

INTRODUCTION

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This year we are celebrating the tenth anniversary of our institute, and this is our report No. 10, - a suitable occasion for looking back, tracing some lines of development and taking stock of the situation. A further reason is that our institute has now found a more permanent home in the new campus of the university, and our moving about from one unsatisfactory location to another has come to an end.

In the introduction to the first report, in 1966, I sketched the prehistory of the institute. As that report was issued only in a limited number, and since the introduction will not be re-printed in re-issues of ARIPUC 1, the main points are included in the present survey.

The teaching of phonetics has a long tradition at the University of Copenhagen. Vilhelm Thomsen lectured on general phonetics from 1881, and Otto Jespersen took up the subject repeatedly during the years 1895-1905. It is also due to Jespersen that the phonetics of modern languages has been taught regularly since the beginning of this century, and was part of the requirements for the MA in modern languages. Courses in general phonetics were, however, not resumed until 1939, by Louis Hjelmslev. From 1943, when a lectureship in phonetics was established, these courses were given every year as a preliminary to the courses in foreign languages, which were administered by the various language departments. The number of students attending these courses augmented slowly, from three in 1943 to about 800 in 1975. However, for some languages the general phonetics courses and the courses in

the phonetics of the foreign language are now more or less integrated (from 1976 the general course for students of English has been drastically cut down and will mainly be given within the department of English).

Apart from the elementary courses special courses for advanced students were given from 1943 onwards. In 1960 a diploma of general phonetics, based on a two years' curriculum, was established. It has, up till now, been taken by 22 students. From 1967 it has also been possible to take a master's degree in phonetics, based on a four years' curriculum. This degree has been taken by four students, and another four are presently preparing for it.

Until 1963 there was only one permanent post in phonetics, but during the latter part of the sixties the staff was rapidly increased. In 1966 a chair in phonetics was founded, and from 1970 the staff counted seven phoneticians in all. This development has now come to a standstill.

The possibilities for phonetic research developed more slowly although the research was initiated earlier than the teaching. The first vowel synthesizer was built in Copenhagen as early as 1781 by C.G. Kratzenstein, and about a century later the famous comparatist Karl Verner constructed an ingenious instrument for enlarging the traces of the Edison phonograph. At the same time Georg Forchhammer worked with a phonoscope, and in the early thirties of this century Poul Andersen and Svend Smith received a grant from the Carlsberg Foundation for a kymograph and a Meyer-Schneider pitchmeter. Otto Jespersen, however, was not interested in experimental phonetics (although he worked for a time with Rousselot), and this was probably the main reason why the University did not obtain a phonetics laboratory. It is true that in 1933 we got a small "room for phonetic exercises", later called the "phonetics laboratory", but it was equipped only with an old gramophone and a modest collection of gramophone records.

In 1956 an Institute of Linguistics and Phonetics was established, directed by professor Louis Hjelmslev, but still there was no room for instrumental phonetics, and the Kay Electric Sonagraph which we had received in 1953 from the Rockefeller Foundation had to be stationed in the Institute for Speech Pathology. That institute had had a laboratory of experimental phonetics since 1943, and some research could be undertaken there as well as in various medical clinics, but mostly at night when the laboratories were not in normal use. In 1961 we acquired a kind of laboratory of our own: a minor set of instruments were placed in a room connected with the Institute, which was then housed in St. Kannikestræde 13. The room could not be heated, however, and it needed repair very badly. A sheepskin coat had to serve as "sound treated room".

It was not until 1966 that six small rooms in the basement (which, for a change, were always overheated) could be taken in use as a laboratory of experimental phonetics. In the same year the Institute of Linguistics and Phonetics was divided into two separate institutes, and in 1968 we were granted a full-time secretary.

In 1971 the laboratory was moved to much ampler premises in Skindergade 3, which, however, had the drawback that they were not in immediate vicinity of the rest of the institute. At the same time the technical staff expanded. Since 1972 it has consisted of two engineers and one technician.

Finally, in the summer of 1975, the whole institute moved to the new University buildings in Njalsgade on Amager, thus being situated for the first time in premises which had been built specifically for our purpose and which we could organize and equip to fit our needs. We expect to stay here for many years to come.

During the whole period from 1966 till now the instrumental equipment of the laboratory has been gradually increased, partly through University grants, partly through subventions from the

Research Council of the Humanities and the Technical Research Council, so that now we are rather content with our research possibilities. Some of the instruments, like the synthesizer and the Segmentator, have been built in our laboratory, others have been acquired commercially. The most important acquisitions have consisted in extensions of our EDB-system.

With our present staff and equipment we are able to take care of the instruction of students as well as research in a tolerably satisfactory way, and we have had quite a number of guest research workers both from other Danish institutions and from abroad. We have a particularly close cooperation with the Research Laboratory of Teletechnics and with the Institute of Phonetics in Lund (Sweden).

At present we try to centre most of our research around the following subjects: The function of the larynx in speech, mainly by means of EMG and fiberoptics; perception of speech, mainly based on experiments with synthetic speech; and (quite recently) the teaching of pronunciation and the basic research which that entails. But there is also a good deal of activity within phonology, particularly the phonology of Danish and Greenlandic and within various other areas. A list of papers published in ARIPUC 1-9 is included in the present volume.

We are glad that we were able to profit from the expansion of the sixties. That era has now come to an end. We can only hope that we shall still be able to keep up most of our activities in the years to come.