

Newsletter of the International Computer Archive of Modern English (ICAME). Published by NAVF's EDB-senter for humanistisk forskning, P.O.Box 53, University of Bergen, N-5014 Bergen, Norway. Editor: Dr. Stig Johansson, Department of English, University of Oslo, Norway.

Number 2 March 1979

INTRODUCTORY

Since our first newsletter appeared in March 1978, work has advanced significantly on our three main projects. Brief progress reports will be given below. Two related projects will also be presented: the Syntax Data Project at the University of Gothenburg and the Leuven Drama Corpus. Both projects make material available to other researchers, on conditions specified below.

This issue further contains a bibliography of publications relating to the Brown Corpus. Note also especially the remarks on <u>updating of our mailing list</u> on p.14.

The next issue of ICAME NEWS is scheduled to appear in September/October 1979. The Editor is grateful for any information or documentation which is relevant to the field of concern of ICAME.

THE BROWN CORPUS

The Bergen versions of the Brown Corpus are now available from the Norwegian Computing Centre for the Humanities, Bergen. These contain upperand lower-case letters and a minimum of special codes. There are two versions:

Text I: Typographical information is preserved; the same line division is used as in the original version except that words at the end of the line are never divided.

Text II: Typographical information is reduced; the line division is new.

Also available is a microfiche concordance (see *ICAME NEWS* 1). In addition, the concordance is now available on magnetic tape. See the order form at the end of the newsletter.

The tagged version of the Brown Corpus mentioned in $\it ICAME NEWS$ 1 is not yet ready for distribution.

THE LANCASTER-OSLO/BERGEN CORPUS (LOB)

The Corpus is now completed and will be ready for distribution in September/October 1979. For technical information, see the order form at the end of the newsletter.

THE LONDON-LUND CORPUS

The status of the London-Lund Corpus was summarized in the following way in *The Survey of Spoken English: Research Report for 1978* (compiled by Bengt Oreström, Jan Svartvik, and Cecilia Thavenius):

The input and processing of the texts at Lund take place on a video display terminal (Delta 5500) with 96 characters, upper and lower case. The texts are transferred via cassettes (Datum 4002 Universal Recorder) by on-line connection into ASCII-characters in a file on disc at the 1108 UNIVAC computer belonging to Lund University.

By the end of 1973 we had received 87 texts from London, all of which have been edited, put in via the terminal and proofread first time; 70 texts have been proofread second, 41 texts third, and 34 texts fourth time.

A series of check programs is run for spotting logical errors in the input material, such as omitted matching brackets. In addition to the check programs, computer-produced concordances of each text have proved a useful tool for proofreading as well as for research purposes. Concentrating our efforts on text categories 1-3, which represent casual, surreptitiously recorded conversation, we have now produced concordances for each of the 34 texts included in these categories. In the course of 1979 we plan to produce a magnetic computer-tape of this part of the corpus for general distribution. In addition, there will be a printed version of these texts,

A Corpus of Spoken English, to be produced by photosetting technique from the magnetic computer-tape and published in Lund Studies in English.

Work on the linguistic analysis of the corpus has also begun. A system for analysing and coding word-classes has been devised and will be implemented as soon as programming facilities allow.

The following books, reports and articles have been produced by members of the team during 1978:

- Bengt Oreström, Turn-taking: On Speaker-shift in Face-to-face Conversation. SSE Report.
- Bengt Oreström, Avbryt inte!, Forskning och Framsteg 3, 28-30.
- Bengt Oreström & Cecilia Thavenius, Auditory and Acoustic Analysis: An Experiment. SSE Report.
- Randolph Quirk & Jan Svartvik, A Corpus of Modern English. SSE Report; also in Text-Corpora, Materialen für eine empirische Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaft. Ed. by H. Bergenholtz & B. Schaeder.
- Jan Svartvik & Olof Sager, Engelsk universitetsgrammatik. Stockholm: Esselte Studium.
- Cecilia Thavenius, A Pilot Study of Referential 'it' in Spoken English. SSE Report.

Three doctoral dissertations based on the corpus are in progress at Lund University: Bengt Oreström on "Interruption and Interrupted Speech"; Anna-Brita Stenström on "Questions and Answers"; Cecilia Thavenius on "Reference in English Conversation".

THE SYNTAX DATA PROJECT

For a number of years Alvar Ellegård (Department of English, University of Gothenburg) and his students have been working on a project which involves grammatical tagging of parts of the Brown Corpus. Results of this work are presented in Ellegård's recently published book on The Syntactic Structure of English Texts: A Computer-Based Study of Four Kinds of Text in the Brown University Corpus (Gothenburg Studies in English 43, Göteborg: Acta Universitatis Gothoburgensis, 1978). The four text categories studied are: A (Press: reportage), G (Belles lettres), J (Science), and N (Adventure and western fiction). Sixteen texts from each of these categories, in all about an eighth of the whole corpus, were selected and subjected to a detailed, largely traditional, surface-structure analysis on three levels:

- 1) clause structure of sentences;
- 2) constituent structure of clauses; and
- 3) word class of individual words.

Using an instruction booklet produced by the leader of the project undergraduate students analyzed texts as part of their English course. The results of the analysis were checked by the project leader and/or discussed at seminars. The analyzed text was punched with each word forming a record structured in the following way:

Description	Number of characters	Column(s)
Number of the sentence within the text	6	1-6
Word number within the text	6	7-12
Word	22	13-34
Clause-initial marker	1	35
Brown Corpus identification number	7	36-42
Clause marker	16 .	43-58
Sequence number with discontinuous clauses	1	59
End of sentence	1	60
Part of the sentence	10	61-70
Word class	5	71-75

A sample printout of some sentences of the analyzed text is given in Table 1. As the system is quite complex, it is only possible in this context to give a rough indication of how it works.

On the clause-structure level there is a classification according to clause types (1st letter symbol: Z = non-subordinate; P = subordinate, non-relative; R = subordinate, relative), clause modality (2nd letter symbol: D = declarative, Q = interrogative, J = imperative, E = exclamatory) and kind of predicate verb (3rd letter symbol: F = finite, J = infinitive, G = gerundive, P = participial, L = verbless). ZDF in Table 1 therefore means a non-subordinate, declarative, finite clause, and PDJ stands for a sub-ordinate, non-relative, declarative, infinitive clause. On the clause level there is also an indication of the degree of embedding (numerical symbols following the letter codes) and of the function of embedded clauses within the superordinate structure (constituent symbol followed by a bracket). For examples, see Table 1.

Table 1 The Syntax Data Project: sample output

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000272001171THEN 000272001172AT 000272001173LAST 000272001174THE 600272001175DALWGIESS 0002720011776BEGAN 0002720011777PDJ11 000272001178FO 600272001178FO	*N020900ZDF1 N020900ZDF1 N020900ZDF1 N020900ZDF1 N020910ZDF1 N020910ZDF1 N020910ZDF1 *N020910ZDF1	C CP C S1 S V O/ VP	A P JT T N VD

On the constituent-structure level the following main elements are recognized: S = subject, C = direct object, non-prepositional, J = indirect
object, non-prepositional, K = prepositional object, V = primary predicative verb. Other constituents are adverbs of place (A), direction (D),
time (C), modality (M), manner and degree (D), other adverbs (E), agent
of passives (G), existential there (F), predicate complement of subject
(P), predicate complement of object (Q), addressed person (T), interjection
(I), pure co-ordinating conjunction (Y), pure subordinating conjunction
(Z), adverbial co-ordinating conjunction (AY), adverbial subordinating conjunction (AZ). For examples of some of these categories, see Table 1.

Constituents of noun phrases, verbal groups, adjective phrases, prepositional phrases, etc. are indicated by giving the modifier (prepositions are looked upon as modifiers of the following noun, main verbs as modifiers of the preceding auxiliaries) the same constituent symbol as the head, plus an indicator of the number of the modifier (in the case of prepositions P is used rather than a numeral). As examples, consider at its coldest or the caravan of his desires in Table 1.

The word-class level contains separate markers for major form classes (noun, verb, etc.), function words (prepositions, conjunctions, etc.), and inflectional categories. As the word-class marking is relatively straightforward, it will not be further dealt with here.

Ellegard's detailed tagging system makes it possible to have access to very narrowly defined structures, such as thttps://www.narrowly.com/defined-structure, such as thttps://www.narrowle.com/defined-structure, and extraposed clause (as in it is difficult to see him) is marked as subjective. Structures such as I wanted him to go and I asked him to go are further marked differently. The system allows for unambiguous marking of discontinuous constituents. Nevertheless, there are a number of problems and inadequacies. As Ellegard himself points out (p. 93), "no distinction is made between a fine little house and a large expensive house, though it may be held that in the first instance we refer to a little house that is

fine, and in the second to a house that is both large and expensive". Zero that-clauses are difficult to identify unambiguously (whereas zero relative clauses form no problem). There are also numerous problems in the tagging of sentence constituents, as is to be expected. A selection of "problematic sentences" is given in an appendix of the book.

In his book Ellegard presents the results of a large number of frequency counts relating to the three levels of analysis: number of clauses per sentence, types of clauses, constituent structure of clauses, word-class distribution, phrase length, depth of modification, etc. These results, though they are often not very surprising, add significantly to our knowledge of English grammar in use.

In the concluding section of the book Ellegård stresses that "the chief usefulness of our work lies in the possibility it offers to use the computer for quite sophisticated searches for specific grammatical and stylistic features ..." (p. 79) and he points out that very much more information can be extracted from his material than is offered in the present work. We hope that he will return later with further investigations.

Meanwhile, we note with gratefulness that Ellegård invites other researchers to make use of his material (p. 7): "Copies of the tape are available for research purposes at cost price (at present—1978—c. 400 Swedish kronor, or 100 US dollars). Both the texts and the analysis are available in microfiche on request (13 fiches, c. 1 dollar per fiche)." Specification: record length = 75, block length = 7500, code = EBCDIC, density = 1600 bpi, labelling: IBM standard labels.

Those who are interested in obtaining Ellegard's material should write to: Professor Alvar Ellegard, Department of English, University of Gothenburg, Lundgrensgatan 7, S-412 56 Göteborg, Sweden. The book dealt with above is available from: ACTA UNIVERSITATIS GOTHOBURGENSIS, Box 5096, S-402 22 Göteborg 5, Sweden.

THE LEUVEN DRAMA CORPUS

The corpora of modern English texts dealt with previously do not include any dramas. It is therefore important to draw attention to the Leuven Drama Corpus, which has been compiled at the Institute of Applied Linguistics of the Catholic University of Leuven under the direction of Professor L. K. Engels and Dr. Dirk Geens. The corpus contains 62 British

English plays first published during 1966-1972. The plays were "selected in such a way that the sample is homogeneous for syntactic research and representative of the literary genre that provides the material" (Geens 1978: 46). Among the principles used in selecting the material could be mentioned: (1) the sources had to be original (untranslated) plays produced by British English authors; (2) they had to consist of more than one act; (3) they were to contain a minimum of dialect, archaic or lyrical passages; (4) the spelling must not differ from traditional norms; (5) only one play per author could be included. In all, the corpus contains about a million words, i.e. it is comparable in size to the Brown Corpus.

The text of the plays was punched in capitals and with a minimum of editing. Each sentence was started on a new record. Among editing conventions could be mentioned that subject+auxiliary contractions were dissolved (e.g. <u>he'll</u> becomes <u>he 'll</u>) and that a special end-of-sentence symbol was inserted.

The Leuven Drama Corpus has been studied on various levels, especially by Dirk Geens (see below): word frequencies, word and sentence length, grammatical analysis. However, the material could doubtless be used in further investigations. It is therefore of great interest to note that copies of the Corpus, or portions thereof, are available from the compilers on request. Specification: record length = 60, block length = 6000, density = 1600 bpi, code = EBCDIC, labelling: IBM standard labels. Price: 10,000 BF for the whole corpus. Those who wish to order the material should write to: Professor L. K. Engels, Instituut voor Toegepaste Linguistiek, Tiense Vest 27, 3200 Kessell-LO, Belgium OR Dr. Dirk Geens, Afdeling Toegepaste Linguistiek, Blijde-Inkomststr. 21, B-3000 Leuven, Belgium. Some publications relating to the Leuven Drama Corpus are:

- Dé Kock, J., Geens, D., Por una estilistica linguistica y cuantitativa con la ayuda del ordenador. Madrid, Revista de la Universidad Complutense, Vol. XXV, Nr. 102, 1976, 113-129.
- De Kock, J., Geens, D., Pour une stylistique linguistique et quantitative avec l'aide de l'ordinateur. Paris, Linguistique Automatique et Langues Romanes (ed. J. De Kock, C. Boitet), 1977, 198-215.
- Geens, D., A Frequency-List of Sentence Structures: Preliminary Considerations. Leuven, Review of the ITL, Nr. 21, 1973, 39-55.
- Geens, D., A Venture in Computational Analysis of English Syntax. Leuven, Preprints of the Department of Linguistics, Nr. 19, 1974.

- Geens; D., Analysis of Present-Day English Theatrical Language. Leuven, Progress in Applied Linguistics, Nr. 6 (Progress Report) 1975.
- Geens, Dirk, 1978. On measurement of lexical differences by means of frequency. In *Glottometrika* 1, ed. by G. Altmann, pp. 46-72. Bochum: Studienverlag Dr. N. Brockmeyer.

BROWN CORPUS BIBLIOGRAPHY (BY W. NELSON FRANCIS)

One of the aims of ICAME is to distribute information on corpus research. The list below, which has been compiled by W. Nelson Francis (with some additions made by the Editor), specifies works "using or referring to the Brown Corpus". In some cases brief notes on individual works are added within parentheses.

- Baron, Naomi S. 1977. Language acquisition and historical change. North-Holland Linguistic Series 36. Amsterdam, New York, and Oxford:

 North-Holland Publishing Co.

 (Uses Brown Corpus make, get, have as control in study of acquisition of periphrastic causatives.)
- Britton, Bruce K. 1978 (forthcoming). Lexical ambiguity of words used in English text.
- Burton, Dolores M. 1968. Respice finem and the tantum quantum: an essay review of computational studies for 1967-68. CHum 3.41-48. (Review of Kučera and Francis 1967, pp. 44-45.)
- Card, William, and Virginia McDavid 1966. English words of very high frequency. College English 27.596-604.
- Creswell, Thomas J. 1975. Usage in dictionaries and dictionaries of usage. Publication of the American Dialect Society, Nos. 63-64. University, Alabama: Alabama University Press. (pp. 135-40 based on Meyers 1972)
- Dubois, Betty Lou 1972. Meaning and distribution of the perfect in present-day American English prose. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of New Mexico. DAI 33/12-A, pp. 6892f.
- Dubois, Betty Lou, and Isabel M. Crouch 1978. Man and its compounds in recent prefeminist American English published prose. Mimeo: New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, N.M.
- Ehrman, Madeline E. 1966. The meanings of the modals in present-day American English. Janua linguarum, series practica 45. The Hague: Mouton.
- Ellegård, Alvar 1978. The syntactic structure of English texts:

 A computer-based study of four kinds of text in the Brown University
 Corpus. Gothenburg Studies in English 43. Göteborg: Acta Universitatis Gothoburgensis. (Presents results of a detailed grammatical analysis of about an eighth of the Corpus; see p. 3 of this issue)
- Enkvist, Nils Erik 1973. Linguistic stylistics. Janua linguarum, series critica 5. The Hague: Mouton.

- Filipović, Rudolf 1969- The Yugoslav Serbo-Croatian English contrastive project. A. Reports, B. Studies, C. Pedagogical materials. Zagreb: Institute of Linguistics; and Washington: Center for Applied Linguistics. (Uses 1 of Brown Corpus translated into Serbo-Croatian for contrastive study with original.)
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- ------ Forthcoming. A tagged corpus--problems and prospects. (Written Dec. 1977: to be published in July 1980.)
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- Greene, Barbara B., and Gerald M. Rubin 1971. Automatic grammatical tagging of English. Providence: Department of Linguistics, Brown University.
- Haskel, Peggy I. 1971. Collocations as a measure of stylistic variety. In *The computer in literary and linguistic research*, ed. R. A. Wisbey, pp. 159-68. Cambridge University Press.
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- Householder, Fred W. 1971. Linguistic speculations. Cambridge University Press. (See Chapter 13, "The primacy of writing.")
- Johansson, Stig 1978. Some aspects of the vocabulary of learned and scientific English. Gothenburg Studies in English 42. Göteborg: Acta Universitatis Gothoburgensis. (Studies word frequencies in category J of the Brown Corpus.)
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- Leech, Geoffrey, and Rosemary Leonard 1974. A computer corpus of British English. Hamburg: Hamburger Phonetische Beiträge 13, pp. 41-57. (Describes the Lancaster Corpus, a parallel to the Brown Corpus.)
- McKinnon, Alistair 1975. Computational analysis of Kierkegaard's Samlede Verker. Leiden: E. J. Brill. (Modeled on Kučera-Francis 1967.)
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- ------ 1975. The style of Orwell's appendix to Animal Farm. In Style and Text, studies presented to Nils Erik Enkvist. Stockholm: Språkförlaget Skriptor AB, pp. 243-9.

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 Gothoburgensis. (Studies compounding relationships in 4,500 nounnoun compounds collected from the Brown Corpus.)
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ADDITIONS TO THE BROWN CORPUS BIBLIOGRAPHY

We are aware that the list given above may be incomplete and therefore
invite our readers to supplement the bibliography. If you are familiar
with any publication/s/ not included, please fill in the form below.
Note that we are also interested in major unpublished reports and,
especially work in progress. Later issues of our newsletter will contain
additions to the Brown Corpus Bibliography already given.
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(Return to: Stig Johansson, Department of English, University of Oslo, P.O.Box 1003, Blindern, Oslo 3, Norway)
Published books/articles relating to the Brown Corpus:
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Unpublished reports:
onputitional reports.
Work in progress:
Name and address:
Name and address:

CONFERENCE ON DATA BASES IN THE HUMANITIES

There will be a conference on data bases in the humanities and the social sciences at Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H. 03755, 23-24 August, 1979. The conference is sponsored by the IFIP Task Group for Humanities and Social Sciences, Queens College, City University of New York, and follows immediately after ICCH/4.

SYMPOSIUM ON GRAMMATICAL TAGGING OF TEXT CORPORA

A symposium on "Grammatical Tagging of English Text Corpora in Machine-Readable Form" will be held at the Norwegian Computing Centre for the Humanities, Bergen, March 29-30, 1979. Preliminary programme:

- Randolph Quirk (University College London), "On the Place of a Corpus in English Language Research"
- W. Nelson Francis (Brown University), "A Tagged Corpus: Problems and Prospects"
- Jan Svartvik (University of Lund), "Tagging Spoken English"
- Jan Aarts (Katholieke Universiteit, Nijmegen), "Grammatical Tagging in the Dutch Computer Corpus Pilot Project"
- Alvar Ellegard (University of Gothenburg), "On the Tagging of Sentence Constituents"
- Rudolf Filipović (University of Zagreb), "The Grammatical Tagging of the 'Zagreb Version' of the Brown Corpus"
- Mamata Nakra (McGill University), "Grammatical Tagging of Journalistic Prose"
- Claus Faerch (University of Copenhagen), "Word Class Tagging of Learners' Language"
- Dirk Geens (Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven) "Grammatical Analysis of a Present-Day English Drama Corpus"
- Henry Kučera (Brown University) "The Frequency of Grammatical Classes in the Brown Corpus"

The next issue of ICAME NEWS will contain a report from the symposium.

UPDATING OF THE MAILING LIST

The mailing list for *ICAME NEWS* is now so large that it is essential to eliminate unnecessary entries. If you wish to receive the newsletter in the future, fill in the form below.

(Return to: Stig Johansson, Department of English, P.O.Box 1003, Blindern, Oslo 3, Norway)

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ORDER FORM

The procedure for ordering material has now been changed. To obtain material you must enclose a cheque (bank draft, cashier's cheque) with your order made out in Norwegian currency to: The Norwegian Computing Centre for the Humanities, Bergen, Norway.

(Return to: The Norwegian Computing Centre for the Humanities, P.O.Box 53, University of Bergen, 5014 Bergen, Norway)

Indicate in the table below what you wish to order (prices are given in Norwegian kroner):

Magnetic	9-track, 1	600 FPI	7-track, 80	00 FPI	7-track, 5	56 FPI
tapes	Number of tapes	Price	Number of tapes	Price	Number of tapes	Price
Brown: Text I	1 1200 ft.	150	1 2400 ft.	275	1 2400 ft.	275
Brown: Text II	1 1200 ft.	175	1 2400 ft.	300	1 2400 ft. 1 1200 ft.	300
Brown: Texts I+II	1 1200 ft.	200	1 2400 ft. 1 1200 ft.	525	2 2400 ft.	550
Brown: KWIC concordance	4 2400 ft.	1100	11 2400 ft.	3375	15 2400 ft.	3900
LOB: Text	1 1200 ft.	150	1 2400 ft.	250	1 2400 ft.	250
LOB: KWIC concordance	5 2400 ft.	1250	12 2400 ft.	3650	16 2400 ft.	4100

Brown: KWIC concordance	e (microfiche) Price: 350
LOB: KWIC concordance ((microfiche) Price: 350
Please, add for postage and h	nandling:
for each 1200 ft. tape	25 Norwegian kroner
for each 2400 ft. tape	35 " "
for each microfiche set	10 " (overseas air mail: 20)
Oslo/Bergen Corpus) material September/October 1979. Name/Institution:	nt by surface mail. Note that the LOB (Lancaster will not be ready for distribution until
We understand that the materi and agree not to distribute t	al listed above is for research purposes only the material or reproduce any part of it for arly research. (To be signed by a responsible making the order.)
DateS	Signed
	Print name
C	Official Position