**WINTER 1985** 

## Addressing Acculturation Skills

#### by Fredricka Stoller

When one contemplates the cultural and ethnic diversity in our classrooms, one should not be surprised that ESL students' behavior is unlike that in the typical American classroom. Yet, some ESL teachers continue to be surprised by foreign students. Often we hear ESL teachers comment:

"I don't understand why Toshio never volunteers to speak in class. And I refuse to call on him; he's just going to have to learn on his own that he had better speak up if he wants to improve his English!"

"He just copied the words straight from the text! No quotation marks. No citations. Doesn't that student realize he could be kicked out of school for such blatant plagarism?"

"Five weeks into the term and Pangarso still comes late. But what's even more disturbing and disruptive is that he knocks on the classroom door before entering. Have you ever heard of anything so impolite?"

"I asked my students to critique this article. One student refused to write down any negative comments. He said that if the article was published, it must be correct. Isn't that absurd?"

As common as these complaints may be, they reflect cultural rather than individual problems which students face as they come to terms with the behavioral expectations of the American classroom.

As ESL teachers, we should not be so frustrated by such inappropriate behavior. Our ESL students come to class with diverse culturally-determined expectations which translate into different classroom behaviors. Each student's cultural orientation places its own restrictions on what is appropriate and what is not. Unfortunately, what may be perfectly acceptable in one's native country may be considered inappropriate here in the United States.

While it is necessary for students to adapt, it is equally important for teachers to be culturally sensitive to students' diverse behaviors. To expect foreign students to fully adapt themselves to our American classroom is unrealistic. Yet, with the guidance of the

ESL teacher, students can learn gradually to adapt to American classroom expectations.

As frequently as cultural differences surface in our classrooms, it is interesting to note that ESL methodology and classroom textbooks rarely make reference to acculturation skills, those skills which allow students to cope with the American educational system and corresponding expectations and behaviors. Most ESL related texts focus properly on language skills - reading, writing, speaking and listening - and academic study skills; they often ignore acculturation skills completely. Perhaps it is assumed that students will develop these skills on their own. Yet, foreign students who have intentions of staying in the American university system, for example, for a short period of time are at a great disadvantage if they are not introduced to these expectations and behaviors at an early stage in their academic careers. These students need to develop appropriate academic behaviors; they must learn what they can expect from others their colleagues and professors - and what their professors expect from them. These skills are crucial for academic success.

ESL classrooms provide an ideal rorum for these skills. An orientation to our American educational system and corresponding expectations and behaviors can be woven into any classroom. With culturally determined assumptions so deeply ingrained in our unconscious behavior, it is useful to design activities that allow students to discover their own native assumptions and later contrast them with American expectations. Something as simple as the following exercise, practical at any level of instruction, allows teachers to highlight such differences in follow-up activities:

List the characteristics of:

A.	An effective	<ul> <li>A. A successful</li> </ul>
	teacher	student
	1.	1.
	2.	2.
	3.	3.
В.	An ineffective	B. An unsuccess-
	teacher	ful student
	1.	1.
	2.	2.
	3	3

Similar exercises which help students explore topics such as teacher-student relationships, tardiness, plagarism, student participation, and modes of instruction, studying and testing are constructive and equally valuable.

Until students have the opportunity to ex-(Continued on page 3)

sic iss s. a s in the pe tic stips consider



## King's *Trial*by Allison Brewster

In addition to being an adept volleyball player, kayaker, and novelist Kevin King is an innovative teacher of ESL. He is continally working on developing new materials to explore with his students. His recently published and well-received book, *Trial by Jury*, is a testimony to his creativity as a teacher.

Kevin began teaching ESL in the Peace Corps in Senegal and also taught in Mexico and various Middle Eastern Countries. In the Boston area he has taught at the Kennedy School of Government, the University of Massachusetts and the Harvard EFL Summer Program and Extension.

In regard to education, Kevin felt that there was a lack of pedagogical material available to encourage students to learn to articulate a point of view in a meaningful context. So he wrote a book in an attempt to fill the gap.

Trial by Jury is an upper-intermediate discussion text that deals with legal cases and the issues involved. In groups students read about a situation, discuss the legal and moral issues involved, and come to a decision for which they receive points. The various cultural perspectives an ESL class brings to the situation always elicit lively discussion, "It's stimulating and provokes controversy," says Kevin. "It demands a certain ethical, as well as common-sense approach, which everyone is capable of. It also takes the focus off English skills, and therefore the student becomes less self-conscious of his shortcomings in grammar."

(Continued on page 9)

#### **MASSACHUSETTS** ASSOCIATION FOR TEACHERS OF SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

Executive Board, 1984-85 PRESIDENT Jacklyn B. Clayton Needham Public Schools VICE-PRESIDENT Paul Abraham Bradford College SECRETARY John M. Kopec CELOP, Boston University TREASURER Mary Christie Pine Manor College NEWSLETTER EDITOR Carla Meskill **CELOP** ASSOCIATE EDITOR Carol Houser Pineiro CELOP PAST PRESIDENT Paul Krueger Northeastern University REPRESENTATIVES Jane Sinberg-Zion Sandro Massaro Bunker Hill C.C. Susan Vik **CELOP** Judy Friedland Framingham Public Schools Kenny Vorspan Oficina Hispana

#### THE MATSOL Newsletter

Editor Carla Meskill Associate Editor . Carol Houser Pineiro Teaching Ideas Ralph Radell Book Reviews Cathy Sadow		
Mark Stepner		
Photography Sheila Irvine		
Professional		
Development Lorna Porras		
Recreational Grammar Gregg Singer		
Database Tom Garza		
This is a quarterly publication for		
the members of MATSOL. Subscrip-		
tion costs are included in annual dues.		
Letters, articles, black and white		
photos and other contributions are		

welcome. They may be sent to: Carla Meskill 23 Lawrence Street Cambridge, MA 02139 Articles should be typed, doublespaced, set to 40 characters.

Next deadline: April 2, 1985.

#### Musings

#### by Jacklyn Clayton

MATSOL is like the crazy-patch quilt I was working on for Christmas: a patch of one color and grain and texture alongside another, anchored to an underlying foundation common to all individual pieces.

We have diversity in our vocations - be it administration, research or teaching, and even within those vocations. We have diversity in our backgrounds, in the circumstances that surround our employment and the attitudes that shape the job. While all of these may seem to be forces of divergence rather than cohesiveness, we can celebrate the diversity if we understand and take advantage of the fact that MATSOL is not a one-interest, one-issue organization.

We have commonality in the bond of ESL instruction, including all that connotes. We have unity in our concern for our students and their needs, in promoting understanding across lines that separate. We have unity in our desires to strengthen our profession. We have experiences to share that expand ideas, or lighten anxieties, or enhance each others' viewpoints.

The tie that makes us strong is the communication with others in our own areas of interest as well as in other areas, the interaction experienced in community, not the theory read in seclusion. The growth in our field challenges us, individually and collectively, to address issues that are of particular concern. to work for quality in our programs and continuing professional development in our field.

The individual pieces of my quilt sat in a box, isolated, unused, taking up space. The finished quilt is warm, bright, sturdy, usable, the result of different juxtapositions bound together by a common bond.



#### Congratulations to. . .

Sandro Massaro on his recent marriage. Ashley Goldhor-Wilcock on the birth of her

Betsy Roulston on the birth of her daughter.

MATSOL is pleased to announce the reopening of the

#### MATSOL JOB BANK

The revitalized Job Bank will offer MAT-SOL members the following services: For Job Seekers:

- an updated listing of current openings
- consultation by appointment with the Job Bank Coordinator about employment opportunities
- referral to immediate openings appropriate to their experience

For Programs in Need of Staff:

- a convenient, centralized means of advertising openings
- referral of qualified individuals for currently open positions

To request information on jobs or list openings in the Job Bank, please call or send resumes and/or job listings to:

> Betty Stone MATSOL Job Bank **SCALE** 99 Dover Street Somerville, MA 02144 (617) 625-1335

(Preferred) Bank hours are Monday-Thursday, 2-9 pm and Friday, 1-5 pm. If you call, leave your name and phone number(s) and indicate you are calling about the Job Bank. Calls are encouraged at the above hours; however, messages will also be taken during morning hours. Job seekers, when sending your resumes, please include information on iob preferences.

A NOTE FROM THE COORDINATOR \*\*

The effectiveness of the Job Bank service depends a great deal on the quality and quantity of input from all of us in the ESL/Bilingual community. With your help I hope to facilitate the existence of an active and successful Job Bank service, one that connects good people with good jobs. In that way, we can continue to offer our students the very best services possible. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

ESL INSTRUCTORS NEEDED — to teach basic vocational ESL and/or citizenship classes, part-time, on site in local factories. S.E. Mass. area. Call Lorrie Verplaetse, S.M.U., 999-8705 for information.

#### THE MATSOL SPRING CONFERENCE March 22-23

9:30-4:00 UMASS/BOSTON

Directions:

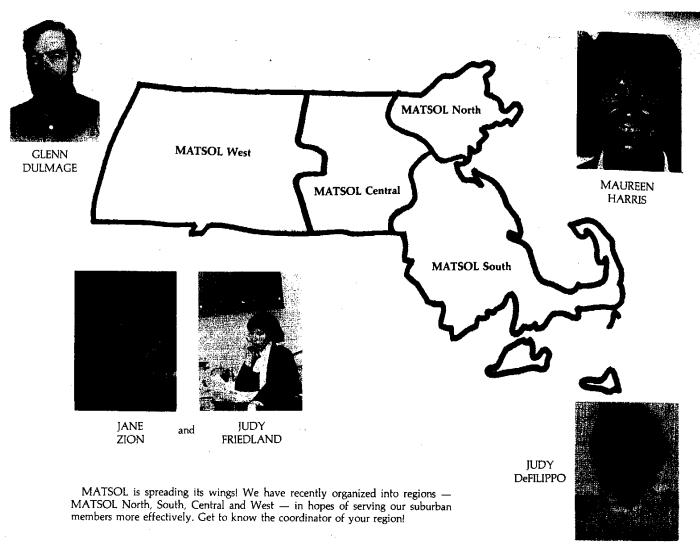
T: Red Line to Columbia Point. Free shuttle bus to Harbor Campus.

Car: from Rte. 93 South take Exit #17 to Morrisey Blvd.

John Oller "Meaning and Coherence"



Pre Register Now!



#### **Acculturation Skills**

(Continued from page 1)

plore these culture-specific issues directly, they are likely to violate unintentionally some of our "rules" and frustrate their teachers and colleagues. The student who does not volunteer in class may not realize that participation is highly valued here in the U.S.; the student that plagarizes may have no notion of its serious consequences in American universities; the late student that knocks on the door before entering has no way of knowing that he should quietly "sneak" in and take the first available seat; the student who has trouble critiquing an article needs to learn that it is acceptable and expected. Classroom activities involving readings<sup>2</sup>, lectures, polls and interviews (both in-class and out-of-class), to name a few activities, can help foreign students learn to deal more effectively with their new surroundings. The different cultural expectations and behaviors our students bring with them to class should be "exploited" for positive ends rather than seen as a hindrance and a source of frustration.

<sup>1</sup>Acculturation skills related to testing would include understanding what testing involves

as opposed to study skill strategies which deal with how to take a test.

<sup>2</sup>Some textbooks that contain readings for consciousness raising and acculturation include:

- a. Beyond Language: Intercultural Communication for ESL, by Levine and Adelman, Prentice-Hall.
- b. For and Against, by Alexander, Longman.
- Language and Life in the U.S.A., Vol. II, by Doty and Ross, Harper and Row.
- d. React/Interact, by Byrd and Clemente-Cabetas, Regents.
- e. Read On Speak Out, by Ferreira and Vai, Newbury House.
- f. Speaking of the U.S.A.: A Reader for Discussion, by Neustadt, Harper and Row.
- g. The American Way: An Introduction to American Culture, by E. Kearny, M. Kearny and Crandall, Prentice-Hall.
- h. Yesterday and Today in the U.S.A., by Harris Live, Prentice-Hall.

Fredricka Stoller is a lecturer at the American Language Institute, University of Southern California, Los Angeles. She is also a summer faculty member at Harvard University.

#### New Ideas!! — Special Orientation Session for New Faces in New York

GOING TO TESOL 85? Will this be your first International TESOL conference? TESOL 85 will be an exciting week, with lots of New Faces and New Ideas.

You are invited to a special orientation workshop to help you get the most out of this exciting convention: "New Faces and New Ideas: Welcome to your First TESOL." This workshop will help introduce you to TESOL 85. The workshop will feature overviews of the conference mechanics, the many services offered, the program, and strategies for plotting your own schedule. It will even provide teaching strategies that you can use in your own classes!

One highlight will be the opportunity to meet in small groups with a veteran, such as Henry Widdowson, Steven Krashen, Larry Selinker, Judy Winn-Bell Olsen, Mary Ann Christison, or Sharron Bassano, and several others.

For more information, call Roger Olsen at \$15/887-7070 (wk) or \$415/665-8633 (hm), or write at 2501 Industrial Parkway West, Hayward, Calif. 94545.



## Language and Culture in Transition

Nina Wallerstein Addison-Wesley, 1983

#### Reviewed by Lynne Weintraub

Should teachers of immigrants, refugees, and members of low socio-economic backgrounds consider the philosophical implications of "survival"-oriented teaching? Yes, writes Nina Wallerstein, effectively and compellingly in her recent book, Language and Culture in Conflict: Problem-Posing in the ESL Classroom.

Based on the literacy empowerment approach developed by Brazilian educator Paulo Freire, Wallerstein presents a viable strategy and rationale for raising cultural consciousness and developing language abilities simultaneously.

Traditional ESL texts and methods tend to perpetuate students' feelings of powerlessness and inadequacy by failing to acknowledge or honestly confront basic realities in their lives - problems such as unsafe housing, poor access to medical care, and worker exploitation. Without offering the informational tools and skills needed for self-defense, or even the opportunity to acknowledge one another's common experience, most materials simply ignore the unpleasant realities, or gloss over them condescendingly, with stilted dialogues and simplistic remedies. The teacher presents a survival topic, supplies some naive advice, like "Work hard and always show up on time," throws in some verb conjugations, pattern drills, or "competency objectives," and then leaves the students to fend for themselves somehow in the real world, feeling isolated, and often even responsible for their own dilemmas. ("It never happened that way in the textbook.") Similarly, the conventional classroom set-up, with teacher-imposed curriculum and passive-recipient students, does nothing to foster assertive behavior, independent thought, or constructive, meaningful interaction.

Wallerstein suggests that rather than simply transmitting language information, the teacher can serve as a "problem-poser" in order to stimulate meaningful dialogue in a two-way process. Presenting a carefully selected "code" (a picture, dialogue, song story, etc., which addresses a key issue for her particular group), she initiates a discussion of questions which lead participants gradually to describe, define, personalize, analyze, and finally, formulate their own solutions to the problem.

Fortunately, Wallerstein does more than espouse a philosophy, she presents eight well-developed sample units which deal with topics such as "culture and conflict," "health

care," "work," and "money." Within these units, each lesson contains a code (usually a picture or dialogue), "tools for dialogues" (possible discussion questions), suggested exercises for language practice, and ideas for learning activities concerning the problem theme.

While "pure" language instruction is never excluded from the lesson, it is only one component of an overall scheme providing a meaningful application of critical ideas and is intimately tied into the experience and contributions of the people for whom it is intended.

Wallerstein's book displays an unusual sensitivity toward the cultural issues and philosophical implications of "survival" ESL. Beyond this, it offers an unprecedented opportunity for teachers and students to share in the exploration of culture and the pursuit of personal and community development. For caring and conscientious teachers, Language and Culture in Conflict is a breakthrough.

Lynne Weintraub teaches ESL in the Holyoke Public Schools and is a graduate student at the University of Massachusetts/Amherst.

#### Open Sesame!

#### Jane Zion Oxford University Press

#### Reviewed by Linda Bebeau

Open Sesame, by Jane Zion, is a lively, refreshing and colorful six-stage English as a Second Language Series for children, featuring the Sesame Street Muppets. Open Sesame's approach to language learning encourages the development of essential language skills, those of communicating, listening, and speaking

Beginning with stage A, Big Bird's Yellow Book, *Open Sesame* sets many goals to encourage the development of students' conceptual, perceptual and motor skills. Lessons are structured to motivate and stimulate the beginning English student's active participation through colorful pictures, zesty songs, rhythmical chants and challenging games. The situations students encounter in this book offer interesting, inspiring and useful oral language.

Students proceed sequentially to Stage F, Ernie and Bert's Red Book, which expands their vocabulary and grammar, building speaking then reading then writing, developing higher cognitive abilities necessary for success in an English-speaking environment.

The activities and practice provided in *Open Sesame* are varied and spirited. The series has provided my students with an increased excitement, confidence, and security in using their newly-acquired language, enabling them to interact comfortably with other English speaking children in their school and neighborhood. *Open Sesame* is a welcomed addition to my English as a Second Language program.

Linda Bebeau is an ESL teacher at the Charlotte Cunning School in Framingham.

#### **Express English: Transitions**

Linda Ferreira Newbury House, 1984

#### Reviewed by Mark Stepner

ESL teachers on the lookout for textbooks which stress communicative skills and are an enjoyable springboard for language learning may wish to look carefully at Linda Ferreira's *Transitions*, the intermediate-level book in the *Express English* series (Newbury House Publishers, 1984).

Geared for "intermediate-level students and 'false beginners," Transitions is the first text in the series to be published so far. The text integrates all four language skills and features "Uptown," a story in the style of a soap opera, with brief grammar explanations and varied activities, many of which have a strong functional emphasis. Included at this level are the student book, the workbook, the set of two cassettes, and the teacher's edition. The student book features color photography as well as high-quality illustrations, and the cassettes are exceptionally fine ones, with the workbook being a useful optional component. Transitions skillfully treads a fine line between being primarily a grammar-based book and being a totally function-oriented one with no grammatical explication.

The fabric of the text is interwoven with "Uptown," described as "the continuing story of the struggle between powerful New York businessman Preston Wade and the tenants of Tudor Village." What happens to the characters throughout the book provides a starting point for numerous contextualized activities. In fact, the skillful integration of the story and the characters throughout most of the student book and the workbook constitutes one of the greatest strengths of Transitions.

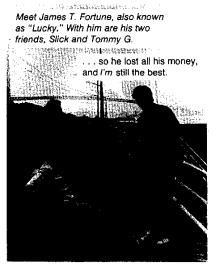
Composed of twenty-four units, the student book revolves around "Uptown" and has several different components. Each unit is six pages in length, with two "Scene" pages (episodes), two "Practice" sections (grammar practice), one "Expression" page (functional focus), and, depending on the unit, either a "Readabout/Writeabout" portion (in odd-numbered units) or a "Speakabout" one (less formal discourse — in even-numbered units). In addition, Appendix 1 has the "Expression" tapescripts, Appendix 2 contains the "Speakabout" scripts, and the last page has a list of the principal parts of common irregular verbs.

The "Readabout/Writeabout" sections contain brief journalistic reading passages. Dealing with diverse themes, including many related to "moral issues" based on the work of Laurence Kolberg, this section also offers opportunities for discussions and follow; up writing practice.

(Continued on page 10)

Please send book reviews for the Spring issue to C. Sadow, ELC, Northeastern U., Boston, MA before April 2, 1985.

## **Longman Photo Stories**



#### New! Lucky's Last Laugh Photo Stories 2

James "Lucky" Fortune had it all and he knew it — fame, fortune, a woman who loved him and the world at his feet. It started out like a dream come true. What it became was a nightmare without end.

582-79809-4 paper \$2.95

Dramatic, contemporary reading with low-level language practice for beginning ESL students

#### Joseph Greene and Andy Martin

Combine reading, listening and conversation practice with compelling stories and you'll have Longman *Photo Stories*. An exciting *photonovella* format of photographs and simple dialog helps students understand both verbal and non-verbal communication between characters. Throughout the books there are exercises to check students' comprehension, encourage them to make predictions and stimulate conversation. An audio cassette that dramatizes the dialogs and provides realistic sound effects completes this three-book series.

#### **Blues for Julie** Photo Stories 1

Passion and rebellion are the themes of this story about a young waitress who falls in love with a struggling musician. When her parents forbid her to see him, the drama begins.

582-79806-X paper \$2.95

#### Coming Spring 1985!

Doris Diamond - Private Eye

Photo Stories 3 582-79810-8 paper \$2.95

Longman Inc. • 1560 Broadway New York, NY 10036 • (212) 819-5300

# MATSOLBS

#### THE MATSOL SPRING CONFERENCE March 22-23 9:30-4:00

UMASS/BOSTON

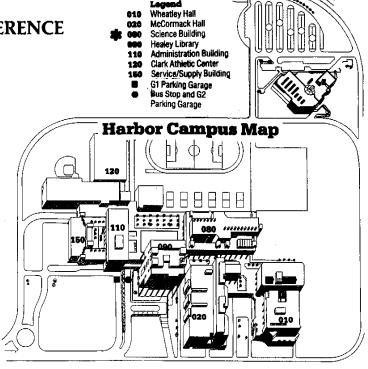
John Oller "Meaning and Coherence"

#### Directions:

T : Red Line to Columbia Point. Free shuttle bus to Harbor Campus.

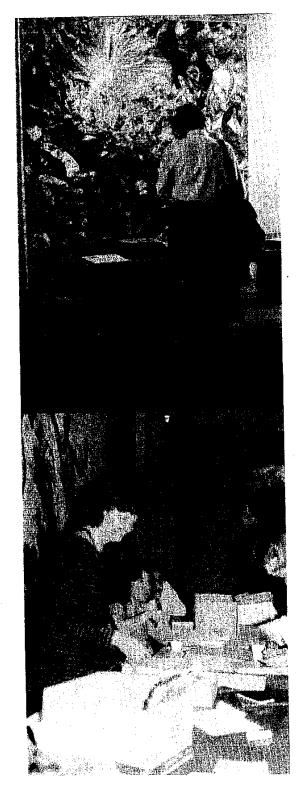
Car: from Rte, 93 South take Exit #17 to Morrisey Blvd,

Pre Register Now!



# **MATSOL**

# **Fall Conference**











#### Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages,

an international professional organization for those concerned with the teaching of English as a second or foreign language, of standard English as a second dialect, and bilingual education and with research into language acquisition, language theory, and language teaching pedagogy,

invites you to participate in its

#### nineteenth annual convention

to take place at the New York Hilton, New York City, 9-14 April 1985

The convention program will include plenary sessions by internationally known speakers, papers, workshops, and colloquia by TESOL teachers and their colleagues in related disciplines, educational visits, exhibits, and social events.

Jean McConochie Pace University New York , New York Program Chair Cathy Day Eastern Michigan University Ypsilanti, Michigan Associate Chair

Non-TESOL members may obtain detailed information by writing to:

TESOL ● 201 D.C. Transit Building Georgetown University Washington, D.C. 20057 USA Telephone 202-625-4569



#### ITM-American Gateway Program Offers Year-Round Teaching in China

The ITM-AMERICAN GATEWAY PROGRAM (ITM) offers North American ESL/EFL teachers a unique opportunity to teach at Jiao Tong University in Shanghai, China for varying lengths of time throughout the calendar year. Teachers may choose from four time periods: Period 1 is from September 9th through the end of December; Period 2 is from January 1st through February 29th; Period 3 is from March 1st through June 30th; Period 4 is from August 1st through August 30th. There are opportunities to extend the teaching appointment if both the university and the teacher so desire.

For a complete program brochure and application form, write to:

Dr. Daniel Edward Behmer, Director ITM-AMERICAN GATEWAY PROGRAM

P.O. Box 02340 Detroit, Michigan 48202 Telephone: (313) 872-1460

The 15th Annual Conn. TESOL Conference will be held Friday, May 10 — Saturday, May 11, 1985, at the Yale Inn, Meriden,

Contact: LIONEL S. JACKOWITZ, 955 N. Main Street, West Hartford, Conn. 06117.

.Cambridge ESL\_

## Cambridge American English

#### Clear Speech

Pronunciation and Listening Comprehension in American English

JUDY B. GILBERT

Presents a new approach to listening comprehension and pronunciation through intonation, stress, and rhythm. Clear, non-technical explanations for students accompanied by listening activities and practice exercises.

Student's Book: 28790-1/Teacher's Manual: 28791-X/ Set of 2 Cassettes: 24570-2



## How to Survive in the U.S.A

English for travelers and newcomers

NANCY CHURCH and ANNE MOSS

For intermediate students who need to handle real-life situations using American English: telephones, public transportation, banking, hotels, airports, shopping. Informative readings about American customs,

and speaking and listening exercises that promote effective communication.

Student's Book: 27206-8/Cassette: 25111-7



#### Functions of American English

Communication activities for the classroom

LEO JONES and C. VON BAEYER

Teaches students how to do things with English: ask for information, describe, suggest, persuade, advise, complain. Presents appropriate language for different social situations and gets students talking with com-

munication activities and tasks for pair and group work.

Student's Book: 28528-3/Teacher's Manual: 28529-1/ Cassette: 24211-8



### **CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS**

32 EAST 57TH STREET/NEW YORK, NY 10022/212 688-8885

#### Electives at Harvard by Carol Houser Pireiro

For the past twelve years Anne Dow has directed the ESL programs at Harvard University. In the following interview she expresses her ideas about the elective component, an essential part of the intensive eight-week summer course.

CHP: Could you talk about the program at Harvard and what role the elective component plays?

AD: The summer intensive is where electives come into play. Students are in class five hours a day. On the basis of CELT structure and listening scores students are placed in integrated-skill "homerooms" for two hours a day. The other three hours of the day are made up of elective courses which students select from the array available to them. We divide the homerooms into four different levels for the purpose of choosing electives. Some electives are offered to sections across all levels and others occur only at the upper or the lower level. Some of the highly specialized or professional electives, for instance, occur only at the upper levels and more general survival skills electives at the lower levels. Basically, the electives we offer now cover a broad range of subjects. There are over twenty choices for each level, so we end up with over one hundred discrete courses once we sort students into sections.

CHP: How many students do you have in each course then?

AD: A given section may run from five to fifteen students. In an occasional, exceptional elective we may permit a few extra students because it has a format that tolerates that. But we may also have a very tiny section because we've decided that it's important to have a pronunciation section for just the Japanese speakers at a certain proficiency level. We start out with a menu that the students can choose from, we sort students and decide how many sections of this or that we're going to have, and then we put the system in motion. It's really more complicated than that implies; we have a very systematic computer program that helps in arraying the data I need to make those decisions.

CHP: How do you decide what electives to offer?

AD: The whole process really starts back in February when we approach the veteran teachers who are coming back or the new teachers I interview, and I ask "What kind of elective would you LIKE to teach?" Then they say "I've always wanted to do this, but no one gave me the chance." or "I did this last year but I'd really like to refine it." Sometimes it's something they've done often and sometimes it's something they've never done, but the main thing is it's something they WANT to do. And so they propose an elective and I look at all the proposals of everybody I'm expecting to hire and I say, "Well, if I gave everybody their first choice, we might have a few too many of this or that." I might tinker and approach people, but usually people have given me a couple of options, and by juggling these options around, I can come up with a diet that makes sense for the students. A lot of our students have been in the U.S. before; it's not a big novelty. Not everybody wants cultural orientation, so electives that stress it go in and out of fashion.

CHP: So, essentially students can study whatever they want.

AD: They feel the TOEFL is all-important and everything they do must pay off in terms of the test. We can't expect them to write plays if we don't persuade them that writing plays is going to improve their English. Years ago one of our teachers offered a course called "Themes in American Literature and Film" and nobody wanted to take it, so the second term - at that time we were running fourweek electives — I rewrote the description in terms almost as blatant as "How to pass the TOEFL by reading books and going to movies", and students came out of the woodwork and loved the course. But you have to meet them halfway instead of making it look like fun, because some of them are afraid to use their time at Harvard having fun. So you say "Not to worry! It's fun but it's also going to do this and this and this for your English". It's a con job partly. It's P.R.

C: Isn't it awfully shaky for you at the beginning of the semester having this array of elective teachers and courses, not knowing if anybody is going to take them? How do you handle the paperwork, contracts and what teachers expect to do during a summer?

A: With a certain amount of mutual respect, trust and flexibility. Teachers know that they're contracted to do a certain number of hours at a given price. And I have a pretty good crystal ball on the regular patterns of summer enrollment. I can predict within five to ten percent the range of scores, how many people at what score, and what nationality they'll be because we have a long track record of steady growth and steady patterns within it. Usually I come within one person of the number of people I need to hire and what they have to teach. It's amazing, but these things do work out.

CHP: I just have one last question. Considering the intensity of the program and setting up the classes, how do you survive Harvard? Do you go to the Bahamas afterward for a vacation?

A: My idea of a good time is indeed to go somewhere sunny when I get a chance and fortunately I do like the sunny spots that are nice in winter, but I don't get away to too many of them. Last year I gave myself the luxury of a hiking and diving trip in South America along the Inca Trail and in the Galapagos. That was a package deal of two dreams come true, but trips of that duration have been very rare. It's hard to get away for long periods of time.

This interview was conducted by Carol Houser-Pineiro, coordinator of electives at CELOP, Boston University.

#### King

(Continued from page 1)

There are several reasons Kevin used law cases as a foundation for a discussion text. Some years ago during a Boston lawsuit the prosecuting party wished to withdraw in the midst of the proceedings, but under U.S. law the suit had to continue. Kevin used this case as a springboard to stimulate class discussion. Comparing the diverse legal systems of the students' countries was a topic that promoted debate. Another idea Kevin came across was a law exam, which gave anecdotes he felt could induce thoughtful discussion. These events, coupled with his personal interest in law proved to be the impetus behind *Trial by lury*.

Applications of the text can vary. Kevin suggests that "the students do a lot of work at home to save class time for the trial and discussion of legal questions." The reading. exercises, vocabulary, and preparation of pretrial questions are best done at home, "Class time", he feels, "is best devoted to listening comprehension, discussion of law, which has to be carefully paced by the teacher, and the trial itself which should proceed as quickly as possible." Another application suggested by a colleague was to divide the class into two groups and assign different chapters to each group. Students then had to relate relevant facts of their case to the other group who had to listen closely in order to make an objective decision.

True to his creative nature, Kevin has been experimenting and developing lessons revolving around the concept of justice. He has taken the legal questions raised in *Trial by Jury* a step further and presented cases which question the nature of justice. These, he says, never fail to spark interesting and provocative discussion.

Allison Brewster is a graduate student in the ESL Master's Program at UMASS/Boston.



Wallace Lambert at the UMASS/Boston Lecture Series.

And in April. . .

#### STEPHEN KRASHEN

Sponsored by MATSOL and UMASS/Boston.

#### Transitions

(Continued from page 4)

There are several shortcomings worth noting. For example, the student-centered methodology reflected throughout much of Transitions is not the focus of the "Writeabout" component, which treats different aspects of expository writing. Students are provided with frames as writing models and instructed to "produce well-developed paragraphs, with topic and concluding sentences," as well as a preliminary outline. Such a very structured, rather restrictive approach to writing is clearly teacher-centered and may, at times, be an obstacle to student creativity. Also, the "Speakabout" section is confusingly topheavy with listening cues. Finally, there could be more introductory information provided about Carlos, one of the fairly major characters in "Uptown."

The teacher edition has copious notes on how to present the material, including pronunciation work and follow-up suggestions for each unit. At the end of the teacher edition are sample multiple-choice midterm and final tests, answer sheets and answer keys for both, an answer key for the workbook, and the Grammar Appendix. In sum, the teacher edition is a very helpful component.

I have used selections from a number of the *Transitions* units with intermediate-level students. The students were consistently enthusiastic about "Uptown" and looked forward to hearing about its continuing saga of love conflicts and intrigues, which made learning grammar a more memorable experience for them.

Linda Ferreira, a faculty member of Columbia University's Teachers' College, has produced a generally well-integrated intermediate text with a compelling story and a whole panoply of activities that bring contextualized, functional use of grammar into play. This is a very useful addition to the pool of ESL texts based on a "communicative approach" from which teachers can choose materials to help their students achieve functional fluency.

Mark Stepner is the director of curriculum at the American Language Academy on the campus of Babson College.



GET WELL SOON, STEVE!

The MATSOL Membership

# Recreational Grammar

#### **Unmusical Saws**

- I don't want my son sent to Central America to be used as cattle fodder. WEEI talk show caller
- ii. "The problem is they play it so close to the vest," said Casper. "When something goes wrong, they circle the wagon." Boston Globe, Nov. 15

iii. He may have a college degree, but he's as dumb as a post.

WRKO talk show caller

iv. . . for all intensive purposes. . . . Cleveland Plain Dealer

v. ....it's a doggy dog world. . . overheard conversation

vi. This room was restored with tender love and care.

found under old wallpaper

Somewhere between words and sentences there lies a dim nether region which is the natural habitat of several varieties of linguistic grotesques. Among these are memorized bits of religious and patriotic texts, lock combinations, and words like 'albeit', 'nevertheless', and 'whatchamcallit' which aren't really sure whether they are words or sentences.

The principal fauna of this region, by far, though, are cliches. Known also as bromides or saws, they seem to be big chunks of language swallowed whole and stored as a single element.

Starting, I assume, as admired well-turned phrases, as cliches acquire conventional status, their words begin to lose their individuality and the cliches, themselves, begin to develop phonological, semantic, and syntactic lives of their own. The examples above of cliches gone awry bear this out.

The first example is wonderful. I wish I'd said it myself. The journey from cannon to cattle is such a pleasant one. In some part, it may be phonological; by feature analysis cannon and cattle are not so far apart. Mostly, though, it is semantic; our concerned citizen knows that fodder is food and that cannons don't eat.

In the second, all that is missing is a plural. Circle the wagons is fine. However, from the rest of the article cited it is clear that the speaker's mental picture is of people surrounding something, in this case a school, in order to protect it rather than visa versa. It is actually rather an apt image; its strangeness comes only from its having no status in the cliche bank.

The next muddled cliche seems to have historical roots. Dumb almost always means stupid these days and hardly ever aphasic. This given, the speaker erects a demented syllogism: Posts are not very smart. This person is not very smart. Therefore, this person is dumb as a post.

The remaining examples, are phonology driven errors. Dog eat dog world actually is pronounced doggy dog world because of the assimilation of the final and initial alveolars. The only way I know that the speaker was indeed saying doggy is because my informant asked her.

Likewise, the /p/ in purposes labializes the /ts#n#/ in intents and sufficiently that a speaker more accustomed to receiving language aurally than visually could easily hear a /v/ and arrive at intensive purposes. And, tender loving care and tender love and care are pronounced essentially the same by most speakers. Moreover, since nouns have a much lower markedness than participial adjectives, the error comes as no surprise.

Mulling over these fractured cliches in a post-holiday funk, I am reminded of two things: First, of a Jewish friend who went home from school and asked her father who Ron Yon Virgin was (he smiled and told her to ask her teacher), and secondly, of the fact that I was old enough to vote before I realized that Orient Are was not a place.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

1. Bill Biddle, who works at a famous university, submits the following, culled from a spy novel, as a challenge for grammar teachers:

"Good God, there's a chap listed here as having died in Ethiopia in 1968. What on Earth was he doing here?"

"Search me....You might as well ask ten years from now what I was doing in Mayo tomorrow night."

- 2. Maureen Dezell wishes to call our attention to a poster for the Mass Literacy(sic) Campaign which adorned the subways sometime back: "Every child can and does have the right to read."
- 3. I plan soon to do a column on 'phrasal words'. By this I mean words like whodunit and sticktoitiveness which are sentence parts which have collapsed into single lexical items. I would deeply appreciate your sending me lists of such words.

Please send these and any linguistic tidbits or grammar questions to:

Gregg Singer CELOP 730 Comm. Ave. Boston University 02215

Please send Teaching ideas for the Spring issue to Ralph Radell, Bunker Hill Community College, Boston, MA 02129 before April 2, 1985.



#### Bilingual/ESL Computer Courses at UMASS

The graduate program in Bilingual/ESL is offering five computer courses:

1. The Computer in the ESL/Bilingual Classroom

This course trains students to develop educational graphics in low and high resolution and character graphics, computer sounds and music, and a Conversational Statistics

2. Computer Assessment and Evaluation of the Limited English Proficiency Student

Evaluation, particularly student testing, is playing an important role in education. However there are grave concerns about the quality, validity, and appropriateness of many forms this evaluation takes. The content of many commonly used achievement tests is poorly matched to the goals of bilingual programs for which the tests will be used as evaluative instruments. It is also questionable the way test data are collected and reported.

This course equips students with the necessary computer skills to construct instruments to evaluate ESL/Bilingual student competencies in both the native language and English.

3. Bilingual Computer-Assisted Instruction One of the great concerns of bilingual education has been how to individualize instruction. Computer-assisted instruction can be used to provide individualized instruction. The students are allowed to progress at their own rate of learning and, if desired, to continue with enrichment material. Another aspect of the individualization of instruction is the diagnosis and resolution of pupil learning difficulties. Such a diagnosis attempts to identify the specific causes of these difficulties and then suggests appropriate remediation.

This course trains students to develop programs for the ESL/Bilingual student in computer-assisted instruction, both in the native language and in English as a second language.

4. ESL/Bilingual Computer Curriculum Development

Because of exciting developments in electronics, it has become possible to develop and program in microcomputers appropriate teaching instructional activities in the native language and in English as a second language.

5. ESL/Bilingual Computer and Research Methods

A new curriculum and improved methods of teaching can be successful only if the classroom teachers understand them and know how to use them. It is important to train the new generation of teachers and to retrain those already in service to use the new curriculum and methods. Training in education at this advanced level requires that the teachers themselves design and conduct experiments. This course examines the role of microcomputers in quantitative educational research.

Salazar Ferro is an assistant professor at 11.MASS/Boston.

Please send articles on Computer Assisted Language Learning to Tom Garza, Harvard EFL Program, Sever Hall, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138 by April 2, 1985.



## **Courseware** as Individualized as Your Students' Needs



- Idioms Word Games
- Lesson Writing

The Regents/ALA Company has courseware for teaching and learning all of these with an Apple computer. An interactive, dynamic design makes language learning interesting. Fun. And attuned to the individual needs of your students.

You see, no two students get exactly the same lesson with Regents/ALA courseware. Because no two students are exactly alike.

For more information, call toll free: 1-800-822-8202



Two Park Avenue, New York, NY, 10016 U.S.A. Telex: 14-8374

The Regents/ALA Company is not affiliated with the Board of Regents of the State of New York or any other state

# <u>Practice Makes Perfect</u>

# Structure Practice in Context

the perfect complement for your syllabus

Longman

Longman's Structure Practice in Context helps your students learn grammar by presenting structures in naturally occurring contexts. This outstanding four-workbook series covers beginning through high intermediate levels and uses dialogs, games, advertisements and other vehicles to make structure practice interesting and relevant. Other features include:

- Numerous activities designed to improve grammatical accuracy and communicative competence
- Practice work that draws on American humor, history, geography, etc. to provide language contexts
- Illustrations that support the introduction and practice of language points

For more information, or to get a sample copy of Structure Practice in Context, write Longman or call (212) 819-5300.

**Book 1** 582 798582 (beginning) \$4.65 **Book 2** 582 798590 (beg.-inter.) \$4.65

**Book 3** due late '84 582 798604 (intermediate) \$4.65 **Book 4** due early '85 582 798612 (inter-adv.) \$4.65

Longman Inc., 1560 Broadway New York, NY 10036

MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION FOR TEACHERS OF ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

English Language Center Northeastern University 360 Huntington Avenue Boston, MA 02115 NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID BOSTON, MA PERMIT NO. 57641 14

