

COMMITTEE FOR LINGUISTICS IN EDUCATION
MINUTES OF MEETING 76

Wednesday 18 February 2004

at The Institute of Education, University of London

1. Welcome, membership and apologies for absence

PRESENT: Jo Arthur (BAAL), Sue Barry (LAGB), Eve Bearne (UKLA), Jill Bourne (BAAL), Keith Brown (LAGB), Billy Clark (LAGB), Keith Davidson (NATE), Geoff Dean (NAAE), Charlotte Franson (NALDIC), Dick Hudson (LAGB), Terry Lamb (ALL), Tim Shortis, (Co-opted), Brian Street (Co-opted), Catherine Walter (BAAL)

APOLOGIES: Richard Aplin (ALA), Janet Maybin (BAAL), April McMahon (LAGB), Mahendra Verma (Co-opted)

2. Minutes of Meeting 75

The minutes were agreed as a true record

3. Matters arising

#3. Contacts with Government.

DH had met, on behalf of CLIE, with Gerry Swain in December and with Lid King in February. In both cases he offered CLIE's help with their language-related projects in the form of comments on early or late drafts, and names of experts willing to write materials or take part in meetings. He gave them a list of contributions that had been made recently by linguists (attached as **Appendix A.**)

Gerry Swain runs the KS3 English strand, and was enthusiastic about our offer of help. Apparently he did a degree in linguistics and English literature at Leeds, and is keen to promote language work. He is working on three relevant projects:

1. "3 to 5" - a two-day national training programme for every KS3 English teacher in 2004-5, about how to use explicit teaching to bring KS2 pupils who score level 3 (the expected level for KS2 is level 4) up to level 5 by the end of KS3. The programme will suggest a 'spiral' model in which the class revisits the same topic each year, but each year at a higher level. The material will focus on about four general areas of text-level grammar, which is easiest for English teachers; but it will include word- and sentence-level material as well. Deadline for materials: mid January.

2. "2+2" - a similar programme about how to get all KS3 learners to make faster progress; this really subsumes "3 to 5" as a special case. Deadline for materials: end March.

3. A flexible self-training package for teachers to increase their subject knowledge (including knowledge of grammar) rather than to suggest direct applications in teaching. This will probably be based on IT but the format is still undecided.

Lid King is the National Director for Languages. Not surprisingly, he is well informed about linguistics and CLIE, and would be happy to come to talk to CLIE at a future meeting. One specific project where CLIE may be able to help is a forthcoming seminar about theoretical issues, and another is the KS2 MFL Framework when it is ready in draft.

Comments:

It was agreed that in such contacts CLIE members should be circulated to suggest and agree the appropriate list of contacts to be given for consultation by government and agencies (such as LK). This could be done by email.

Action: JB to prepare a handout on CLIE including addresses of CLIE members and represented organizations which should be given by DH/JB to any future contacts. DH/JB to circulate members when help has been requested to draw up list of suitable contacts for that particular request.

It was suggested that CLIE should have some input into the consultation on the 'Communication' strand in new Diploma scheme proposed to replace 'A' Levels. BS suggested there was a distinction between what employers count as literacy and what is counted as literacy in subject English.

Action: DH to contact Mike Tomlinson. Contact address: www.14-19reform.gov.uk. Consultation was taking place by email.

Members commented on the current contrast between the language area and literacy area – there appeared to be little or no budget for developing inservice materials on languages unlike literacy, nor for LEA support/training for languages.

#4. Terms of reference.

BAAL and LAGB Committees had agreed the changes proposed by CLIE. BAAL had requested that CLIE and BAAL agree a budget for annual expenses; and that the BAAL executive should be consulted before any reports or responses to consultations are sent out in the name of CLIE

Action: DH/JB to set budget in negotiation with BAAL to cover travel expenses of co-optees and speakers.

#5. Membership.

JB reported that Jo Arthur was the 4th BAAL member. Eve Bearne and Guy Merchant would be representing UKLA in turn; JB had contacted the British Dyslexia Association and CLPE but had as yet received no response. Mahendra Verma (York) had agreed to join the Committee as the 3rd co-opted member.

It was suggested that CLIE invite the The English Association to join, bringing expertise on 'A' level and HEI English; also to invite CILT to send a representative.

Action: JB to contact Helen Lucas (English Assoc) and Dawn Ebrell (CILT).

#6. Future meetings.

JB had contacted Lynne Cameron, who was unavailable in November.

Action: DH to write to Lid King or Deborah Myhill for November 3rd 2004.

JB to invite Lynne Cameron for 16th Feb 2005

4. News

Members were reminded of the request to present their reports under the following headings in future:

MFL

English

Language Awareness

Community Languages

EAL

Other

MFL

ALL is now represented on The Schools Stakeholders Group for the National Languages Strategy, and the KS2 Framework Steering Group. ALL collaboration with key agencies was continuing to grow. ALL/CILT have asked to be on the Steering Group for a Primary Language Awareness project proposed by the Secondary Heads Association to the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation.

A successful project bid had been made by ALL to the DFES, looking at innovative ways in which schools and universities can work together to raise achievement in MFL in secondary schools. (CLIE members suggested this might be extended to Linguistics.)

The next meeting of the Language Alliance would be in London on April 20th.

Language World 2004 will be at the University of Oxford Examinations Schools from 2-4 April.

ALL/CILT/UCML had worked together to produce first Language Trends Survey, Nov 2003 (report available at <http://www.cilt.org.uk/pdf/Language%20Trends%202003.pdf>) . Special interest groups for Primary and Mandarin Chinese were now up and running, with the first Mandarin Chinese event on March 20th.

ALL 's forthcoming INSET events are: May 20th 'Staying Creative' , Birmingham; May 25th Spanish Day, Newcastle upon Tyne; June 26th: German Day, London, plus various events being organized for the Autumn.

TL has an appointment to see Stephen Twigg next month re: 14+ options choice dropout for Languages.

BAAL : A fully funded BAAL/CUP seminar this year will address *Translation Policies and Practices* (University of Birmingham, October 2004).

BAAL continues to be represented on the University Council of Modern Languages (by Anne Ife).

LAGB: A seminar on Linguistics for FL in Universities is to be held in August. The LAGB bid to AHRB for 6 ring-fenced PhD's had been successful

ENGLISH

NATE Language and Literacy in the four Countries of the UK' (Glasgow, 1-3 April 2004): a NATE special international conference in the light of the of the IFTE conference (Melbourne, July 2003) and following political devolution in the UK [Contact: pamela.hardie@strath.ac.uk]

Bethan Marshall addressed a LATE meeting in November on 'Assessment for Learning', (attached as **Appendix B**) eschewing atomized teaching and learning models.

NATE sees challenges in the Tomlinson 14-19 Reform proposals (17 February): particularly in: A) reconciling two notions of 'English': core Communication and special subject English.

B) Re-negotiating 'coursework' - seen as essential to work in English - in the terms of the proposals for teacher assessment of work in progress rather than prescribed submissions, complemented by a cross-curricula project. [www.14-19reform.gov.uk]

UKLA: With the TTA and NATE, UKLA is developing materials for ITT. A pilot study for the Primary National Strategy on 'Boys and Writing' is being undertaken. The QCA is working on the children's production of multimodal texts. UKLA will hold a conference on Literacy in the summer.

BS: A 'Language in Higher Education' Research Group has been set up at Kings College London, looking at the language and literacy dimensions of widening participation schemes. There are plans to hold a national conference.

EAL

BAAL: Esther Daborn, the BAAL representative on the LLAS Subject Centre Advisory Board, has been invited to make a proposal to LLAS for a day-long seminar on the topic of literacy in languages as it affects British students at HE whose first language is not English.

BAAL and IATEFL (which has recently started an ESOL SIG) are discussing closer links, with a possible BAAL day at the IATEFL Conference.

NATE: John Polias had addressed a LATE meeting in November on the South Australian curriculum and assessment model mapping EAL/ESL learning on 'scope and scales' in L1 English, as a learning model for the whole curriculum, possibly to include MFL. [With the monolingual native speaker an endangered species, is EAL the model for global English in any case?]. Based on genre theory. A paper on 'Scope and Scales' is attached (**Appendix C**).

NALDIC: NALDIC is undertaking a Hamlin funded literature review of models of ESL assessment. Meryl Swain will be addressing the NALDIC Annual Conference in November.

There is a new NALDIC website.

JB pointed out that there is current interest and investment from the DFES/TTA in EAL teaching. JB has been a member of the DFES EAL Working Group. The DFES is funding 2 pilot projects to develop a specialist qualification for experienced teachers in EAL, intending this to go national in due course.

The TTA has financed a major project network to develop materials and research for initial teacher trainers on EAL teaching and learning strategies.

The National Primary Strategy, with DFES funding, has appointed a number of Primary EAL Co-ordinators in a number of pilot regions to develop EAL strategies for mainstream teachers as part of the Strategy, again with the intention of later going national.

Community Languages

A fully funded BAAL/CUP seminar this year will address *Researching Community Languages* (University of Stirling, June or July 2004).

Language Awareness

Tim Shortis noted that changes to A level specifications had been postponed, after protests. 20% growth in uptake of courses; AQAB – trying to teach about language change, lexicography (OED); British Library materials on language change being put online.

E Bearne – UKLA: Literacy conf; QCA: Multimodel texts – ch's products;
TTA/Nate/UKLA – materials for ITT in first year in developing materials. Pilot for Pri Nat Strategy – Boys and Writing

B Street – Language in HE Research Group – lan/lit. dimension of the widening participation schemes – eg. Saturday classes – summer school
EAL and academic literacy
National conference at Kings

5. Government policy on research funding for HE

JB reported that many of the particular concerns of 3a rated departments appear to have been addressed in RAE 2008.

6. AOB : None

7. Alan Howe gave a well attended open presentation on the KS3 Strategy. His presentation is available online at <ftp://ftp.phon.ucl.ac.uk/pub/Word-Grammar/ec/howe.ppt>.

Next meeting: 2pm, June 9th, 2004 . Institute of Education Committee Room 1.
To include discussion of the implications of the Tomlinson Report on Education 14-19.