

University College London
Survey of English Usage
ANNUAL REPORT 1987-88

1. Our new premises

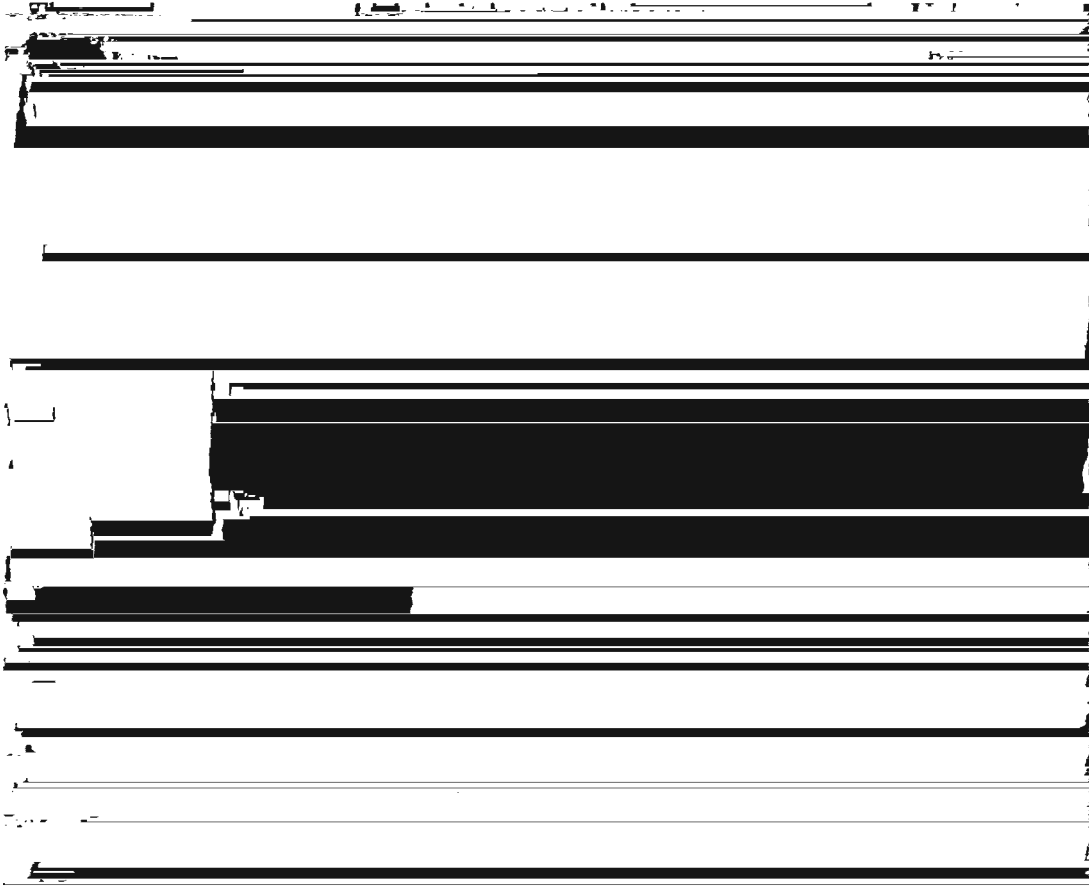
Thanks to a generous grant from the College, the Survey research room and office have been completely refurbished. The refurbishment has allowed us to make maximum use of our space and has enhanced the facilities for our computational work.

The Survey rooms and hallway have been redecorated, re-carpeted, and re-furnished and a flexible system of shelving has been installed. The two rooms have been equipped with new lighting that minimizes glare on the computer screens, and a belt of computer outlets and ports is available for our present computers and printers and for future expansion. Our premises have become more congenial for staff and visitors to work in.

2. Progress on the corpus

The remaining spoken texts have been transcribed and are being typed on a line

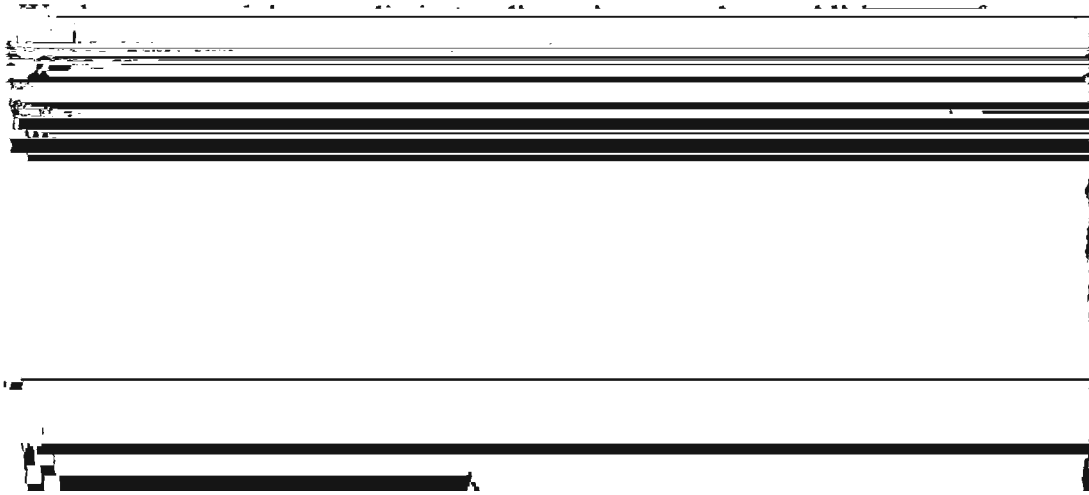
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Lancaster, assigns a grammatical tag automatically to each word of the text and a tag to each punctuation mark from a repertoire of 166 tags.

A system for coding the texts syntactically has been devised and tested and will be improved in the coming year. The coding is manually assigned, but is computer-assisted through a sequence of pop-up menus that list the possible selections. A retrieval system for the coding is being developed that will enable researchers to call for words or strings of words with specified syntactic functions. The word-tagging will be utilized in this system.

3. A new corpus

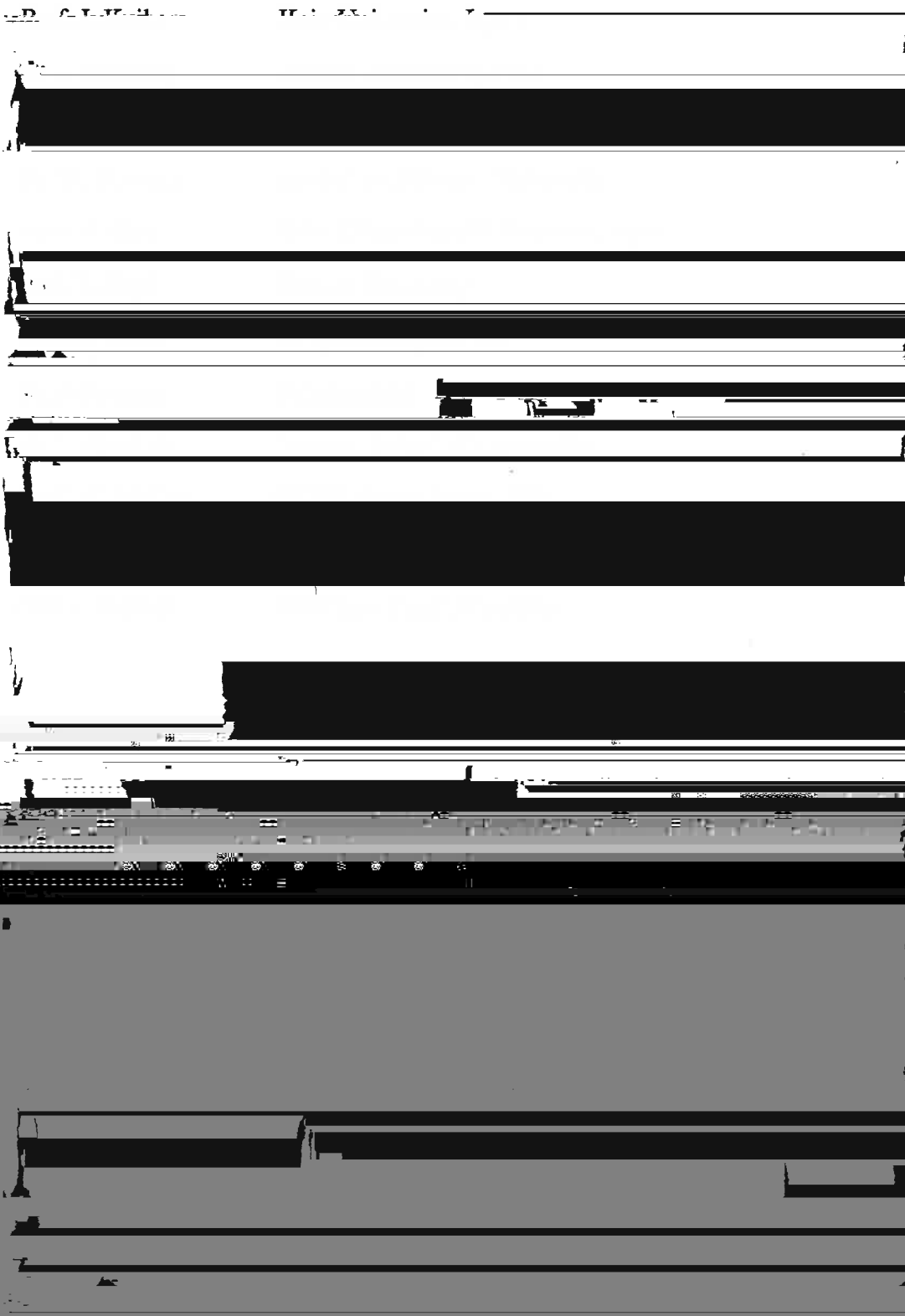


5. Visitors

The Longman Research Fellow for 1987-88 was Professor Josef Taglicht of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. During his stay at the Survey, Professor Taglicht worked on segmentation into tone units and accentuation in relation to syntactic structure and on the reliability of the Survey transcription of prosodic features. He taught a postgraduate course at University College on intonation and syntactic structures.



Prof. E. Finegan University of Southern California
Prof. Filpulla University of Joensuu, Finland
Ms J. Hughes Australian National University
Ms M. Hardcastle Oxford University Press
Prof. M. Kohda University of Osaka, Japan



Dr W. Ramson Australian National University
Prof H. Sato Nara University of Education, Japan

worked on the design of a system of categories for manual, computer-assisted coding of the syntax of the Survey Corpus. Each clause and phrase is described

their semantic roles. She has tested the coding of adverbials on four texts. Dr Jaworska has written a manual for Survey users of the concordance browsing program and is preparing a manual on the coding system. She is engaged on the design of a mapping scheme between the word-class tags from the Lancaster program and word class categories that will be automatically assigned in the

Survey offprint collection and to record the progress of all aspects of Survey

Survey equipment and material moved into temporary accommodation for over two months. We are grateful for his quiet efficiency in effecting the moves from and back to the Survey premises. Finally, staff and visitors alike are indebted to Marie Gibney, who organized the moves, for her untiring efforts to accommodate their needs.

Sir Randolph Quirk lectured at Keble College (Oxford), Brussels, Queen Mary College (London), English-Speaking Union (London), University of Granada, University of Barcelona, The Ateneo (Madrid), Universidad Complutense (Madrid), Tesol International Congress (Madrid), and the Isle of Man (Arts Council). As British Academy Leverhulme Visiting Professor, he visited India, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and the East-West Center (Hawaii). He received honorary doctorates from the University of Southern California, Bar-Ilan University, the University of

Glasgow and Royal University

the quarterly International Journal of Lexicography (Oxford University Press), of which he is editor.

The BBI Combinatory Dictionary of English: A Guide to Word Combinations

the prepositional phrases in the Survey corpus. He was the external examiner of a PhD candidate from the Indian Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages.

7. Publications

A recent publication co-authored by Robert Ilson was 'highly recommended' in an award presented by the Duke of Edinburgh at a ceremony in Buckingham Palace:

by M.

Renson, E. Renson, and P. Ilson. (1996). This brings to four the

Riber-D (1987) 'A textual comparison of British and American writing',

American Speech 62, 99-119.

Bublitz, W. (1986) 'Gesprächsthema und thematische Handlungen im Englischen',
Pragmatics eds A. Burghardt and K. H. Köpcke, 225-234. Tübingen: Max.

Bublitz, W. (1988) Supportive fellow-speakers and cooperative conversations
Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Bublitz, W. and H. Weber (1986) "I mustn't go on boringly talking about me":

- Kohda, M. (1985) 'The stone is too heavy for me to lift (*it)' Eibei Kenkyu 14, 47-72.
- Lawrence, S.G.C, B.J. Williams, and G. Kaye (1987) 'The automatic phonemic transcription of English text', Orthography and Phonology, ed. P.A. Luelsdorff. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Lott, B. (1988) 'Language and literature', Language Teaching 21, 1-13.
- Mair, C. (1987) 'For/To -infinitival clauses in contemporary British English - A study based on the material collected in the Survey of English Usage, University College London', English Studies 68, 545-559.
- Mair, C. (1987) 'Tough-movement in present-day British English - A corpus-based study', Studia Linguistica 41, 59-71.
- Mair, C. (1987) 'Instabile Infinitivkonstruktionen im heutigen Englisch'