultant Editor, was 'highly commended'. The two awards were presented by the Duke of Edinburgh at a ceremony in Buckingham Palace.

Aijmer, K. (1986) 'Discourse variation and hedging', *Corpus Linguistics II*, ed. J. Aarts and W. Meijs, 1-18. Amsterdam: Rodopi.

Aijmer, K. (1987) '*Oh* and *Ah* in English Conversation', *Corpus Linguistics and beyond*, ed. W. Meijs, 61-86. Amsterdam: Rodopi.

Altenberg, B. (1987) 'Predicting text segmentation into tone units', *Corpus Linguistics and beyond*, ed. W. Meijs, 49-60. Amsterdam: Rodopi.

Altenberg, B. (1987) 'Causal ordering strategies in English conversation', *Grammar in the construction of texts*, ed. J. Monaghan, 50-64. London: Frances Pinter.

Biber, D. and E. Finegan (1986) 'An initial typology of English text types', *Corpus Linguistics II*, ed. J. Aarts and W. Meijs, 19-46. Amsterdam: Rodopi.

Chalker, S. (1986) 'When is a synonym not a synonym?', *Practical English Teaching* 7, no.1, 55-56.

Chalker, S. (1986) '*Escapees* and other words which got away', *Practical English Teaching* 7, no.2, 55-56.

Chalker, S. (1987) *Intermediate Grammar Workbooks* 1-3. London: Longman.

Collins, P.C. (1987) 'Cleft and pseudo-cleft constructions in English spoken and written discourse', *ICAME Journal* 11, 5-17.

Geluykens, R. (1986) *Questioning intonation: An empirical study into the prosodic feature 'rising intonation' and its relevance for the production and recog-*

nition of questions (Antwerp Papers in Linguistics 48). Antwerp: University of Antwerp.

Greenbaum, S. (1986) 'English language studies and ESL teaching', *Problems of standardization and linguistic variation in present-day English*, ed. G. Nickel and J.C. Stalker, 23-35. Heidelberg: Julius Groos.

Greenbaum, S. (1986) 'The *Grammar of Contemporary English* and the *Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*', *The English reference grammar*, ed. G. Leitner, 6-14. Tübingen: Niemeyer.

Greenbaum, S. (1986) 'Spelling variants in British English', *Journal of English Linguistics* 19, 258-268.

Greenbaum, S. (1986) 'English and a grammarian's responsibility: the present and the future', *World Englishes* 5, 189-195.

Greenbaum, S. and J. Whitcut (1987), revision of *The complete plain words* by Sir Ernest Gowers, 3rd edition. Harmondsworth, Middlesex: Penguin Books. xi + 288 pages. (Paperback edition of the 1986 HMSO hardback edition)

Haan, P. de (1984) 'Relative clauses compared', *ICAME News* 8, 47-59.

Hiller, U. (1984) *Untersuchungen zu kontextuellen und register-spezifischen Einflüssen auf Morphremreduktionem im Englischen*. Frankfurt: Peter Lang.

Ikegami, Y. (1986) 'Child language and poetic language', *Festschrift für Prof. E. Oksaar*, ed. B. Narr and H. Wittje, 3-10. Tübingen: Gunter Narr.

Ikegami, Y. (1986) 'Nihongo no Katari no tekusoto ni okeru Jisei no Tenkan ni tsuite' ('On tense variation in Japanese narrative texts'), *Studia Semiotica* 6, 61-74.

Ikegami, Y. (1986), joint translator, *Principles of pragmatics* by G.N. Leech. Tokyo: Kinokuniya. xvi + 381 pages.

Ikegami, Y. (1987) *Fushigina Kotoba, Kotobano Fushigi* ('The Wonder of the Language'). Tokyo: Chikunia. 200 pages.

Ikegami, Y. (1987) joint translator, *Carnival!* by U. Eco et al. Tokyo: Iwanami. viii + 289 pages.

Ikegami, Y. (1987) 'Source vs. goal: A case of linguistic asymmetry', *Concepts of case*, eds. R. Dirven and G. Radden, 122-146. Tübingen: Gunter Narr.

Ikegami, Y. (1987) 'The lullaby as magic', *Oral and written in music*, eds. Y. Tokumaru et al., 96-108. Tokyo: Akademia.

Ilson, R. (1986) 'Lexicographic archaeology: Comparing dictionaries of the same family', *The History of Lexicography*, ed. R.R.K. Hartmann, 127-137. Amsterdam: Benjamins.

Ilson, R. (1986) 'General English dictionaries for foreign learners: Explanatory techniques in dictionaries', *Lexicographica* 2, 214-222.

Ilson, R. (1986) 'Towards a taxonomy of dictionary definitions', *A spectrum of lexicography*, eds. R. Ilson and M. Blanc. London: Birkbeck College Department of Applied Linguistics: *Polyglot* 7, fiches 1 and 2.

Benson, M., E. Benson, and R. Ilson (1986) *Lexicographic description of English*. Amsterdam: Benjamins. xiii + 288 pages.

Benson, M., E. Benson, and R. Ilson (1986) *The BBI combinatory dictionary of English: A guide to word combinations*. Amsterdam: Benjamins. xxvi + 286 pages.

Ilson, R. and M. Blanc, eds. (1986) *A spectrum of lexicography: Papers from AILA Brussels 1984.* London: Birkbeck College Department of Applied Linguistics: *Polyglot* 7, fiches 1 and 2.

Lott, B. (1986) *A course in English language and literature.* London: Edward Arnold. 175 pages.

Lott, B. (1986) *A course in English language and literature: Tutor's Book.* London: Edward Arnold. 77 pages.

Lott, B., ed. (1987) *Much ado about nothing* (New Swan Shakespeare). London: Longman. xxvi + 245 pages.

Quirk, R. (1986) 'The future role of English in Hong Kong', *Future Directions in English Language Teacher Education,* ed. V. Bickley, 3-8. Hong Kong: Hong Kong Education Department.

Quirk, R. (1986) 'Opening remarks', *Lexicography: An emerging international profession,* ed. R. Ilson, 1-6. Manchester: Manchester University.

Quirk, R. (1987) *Words at work: Lectures on textual structure.* London: Longman. 137 pages.

Quirk, R. and M. Toyota (1986) *On the use of English.* Tokyo: Kenkyusha. vi + 64 pages.

Stenström, A.-B. (1986) 'A study of pauses as demarcators in discourse and syntax', *Corpus Linguistics II,* ed. W. Meijs, 203-217. Amsterdam: Rodopi.

Stenström, A.-B. (1987) 'What does *really* really do?', *Grammar in the construction of texts,* ed. J. Monaghan, 65-79. London: Frances Pinter.

Stenström, A.-B. (1987) 'Carry-on signals in English conversation', *Corpus linguistics and beyond,* ed. W. Meijs, 87-119. Amsterdam: Rodopi.

Svartvik, J. (1987) 'Taking a new look at word class tags', *Corpus Linguistics and beyond,* ed. W. Meijs, 33-43. Amsterdam: Rodopi.

Yadugiri, M.A. (1986) 'Some pragmatic implications of the use of *yes* and *no* in response to *yes-no* questions', *Journal of Pragmatics* 10, 199-210.

Sidney Greenbaum
Director, Survey of English Usage
September 1987