

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

Survey of English Usage

ANNUAL REPORT 1989-90

1. Progress on the Survey corpus

As reported in the last annual report, the Survey corpus is complete in both slips and computerized form. All prosodic and paralinguistic features have been filed in slips. Grammatical features for 11 texts have still to be filed, but priority is now given to the computerized corpus.

A great deal of time has been devoted this year to pre-editing the computerized texts in a form to which the CLAWS 2 GRAMMATICAL word-tagging program (University of Lancaster) can be applied. About 100 texts (half the corpus) have been pre-edited, and 35 texts have been tagged and post-edited. It is hoped to complete the process for the whole corpus before the end of 1990.

We have also experimented with the pre-editing and post-editing of a sample of 2,000 words for the Nijmegen program that combines word-tagging and parsing. For the ICE corpus we have decided to use the Nijmegen program rather than the Lancaster program.

Susan Boase has recorded a sample tape of conversational English and has provided a full prosodic transcription as used on the Survey slips and a reduced transcription as used in the London-Lund Corpus. She has also written a guide to the two types of transcription. The cassette tape and the accompanying booklet are available from the Norwegian Computing Centre for the Humanities, P.O. Box 53, N-5014 Bergen-University, Norway.

Until recently, the London-Lund Corpus consisted of 87 Survey of English Usage spoken texts computerized at Lund University with a reduced prosodic transcription. The remaining 13 Survey spoken texts have been computerized at the Survey premises with the same transcription. This supplement to the London-Lund Corpus is now available from the Norwegian Computing Centre for the Humanities. A description of the texts in the supplement can be found in volume 14 of ICAME Journal and in the book edited by Jan Svartvik (1990) listed in the bibliography at the end of this report.

We are grateful to Longman and the Sir Sigmund Sternberg Charitable Foundation for their continuing financial support. We are also grateful to The Michael Marks Charitable Trust for a generous donation to the Survey.

2. Progress on the International Corpus of English

About 15 countries are now participating in the ICE project, which is being coordinated by the Survey. Several nonregional supplementary corpora are being planned. Meetings of participants and Advisory Board members have been held at the last two ICAME conferences, and eight

newsletters with discussion materials have been issued.

The Survey has been awarded a grant of £124,500 for the British contribution to ICE. The grant covers three calendar years from October 1990 and will enable the Survey to employ two full-time research assistants and to buy computer and audio equipment.

Much of the computational work on the Survey corpus this past year has also served to test procedures for the ICE corpus.

David Elkan, a third-year student in the Computer Science Department at the College, devised a program that will provide lists of texts with specified combinations of indexed parameters.

### 3. Visitors

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

Dr K. Aijmer	University of Lund	telephone conversation
Mr R. Evans	University of Reading	articulation in handwriting
Ms A. Finell	Cambridge University/ Åbo Akademi (Finland)	topic changers
Mr N. Fukushima	Kokugakuin University, Tokyo	phonetics & phonology
Ms H. Hritzova	Charles University, Prague	adverbs
Ms R. Itani-Kaufmann	Linguistics Dept., UCL	hedged utterances
Ms A. Molnár Deli	Eger Teacher Training College, Hungary	repetition in conversation
Prof. T. Mitsunaga	Nihon University, Tokyo	phrasal verbs
Dr P. Kolař	Palacký University, Czechoslovakia	tenses and the temporal system
Prof. J. Noël	University of Liege	automatic tagging and parsing
Mr H. Schwarz	Copenhagen Business School	syntax
Dr G. Tottie	University of Uppsala	backchannels
Ms T. Virtanen	Abo Akademi, Finland	adverbial placement

Others who paid us brief visits were:

Dr L. Bauer	Victoria University, New Zealand
Mr P. Bolt	Hong Kong Polytechnic
Professor A. Castilho	Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Brazil
Professor T. Clark	University of Nevada
Professor J. Fisiak	Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan
Professor P. Fries	Central Michigan University
Ms M. Gelebi	International Bureau of Education (UNESCO), Geneva
Professor R. Huddleston	Queensland University, Australia
Dr H.W.J. Hung	Chinese University of Hong Kong
Dr J. Kirk	Queen's University, Belfast
Professor N. Makiejvskaja	Institute of International Relations, Moscow
Dr A. Nicolescu	University of Bucharest
Ms R. Pappenheim	University of Reading
Professor I.M. Schlesinger	Hebrew University, Jerusalem
M. Van der Toorn	University of Nijmegen
Dr T. Váradi	Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest
Professor M. Zagrebelsky	University of Torino, Italy

#### 4. Staff

We welcomed two new people to the Survey this year: Inge Mortelmans and Vladimir Žegarac. Existing members of the staff continue to contribute energetically to various aspects of Survey work. Bas Aarts (who was awarded a PhD from the University of London this year), Fiona McAlinden (who will be leaving us for a teaching position), René Quinault (our archivist), Andrew Rosta (who has been the mainstay of our computational activities), and Oonagh Sayce (who has served devotedly on the staff for many years and has been particularly active on pre-editing and post-editing).

Sir Randolph Quirk lectured at St Catherine's College, Oxford; Rewley House, Oxford; Churchill College, Cambridge; the US Embassy, London; the University of Bath; the University of Essex; the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, London; the English-Speaking Union, San Francisco; Richmond College, London; the University of Geneva. In addition, he gave radio and television broadcasts. He was made a Fellow

of King's College, London, and of Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, London.

Professor Sidney Greenbaum, who served as Dean of Arts at University College London for a second year, chaired a general session at the ICAME conference in West Berlin as well as a meeting of ICE participants and Advisory Board members. He lectured in Cologne and Essen.

## 5. Publications

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- Altenberg, B. (1990) 'Spoken English and the Dictionary' Svartvik, ed., 177-191.
- Altenberg, B. (1990) 'Some functions of the booster', Svartvik, ed., 193-209.
- Altenberg, B. (1990) 'Predicting text segmentation into tone units', Svartvik, ed., 275-286.
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- De Rycker (1989) 'The conversational distribution of negative imperative utterances in English', Dialoganalyse II, eds. E. Weigand and F. Hundsnurscher, 409-421. Tübingen: Niemeyer.
- Greenbaum, S. (1990) 'Whose English?', The State of the Language, eds. C. Ricks and L. Michaels, 15-23 Berkeley: University of California Press.
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- Mair, C. (1990) Infinitival Complement Clauses in English: A Study of Syntax in Discourse. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
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