

## Current research in Britain

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The Centre for Information on Language Teaching maintains a register of research in progress in Britain that is relevant to language teaching. (An information paper describing the register may be obtained from CILT.) The following extracts from the register, which contains information provided by the researchers concerned, describe research in:

### *Intonation and stress and the teaching of intonation*

**563** Miss E. Paneth, Goldsmiths' College, Lewisham Way, London SE14. *Associates*: Miss E. Kismarjay, Mrs J. Prigmore, Dr P. Neureuter.

*The role of intonation in the communication of meaning.* Investigation of German intonation contours and their functioning by analytical, discriminating, embedding and other synthetic methods. The material is also to be made available for didactic purposes and various methods of presentation are to be compared. *Date begun*: 1965.

**601** J. B. Wynn, 29 Archer Road, Penarth, Glamorgan. (Research at: University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology, Cardiff CF1 3NU.)

*A systematic description and analysis of English stress and rhythm, with particular reference to the teaching of these features to students from overseas.* This will also include a survey of stress and rhythmic features in the speech of selected English staff and students. The investigator aims to prepare a textbook on this subject. *Date begun*: January 1966.

**609** Dr A. Classe, Department of Phonetics, University of Glasgow, Glasgow W2.

*Phonological aspects of French intonation.* The aim is to establish whether or not intonation in French can play a syntactic role in any

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way comparable to that of English intonation. The method is experimental. *Date begun*: 1966.

**696** Dr E. Clavering, 180 Long Street, Atherstone, Warwickshire. (Research at: Chorley College of Education, Union Street, Chorley, Lancashire.)

*Phenomena of transfer from tone to intonation languages.* (See *Language-Teaching Abstracts*, vol. 4 no. 1 (1971), p. 59.)

**715** J. E. Rees, Department of French, Charlotte Mason College, Ambleside, Westmorland. *Associates*: Mlle C.-D. Germain, Mlle H. Catry (in France). *Sponsor*: Education Department, Westmorland County Council.

*Development and evaluation of French intonation exercises for the language laboratory.* The aim is to develop more 'genuine' exercises than are currently available; the situation and characterization of speakers is to be important. Material is extracted from French radio broadcasts. Early material is for main and subsidiary French students in a college of education; it will later be extended to Advanced Level teaching and perhaps to Ordinary Level. The material cannot be made available outside the college at present. *Date begun*: May 1967.

**733** Professor R. G. A. de Bray, 78 Northumberland Road, New Barnet, Hertfordshire. (Research at: School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University of London, London WC1E 7HU.)

*Study of the phonetic realization of Serbian word tones (musical accents) in nouns in connected speech.* Recordings on tape are analysed by the study of 'Mingograph' tracings compared with aural impressions. The work is limited to monosyllabic and disyllabic nouns. *Date begun*: 1960.

**881** H. Waring, 95 Percy Road, Hampton, Middlesex. (Research at: Department of Phonetics, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT.) *Associate*: Dr J. T. Pring, supervisor.

*Intonation and related features of expression in modern Greek.* A study of rhythm, accent, intonation patterns and vocal qualifiers – together

with any other prosodic or paralinguistic features found to be capable of systematic description – and their relation to segmental phonology, grammar, sense, meaning, style, etc. The aim is to provide as complete a description as possible of these features of ‘standard’ Greek. Aural analysis, supplemented by acoustic analysis, of many types of speech is carried out, mainly with tape-recordings. For degree of M. Phil., or possibly for doctorate. *Date begun*: October 1967.

**930** Mrs E. T. Uldall, Department of Linguistics and Professor D. Ward, Department of Russian, University of Edinburgh, David Hume Tower, George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9JX.

*Intonation of Russian.* Investigation by machine method of Russian intonation; to confirm or refute previous statements about this. Intonation contours will be derived from ‘Mingograph’ print-outs. *Date begun*: January 1970.

**997** Mrs K. Trew, Northern Ireland Council for Educational Research, c/o Department of Psychology, Queen’s University of Belfast, Belfast BT7 1NN.

*Environmental and developmental aspects of the perception of intonation.* The aim is to determine whether there are social class as well as developmental differences in the perception of intonation in children, following Bernstein’s theory of linguistic codes. 320 children in four age-groups from 5 to 15 were tested in two experiments: (a) a test of the perception of intonation stimuli in an emotive choice situation; (b) the perception of intonation stimuli in a size choice situation. For degree of PhD. *Date begun*: September 1966.

**998** Dr E. Clavering, Chorley College of Education, Union Street, Chorley, Lancashire. *Associate*: K. Shearman.

*Visual displays in the learning of intonation.* It is suspected that a small proportion of all language learners finds it almost impossible to discern intonation patterns. Apparatus has been developed at University College London for the visual display on an oscilloscope screen of simple outlines of intonation patterns. This investigator aims to set up and validate tests capable of revealing learners with this difficulty (‘visualizers’), using groups of English and immigrant school-

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children; ultimately, it is hoped to test the teaching value of such equipment with children and adults. *Date begun*: November 1969.

**999** Dr D. Crystal, Department of Linguistic Science, University of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 2AH. (Research at: University of Reading *and* Royal Berkshire Hospital.) *Associate*: Dr K. P. Murphy (Audiology Unit, Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading).

*The acquisition of intonation by children.* Description of the development of intonational and other prosodic and paralinguistic features in children's speech, beginning with infant vocalizations and ending at the age of 2. Specific reference will be made to certain categories of speech disorder. *Date begun*: mid-1970 (following earlier work from 1968).