

COMMITTEE FOR LINGUISTICS IN EDUCATION (CLIE) MEETING

Wednesday, 16 June 1999; 2.00-5.00 p.m.

Institute of Education, University of London, 20 Bedford Way, London.

LAGB'S CLIE REPORTER'S REPORT

The meeting fell into three parts: (1) a lengthy discussion arising from the minutes of the February 1999 meeting; (2) CLIE organisational matters; and (3) the National Curriculum review, with Dr Alastair West of the English Team of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) as guest speaker. This report highlights substantial and coherent points in non-chronological order.

1. THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM REVIEW

Consultations are under way for draft proposals for a revised National Curriculum to be introduced in schools in England in September 2000. Our main focus was on the curriculum for English.

- The new National Curriculum for English is to be less prescriptive and less repetitive.
- It will effect minimum change.
- It will fully incorporate, and maintain the standard of, the National Literacy Strategy (for primary schools).
- Standard English and language study statements feature prominently in the programmes of study for Speaking and Listening, Reading, and Writing.
- There is strong emphasis on the use of language across the curriculum.
- Teacher support materials (schemes of work) for secondary English are also being prepared.

The general consultation questionnaire contains just one question relating to English, but there is also a more detailed, English-focused questionnaire from the English Team of the QCA. Individuals and groups are invited to submit (brief) responses. The deadline is 23 July 1999. (Please see Appendix below for details on how to acquire the curriculum consultation materials.)

2. CLIE VISIBILITY

A long-standing concern among CLIE members has been the fact that until very recently educational decisions involving linguistic matters have been taken by the authorities without routinely consulting experts, that is linguists. This appears to be changing thanks, among other things, to LAGB's representation to the Department for Education and Employment (DfEE) in April this year on matters concerning the National Literacy Strategy. CLIE's significance as an action group is rather limited but a letter will be sent to the Times Education Supplement (a weekly British journal for teachers) informing them about CLIE's existence, members' expertise in language and members' willingness to be consulted.

3. FORTHCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST TO CLIE

- (1) LAGB Autumn Meeting, 7-9 September 1999, York; special session: 'Language studies at A-level'.

Speakers:
Tony Tinkel (University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES)) on current changes in English Language A-level syllabi
Michael Hoey (Liverpool) on current English Language A-levels

- (2) Annual BAAL Meeting, 16-18 September 1999, Edinburgh; colloquium: 'Relationships between applied linguistics and current developments in English language teaching in English schools'

Speakers:
Alison Sealey & Bob Carter (Warwick): Why don't policy makers listen to linguists?
Brian Street (King's College London): New Literacy Studies (NLS1) versus National Literacy Strategy (NLS2)
Ewa Jaworska (Bangor): The usefulness of 'formal grammar'?
Christopher Brumfit (Southampton): Applied linguistics and language policy: the British case

- (3) Prof. Jill Bourne (BAAL Chair) and Prof. Gunther Kress (University of London Institute of Education) have contacted DfEE on behalf of BAAL. They are to meet Mr John Stannard to present to him a 'model of grammar'. No further details were given.

APPENDIX: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE MEETING

1. Participants: Tom Bloor (BAAL), Kersti Böjars (LAGB), Roz Ivanic (BAAL, CLIE Secretary), Ewa Jaworska (LAGB/CLIE Reporter), Joe Reynolds (Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists), Alison Sealey (BAAL), Brian Street (co-opted), Nicola Woods (LAGB, CLIE Chair).

2. National Curriculum consultation materials

These are available from:

- (a) QCA publications, tel. 01787 884444;
- (b) <http://www.qca.org.uk>.

They include:

- (i) The Secretary of State's proposals (summary of government policy),
- (ii) The consultation materials (draft orders and frameworks for all subjects),
- (iii) General questionnaire.

The English-specific questionnaire - contact Vicky Hedger, English Team, QCA, 29 Bolton Street, London W1Y 7PD. Tel. 0171 5055555.

3. CLIE website (not recently updated): <http://www.cogs.susx.ac.uk/users/nicolajw/clie3.html>

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