

REPORT TO LAGB AGM

10/4/87

BAAL/LAGB COMMITTEE FOR LINGUISTICS IN EDUCATION

Minutes of Meeting 24 held in Room 782, University of London Institute of Education, on Friday, 14th November 1986.

The order of the agenda was adjusted. Item 5 was taken before item 4, so that Peter Gannon, who could not be present at the beginning of the meeting, could participate in the discussion.

24.1 Attendance

Present at the meeting:

Colin Biggs, Tom Bloor, Jill Bourne, Arthur Brookes, Gillian Brown, Peter Gannon, Michael Hammond, Vee Harris, Dick Hudson, Carl James, Joyce Morris, Bryan Newton, John Rudd, and Mike Stubbs (in the Chair).

24.2 Minutes of Meeting 23

It was noted that subsequent to Meeting 23, apologies had been received from Colin Biggs, Carl James and Geoffrey Thornton.

24.3 Co-options

Mike Stubbs explained that a new member should be co-opted to the Committee, as Geoffrey Thornton's period of co-option had ended. Arthur Brookes suggested that as his co-option was also due to end, he should also stand down. It was agreed that Tom Bloor should approach Katherine Perera and Mahendra Verma to see if they would be willing to serve on the Committee.

24.5 Future activities of CLIE

24.5.1 Dick Hudson reported that there were now ten CLIE working papers; the most recent being the reports of the LAGB meetings on the homogeneity of the grammar of British English and on English spelling. It was agreed that the working papers should be made available to a wider audience than at present and that a publisher should be approached. It was clear that a general introduction to the papers would be necessary and that they would need some editing. Dick Hudson agreed to write to Edward Arnold suggesting how the papers might be presented.

24.5.2 Dick Hudson reported that the topic for the April session of the LAGB Educational Linguistics section would be 'Grammatical Categories' and for the September session 'Typology in the Classroom'.

24.5.3 It was agreed that CLIE could usefully contribute to the present discussion on the criteria appropriate for oral assessment in the GCSE examinations. Bryan Newton offered to present relevant documentation from the examination boards for discussion at the next meeting. Members from the boards might then be invited to attend a subsequent meeting. Any conclusions reached as a result of these discussions might form the basis of a short document to be presented to the DES.

24.4 CLIE response to English from 5 to 16: the Responses to Curriculum Matters 1 An HMI Report, DES 1986

The Committee agreed that it should contribute to the debate over what pupils should know about language, sending its recommendations to the National Inquiry, when it is constituted. There was considerable discussion as to the form that the recommendations should take. It was suggested that the Committee might seek to identify the principles and attitudes pupils should acquire and to relate them to the methods and specific content appropriate for different age groups. Gillian Brown emphasised the importance of identifying the most suitable methods. Whereas less able pupils might have some difficulty in grasping abstract principles, they could be presented with tasks to perform which, by their very nature, required them to develop their use of the language.

Mike Stubbs and Tom Bloor agreed to explore which publications might form a fruitful starting point from which to draw up the recommendations. Members were also invited to send suggestions to Tom Bloor.

24.6 Any other business

Mike Stubbs thanked Arthur Brookes and Geoffrey Thornton (in his absence) for their very valuable contribution to the work of the Committee.

24.7 Date and venue of next meeting

Meeting 25 will be held on Friday, 20th February at 3.00.p.m. at the London Institute of Education.