

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

Survey of English Usage

ANNUAL REPORT 1988-89

1. The 30th anniversary

This academic year marks the 30th year of the Survey's existence. Randolph Quirk founded it at the University of Durham in 1959 and moved it the following year to its present home at University College London. Since 1983 Sidney Greenbaum has been Director of the Survey.

One of the principal aims of the Survey has been the compilation and analysis of a corpus of British English used by adult educated native speakers of the language. The corpus provides

researchers with samples of spoken and written English that represent the range of uses to which the language is put.

The Survey corpus is now complete, having reached its original target of a million words. Each text (sample of 5,000 words) has been

Most of the Survey spoken texts (87) have been available since the early 1980s in machine-readable form in the Reader Tapes

compiled by the Survey of Spoken English at the University of

under the direction of Jan Svartvik. These texts are available on magnetic tape in a simplified prosodic transcription from the Norwegian Computing Centre for the Humanities, University of Bergen, P.O. Box 53,

Norway. A selection of 34 of these texts appears in *A Corpus of British*

browsed on the screen, with further context if desired, and may be printed with context. The concordance browser in present use was devised by Geoffrey Kave and a more advanced version has been

requested and will be applied when it is available. The WordCruncher concordance browser program has been obtained and will also be used.

In addition, we are planning to have a concordance browser tailored to our specifications. For the benefit of the

UK, and USA. In addition, there will be two nonregional supplementary

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Dr B. Erman                      University of Sweden                      discourse markers

Ms S. Grosslercher                      [University of G...]

Professor Y. Ikegami                      University of Tokyo                      causative constructions

Mr Y.-C. Kim                      University of Wales                      passive

Professor M. Kohda                      [University of G...]

Professor T. Mitamura                      [University of G...]

## 6. Staff

We welcomed two new people to the Survey this year: Fiona MacAlinden

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who was awarded an MA in Modern English Language after taking the MA programme at University College, and Rudolph Spurling, who was awarded a BA in English from University College. Both of them were busy dealing with the backlog in the collection of prosodic and paralinguistic symbols on slips for filing. Fiona MacAlinden also typed and proofread texts in the reduced transcriptions on the computer, and was engaged in the collection of grammatical features. Rudolph Spurling is leaving the Survey to study for an MA in Old and Middle English at King's College.

Dr Jill Taylor and Rosalind Tricker completed the transcription from tape of the final texts and did some proofreading, and Rosalind typed one text on the computer in reduced transcription.

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be responsible for keeping the records of the Survey's progress and for filing new offprints and periodicals. He has taken charge of the BBC recordings from The Story of English.

Sir Randolph Quirk lectured in Tokyo, Kyoto, Kobe, Harbin, and

La Laguna (Spain), Isle of Man Postgraduate Centre, University College London, Royal Society of Medicine, and the Conference on University English (London), and gave several broadcasts by radio and television. He was elected to the Academia Europaea and received an honorary doctorate from the University of Sheffield.

Professor Sidney Greenbaum chaired a general session at the ICAME conference in Bergen as well as sessions of the ICE Advisory Board and participants. He completed his first year as Dean of Arts at

Bas Aarts gave a paper at the autumn and spring meetings of the Linguistic Association of Great Britain.

## 7 Publications

We draw attention to a new series from Mouton de Gruyter: Topics in English Linguistics, edited by Professor Jan Svartvik (English Department, Lund University) and Professor Herman Wekker (English Department, Groningen University). The series will be open to books on language varieties.

Ajima, K. (1988) 'Now may we have a word on this: The use of now as a

discourse particle', *Corpus Linguistics*. Hard & Soft. eds. M. Kytö, O. Ihalainen, and M. Rissanen, 15-34. Amsterdam: Rodopi.

Akimoto, M. (1989) A Study of Verbo-Nominal Structures in English. Tokyo: Shinozaki Shorin.





Pakosz, M. (1988) 'Tonic prominence and the coding of thematic-rhematic relations', Papers in Contrastive Linguistics 23, 119-134.

Pannek, G. (1988) 'Relativsätze im gesprochenen Englisch und in Lehrwerken für den Englischunterricht', EDV in der Angewandten, ed. D. Mindt, 77-83. Frankfurt/

Quirk, R. (1988) (with Y. Ikegami and M. Toyota) Words at Work, 2nd ed. Tokyo: Kinokuniya (in Japanese).

Quirk, R. (1989) 'Grammar Research and English Teaching', NHK Journal 4, 88-105.

Quirk, R. (1989) 'Language Varieties and Standard Language', JALM 1, 1-10.

Stenström, A.-B. (1988) 'Adverbial commas and prosodic segmentation', Journal of Pragmatics 10, 1-10.

ed. M. Kytö, O. Ihalainen and  
odopi.

Stenström, A.-B. (1988) 'Questioning in conversation', Questions and Questioning, ed. M. Meyer, 304-325. Berlin: de Gruyter.

Svartvik, J. (1988) 'On the study of spoken English', Sprache und Kognition, ed. J. Svartvik, 30-37. Tübingen: Gunter Narr.

Tesnière, J. (1988) 'The structure of the sentence', Texten', ed. M. Kytö, O. Ihalainen, and M. Riipi, 1-10. Tübingen: Gunter Narr.

Tottie, G. (1988) 'No-negation and not-negation in spoken and written English', Journal of Pragmatics 10, 1-10, ed. M. Kytö, O. Ihalainen, and M. Riipi.

Sidney Greenbaum

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