

17/6/33

B A S I C E N G L I S H

Basic English is an auxiliary international language comprising 850 words arranged in a system in which everything may be said for all the purposes of everyday existence. This vocabulary may be used to serve the purposes of a normal English vocabulary of over 20,000 words.

Each of the letters in the word Basic may be given a special significance, so that Basic may serve to connote "British American Scientific International Commercial" English. K

Basic English was completed as a system for international use in August, 1932, after more than ten years of research and experimentation. The vocabulary itself was first made available for collaborators in 1928, the analysis of language on which it is partly based having been worked out from 1918 to 1922 with Dr. I. A. Richards, and was published in The Meaning of Meaning, now in its third edition in the International Library of Psychology (Exhibit I, page 5).

A. Distinctive Features

The distinctive features of Basic English are:

1. The selection of the words so that they cover the field, and not in relation to frequency counts which offer no criterion for avoiding duplication ('form' and 'shape'; 'get ready' and 'prepare').

This has involved many years of analysis and classification, the co-operation of linguists, translators, and scientists, and a detailed investigation of the principles on which Bentham constructed his unfinished system of legal codification. X

2. The restriction of the vocabulary within limits which enable it (a) to be legibly printed on the back of a single sheet of business note paper, (b) to be clearly spoken on a record for learning purposes in a quarter of an hour, and (c) to be committed to memory in approximately

24 hours (suitably spread) by an average European learner.

Actually, Mr. Lloyd-James, of the London School of Oriental Studies, has made a series of phonograph records, covering both the words themselves and the chief difficulties in their sounds for foreign learners. (Exhibit II)

3. The elimination of 'verbs', except for the 16 verb-forms which deal with the fundamental operations ('put', 'take', 'get', etc.); and their replacement by the names of operations and directions ('go in' - enter; 'put in' - insert).

This technique, systematically developed, makes it possible to provide substitutes for over 3,000 of the commonest English verbs, which offer special difficulties to Eastern and African peoples.

Similar principles, utilizing features of English in which it closely resembles such an 'analytic' language as Chinese, enable inflection, irregularity, and 'literary' wastage to be reduced to a minimum.

B. Comparative Advantages

1. The advantage of basic simplicity is of supreme importance for educational purposes. 70 per cent of the words are at the kindergarten level, yet the same vocabulary serves the purpose of the technologist, the physicist, and even of the literary stylist who would avoid jargon or rhetorical obscurity. No similar analysis has been attempted by any advocate of a synthetic language.

2. The advantage of restriction shows itself in ease of memorization. Each new word above the Basic 850 introduces new irregularities and ambiguities, and causes doubt about what has already been acquired. Thus, if 'bake - baked' is learned soon after 'take', the learner has to reassure himself about 'took'.

3. The advantage of the analytic principle is that Basic

offers no serious obstacle to peoples (such as the 400,000,000 of China) whose languages are very differently constituted from those of Europe (on which an artificial, synthetic system such as Esperanto was essentially modelled). It also lays the foundation for an understanding of scientific procedure at a later date.

4. The fact that English is now the natural language or the language of the Governments of over 500,000,000 people, and that it has been made compulsory in countries so widely different as Japan, the Argentine, and Estonia, gives a natural impetus to the demand for English as an international medium throughout the world. Normal English provides a background of usage, and makes unnecessary that International Academy for promulgating decisions which is an inevitable cause of dissension for any artificial experiment.

5. For those interested in Esperanto, it should be pointed out that in addition to the objections above mentioned, i.e., that it is based on purely European roots and would have difficulty in the international enforcement of the decisions of its Standardization Committee, reliance on inflection presents a serious obstacle to its use by the millions of people below the linguistic level required. As evidence of the fundamental inadequacy of an experiment such as Esperanto, it should be pointed out that after 45 years of promotion Esperanto can only claim 130,000 adherents throughout the world, while in America alone the English-speaking population has been increased, through immigration, by more than 20,000,000 during the same period.

I. THE BACKGROUND OF NEED AND OPPORTUNITY

Language is one of the primary elements of a civilization. It seems clear that it is both a natural and a timely step to give attention to language as a means of facilitating communication. A better understanding could thus be attained between the peoples of the world, particularly in view of the fundamental evolutionary trends induced by improving by the technological developments of the past decade which appear to demand a closer integration of human affairs throughout the world.

1. Languages of the World

The population of the world is now approximately 1,800,000,000. The peoples of the Far East, India and Africa represent more than half of this total.

The number of different languages at present in existence exceeds 1,500; of which 29 are spoken by more than 10,000,000. Apart from English and Chinese, the figures for which are speculative, a recent French estimate gives the principal languages and number of people speaking each as follows:

Russian	80,000,000	Spanish	60,000,000
German	80,000,000	Japanese	55,000,000
	Bengali	50,000,000	

2. The Progress of English.

Since the problem of an international language first began to receive serious attention towards the end of the last century, English has become the second language of the East. Its influence on Chinese was recently compared to that of Latin and Greek at the Renaissance by the representative of China at the League of Nations; and more than 3,000 English

words have already been adopted into Japanese. In North America alone, the number of English-speaking people has increased by more than the entire population of France in little more than a generation. It is the language of Australasia, the administration language of India (300,000,000), and the greater part of Africa (40,000,000), and is rapidly becoming the chief trade medium of Central and South America, Polynesia, and Scandinavia.

It is also the language of (600) more than half the radio stations of the world; and every recent advance in applied science is tending to increase its influence, through talking pictures, air transport, international cable and telephone systems, and the liners, hotels, and public utilities which international capital has created.

It is significant that Basic English, by which this progress might be so greatly accelerated, without damage to the cultural value of any of the existing national languages, is advocated both as a method and as a world language by such influential leaders of foreign opinion as Count Coudenhove-Kalergi (President of the Pan-Europa Union), Dr. Conrad Matschoss (President of the Verein Deutscher Ingenieure), Dr. Walter Angermund of the Deutsche Lufthansa, Professor Okakura the foremost educational authority of Japan, and Dr. Vavilov, Director of the Leningrad Academy of Agriculture.

3. The Need for a Simple System

The potentialities of English, through its simplicity, its elasticity, its geographical diffusion, its command of international capital, its utilization in trade, transport, and science, its literature, and above all its analytic character, are such that its ultimate adoption as a world language has been judged to be inevitable by many independent authorities. The demand for 'Anglic' (world English with simpler spelling)

is typical of such judgments, and has been initiated entirely by foreign scholars and men of affairs.

Spelling-reform, however, is clearly a side issue, and at the present rate of progress it might be hundreds of years before English could be generally adopted. It is still far too complicated for Africa, for India, and for the purposes of trade, science, and most international congresses. In Japan, for example, more than five years are required for the most rudimentary equipment by the present literary methods of teaching; and even the proposal to reduce the five-year vocabulary to 3,000 words would leave the learner at the level of a child.

Radical simplification is therefore essential, and Basic English has been designed to meet the need. To the eye and ear it does not appear to differ in any way from normal English. Its grammar is hardly more complicated than that of an artificially constructed system. For a tele-graphic style (such as pidgin-English has popularized in parts of China) only a few hours' study are necessary; a European can teach himself in a few weeks; and any normal adolescent could be trained in a month or two when the proper teaching material (records, sentence-building apparatus, and animated pictures) is available.

4. Borderlands of Need and Opportunity

The theory of language which made the Basic analysis possible has many other practical applications whose development is only a matter of time.

All sciences depend for their more effective diffusion on an international medium such as Basic provides. And the most economic method of recording and communicating special knowledge (science) is similar in many respects to the most economic method of recording and communicating general knowledge.

A brief enumeration referring to (a) law, (b) medicine, (c) engineering, and (d) general opportunity may help to give a more complete picture of the system in its wider setting.

a. Law Thus Jeremy Bentham, in searching for the best method of formulating a Code of Laws, discovered a number of principles which throw light on the most crucial points of logical theory.

Professor Buchanan's Symbolic Distance shows the relation between Bentham's discovery and the account of metaphor which made Basic English possible. Further symbolic developments are indicated in the companion volume entitled Opposition.

The value of our fundamental principles for the reform of legal education has been emphasized by Dr. R. M. Hutchins, President of the University of Chicago and their further study is essential to any system of codification.

Codification is now an urgent social problem in almost every country in the world, and particularly in the United States. In 1927, Basic English was faced by many of the same difficulties of definition and translation which have baffled the lawyers. Since that date a technique has been perfected, with the aid of a number of logicians and physicists, by which the multiple definitions of jurisprudence might be correlated and clarified. At the same time, Basic itself provides a touchstone whereby the cumbrous terminology of the law may be interpreted to the public. Until the laws under which he lives are intelligible to the average citizen, the efforts of educators to find a concrete basis for 'civics' and the like will be wasted.

b. Medicine Another important field in which language difficulties have hitherto formed a barrier to progress is in Medicine.

From an international standpoint the standardization of

medical terms, and the provision of systematic nomenclatures, is surprisingly backward. This is fully recognized by all who are familiar with, for example, the Public Health statistics of the League of Nations, or the difficulties of a Siamese medical student.

In so far as it is dependent on the language of everyday life, and on formulations in terms of 'diseases' and their 'causes', or the confused jargon of 'psychology', medicine can profit by the technique of Basic no less than law. The same is true of the subtler symbolic problems which arise in any attempt at classification.

Moreover, the value of Basic for medical abstracts designed to reach an international public is as demonstrable as the services it might render to international congresses of medicine or public health.

c. Engineering Another field in which the absence of a simple auxiliary language is almost daily deplored is engineering. Basic here provides an incentive to international standardization as well as a congress medium. At the recent World Power Congress in Tokyo, 90 per cent of all those who made use of a second language were found by Dr. Matschoss to have selected English; but the need for simplification was universally admitted.

d. General Opportunity In every department of international activity similar evidence could be adduced. At Geneva, Ministerialdirektor Dr. Ritter is an advocate of English, and Dr. Maxwell Garnett, Secretary of the League of Nations Union, is an advocate of Basic -- which also has the support of Mr. Wickham Steed, late editor of the London Times, on the ground that it would gradually undermine the inconclusive verbalism of international politics.

At the Nice Education Congress (1932) Basic was a chief subject of discussion, and gained the adherence of Professor Siddhanta

(India), Dr. Mattson (Sweden), Professor Harold Rugg (Teachers College, Columbia) and a score of other leaders. At the Rotary International Convention (Seattle, 1932) it had the support of Sir Charles Mander, a previous convert to Esperanto; at the Olympic Games (Los Angeles, 1932) it was favoured by Mr. H. O. Davis, organizer and director of the Olympic Village; and at the Radio Congress (Madrid, 1932) Mr. Armstrong Perry (National Committee on Education by Radio, Washington) made known its advantages in his private capacity.

On the purely educational and scientific side, it is worth recording that the last months of the late Dr. Dana were largely devoted to an endeavor to raise \$500,000 for an exhibit, at the Newark Museum, of the relations of the principles of classification developed for testing the Basic Vocabulary to the standardization and notation of colour; and that for over a year before his death in 1931, Professor Leonard of Wisconsin was corresponding with the Orthological Institute about his project for a systematic application of the Basic techniques to the teaching of English in the University of Wisconsin, and the introduction of the system as a method for reforming the teachers of grammar in the schools.

II. THE BASIC ENGLISH PROJECT TO DATE

A glimpse of the Basic English project in retrospect must summarize the high points in ten years of effort. The following pages present a review and deal with (1) history of development, (2) the idea, (3) the auxiliaries, (4) auspices, (5) personnel, (6) finances, (7) present position, and (8) the next steps.

1. History of Development

Basic English is the practical outcome of a study of the problem of a universal or auxiliary language begun by the inventor in 1908. The chief stages of the inquiry may be summarized as follows:

- 1909 - 10 Analysis of the influence of the Greek language on Greek thought, in the absence of any second language by which the structure of that language could be understood.
- 1912 Study of the influence of mathematical and scientific notations on the progress of knowledge.
- 1913 - 14 Investigation of methods of teaching language in German schools and universities.
- 1915 - 19 Study of the influence of language on public opinion by organizing (with Mrs. C. R. Buxton) a weekly "Review of the Foreign Press" covering over 200 periodicals in 20 languages, throughout the period of War propaganda and its aftermath -- leading to the conclusion that the internationalization of some form of English was the most practical solution.
- 1919 - 22 Summary of the influence of word-magic on contemporary thought, and of the principles on which a universal grammar might be constructed, in The Meaning of Meaning (with I. A. Richards).
- 1923 - 25 Analysis of English Grammar in relation to linguistic psychology and the theory of definition. Experiments in simplification.
- 1926 - 27 Analysis of American speech tendencies in relation to their influence in the English-speaking world. Invention of the Panopticon device for verb-analysis.

- 1927 Formulation of the complete Orthological Program, and establishment of a nuclear Basic vocabulary for experimental purposes.
- 1928 Completion of the vocabulary and technique of translation.
- 1929 Revision and publication of the vocabulary for copyright purposes, and to enlist the support of collaborators.
- 1930 - 32 Completion of the first 12 Basic volumes, and the three supplementary studies.

These stages also may be classified otherwise as four in number and as consisting of:

1. Survey of world conditions
2. Theory and analysis
3. Focus and formulation
4. Experiment and partial application

The next stage is that of further application and diffusion. Basic has now been tested and approved by a number of experts in selected areas. For the East, Japan and for Europe, Czechoslovakia were chosen for the first national experiments. Japan, because the language problem is there most complex, and the success would be sufficient evidence of the applicability of the system to oriental requirements; Czechoslovakia, because the need is there most urgent, and because public opinion is neutral as regards the political aspects of any of the major national languages. In both countries the progress has been so astonishing that the present difficulty is how to meet the demand for teachers, literature, and advice.

The connection between these various researches is obvious when it is realized that there is a fundamental unity in all symbolic procedure; that in all languages of science and everyday life, as in all perception and experience, we are interpreting signs and symbols by processes which differ only in our purpose and the distances or levels at which we find ourselves placed; and that the symbol-systems which we arbitrarily create

are translatable one into the other when the right technique has been found. The analogical method is therefore peculiarly fruitful in every language situation; and simplification itself, as typified by Basic English, depends as much on the theory of substitution (translation) and abbreviation (shorthand), which culminate in mathematics, or the theory of fictions, which dominate legal and literary presentations, as on a practical study of the levels at which ordinary discourse may be carried on.

2. The Origin of the Idea.

The idea of Basic English arose out of an analysis of the Indo-European verb begun in 1921-2, with a view to discovering the number of fundamental physical operations for which special names would be necessary at the level of ordinary description. The educational device for exhibiting the structure of Basic English as a universal grammar was first demonstrated to a number of orientologists at Oxford in 1928, after the project had been tested in a variety of fields.

The methods of elimination described at pages viii and ix of The Basic Dictionary were developed in the period 1923-1927; and in 1928 the entire project was checked in relation to the researches (1813-1821) of Jeremy Bentham on the principles of codification which were formulated by one of the clearest minds the world has ever known a century before their time.

3. The Auxiliaries

The chief means by which the diffusion of Basic can be assisted are (a) publications, (b) apparatus.

The publications so far produced are not intended for the wider public which will eventually require a great variety of adaptations at popular prices. For teachers and serious students the twelve volumes

now listed provide all that is necessary for an understanding of the system; but with the exception of the A B C of Basic English, which requires a more elementary introduction in their own languages for foreign learners, they are rather of the nature of source books.

As regards apparatus, the following will be necessary for learners who desire to profit by the official system:

1. The phonograph records, of which at least 50 (10 inch, running $5\frac{1}{2}$ minutes) could be prepared at once.

2. The Panopticon or sentence builder, an arrangement of concentric cardboard discs, illustrates word order and the method of finding substitutes for verbs.

3. The Word-Repeater, for use on any portable phonograph; a device for repeating any word or phrase at will by turning a handle.

4. The Word List (on one side of a single sheet of business note paper) with a beginner's selection of 600 from the 850; and other charts and diagrams for convenience of learning.

4. Auspices

The research and diffusion has all been carried out by "The Orthological Institute", with an office and library at 10 King's Parade, Cambridge, and a London headquarters at 58 Frith Street, close to the British Museum.

The Orthological Institute was registered in 1929 as a trade name of Mr. C. K. Ogden (1929), and works under the advice of an informal group of Assessors whose opinion is obtained before any steps of importance are taken in the field; where their special knowledge or experience would be of value. Thus radio problems are referred to Mr. A. Lloyd-James, linguistic adviser to the British Broadcasting Corporation and Director of the Department of African Studies in the London School of Oriental Studies; questions relating to trade and economics are submitted to

Professor Sargent-Florence, who holds the Chair of Economics and Commerce at Birmingham University; difficulties in connection with biological terminology were settled in collaboration with Professor H. Munro Fox; the approach to China was through Dr. I. A. Richards; and so on.

In every country, efforts have been made to secure a representative closely in touch with radio activities; thus Y. Okakura in Tokyo and D. Vocadlo in Prague are frequently on the air; Mr. Boisen who is preparing the Danish Primer occupies a position similar to that of Mr. Lloyd-James in England.

5. Personnel

The inventor of the system is Mr. C. K. Ogden of Magdalene College, Cambridge. Mr. Ogden was born in 1889 and took his degree at Cambridge in 1911 (with First Class Honours in the Classical Tripos). Since that date Mr. Ogden has devoted himself particularly to problems of language in relation to education, including the translation of many important works such as Forel's The Social Life of the Ants, Piéron's Thought and the Brain, and Vaihinger's Philosophy of As-if - all with a view to the basic problem of communication. He is the Editor of "The International Library of Psychology" (100 Volumes), "The History of Civilization", etc. He is the author of The Meaning of Meaning, The Meaning of Psychology, Jeremy Bentham 1832-2032, Bentham's Theory of Fictions, and many other books and articles. A more extended outline of Mr. Ogden's work is presented as an Appendix.

The Assistant Director of The Orthological Institute since 1928 has been Miss L. W. Lockhart (author of Word Economy and translator of Carl and Anna), with the services of the staff of the Metropolitan Typewriting office as required. One or more secretaries have been continuously employed throughout the entire period 1923-1932, as well as a

postal despatch clerk both in Cambridge and London; and, since 1929, a mechanic to attend to the apparatus by which teaching methods are demonstrated (Electrical reproducers, phonographs, Word-Repeaters, Aluminum and Magnetic-wire recording).

General translation is now in the hands of Mr. A. P. Rossiter, late representative of the project in Japan; scientific documents being handled by Miss R. Michaelis (chemical research-worker at the Patent Office) with the advice of Dr. H. S. Hatfield of London University, a leading authority on dielectric separation and automatic water-softening recorders; foreign equivalents have been referred to Mr. E. B. Wareing, late translator to the Rhineland High Commission, Miss E. T. Liefeld of Berne, congress interpreter, and a number of official translators to different Government Departments.

6. Finances

The finance of the work has been provided by the inventor, loans from individuals, and subsidies from individuals and organizations. Altogether some \$150,000 has been expended during the period 1922-1932, apart from the services of the inventor and services gratuitously given.

7. Present Position

The present position is that translations and adaptations are being prepared by interested local leaders in Japan, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Poland, Denmark, and Iceland. On the basis of these six models, further adaptations, particularly to African and Indian vernaculars can gradually be undertaken.

Applications to commerce, economics, psychology, medicine, engineering and radio are being modelled on the volume which already deals with chemistry, physics, mathematics, and biology.

8. Verification

The support of 50 of the most eminent scientists, linguists, and publicists has been secured (Exhibit III); 25 to represent the English-speaking world, 25 foreign. This list is now being expanded to 100 for purposes of press publicity. In due course it is hoped to secure 10,000 signatures from the foreign public as evidence of the demand for such a solution as Basic English.

9. The Next Steps

With the publication of The Basic Words in August, 1932, all the essentials for the further diffusion of the system are available. The next step is the preparation of equivalents of the four key volumes in as many of the world's 1,500 languages as possible -- especially in the 29 languages spoken by more than 10,000,000 people. The other three are (Exhibit IV) The A B C of Basic English, The Basic Dictionary, and the general introduction, Basic English. For effective publicity, a neutral postal centre, preferably in Geneva, and representatives (covering education, radio, and press correspondence) in all the main capitals are a first necessity. For teaching purposes the chief tools for teaching Basic must be made generally available -- the Panopticon, records, talking picture demonstrations, the word-repeater, and a variety of readers in all grades. On the research side, details still to be filled in include an exposition of Basic as the foundation of all language study, with equivalent simplifications in other languages.

English is the only language which admits of radical simplification for international use; but partial reductions are possible in most languages by the exploitation of the same principles, and the most useful words, selected by other than frequency tests, would be invaluable to learners in all countries. The preparation of such systems under a

general title "The First 1,000 Words" is contemplated as a subsidiary enterprise.

For teaching purposes, a systematic account of The Panoptic Method, covering the Panopticon (sentence-builder), Panoptic definition (radial chart of conjugates), diagrams of operations, directions, opposition, etc., would admit of later popularization; and would provide a new technique for the preparation of the dictionaries of the future in all languages, since there is no dictionary in existence in any language which is more than 10 per cent systematized from the standpoint of the material now at the disposal of The Orthological Institute.

Applications of Basic English to trade and commerce, in the sciences of economics and psychology, in medicine, engineering, sport, have still to be made. The popularization of the material in all languages, through leaflets, pamphlets, and pocket manuals is also overdue. A special project is a Parallel Library containing the classics of all literatures, with the original and the Basic version or paraphrase on opposite pages.

Two other possibilities of world-wide circulation are offered by The Basic Bible, and a periodical giving news of and in Basic (acting in the first instance as an inter-university medium for the younger generation).

The number of different words in the Authorized Version is over 6,000; the number of different Hebrew words in the Old Testament being 8,674 and of Greek words in the New Testament 5,857. To reduce the foreign learner's burden by 85 per cent would be an international achievement of the greatest value both to the missionary and the teacher. The sale of the Bible still exceeds 7,000,000 copies yearly. The Basic version would provide a model of simplicity and accuracy for the hundreds of translations into the various native vernaculars which have still to be produced. The specimens already available have won the approval of Mr. Lloyd-James, Dr. I.A. Richards, and Professor S.H. Hooke, who holds the Chair of Old Testament Studies at

London University. An international committee including these authorities would provide a guarantee to the public both of style and scholarship.

Encyclopaedia of Languages

As a basis for International Understanding the most urgent need of the coming century is an Encyclopaedia of Languages. It is the ambition of the Orthological Institute to lay the foundations of such a Dictionary. Not only would the 1500 living languages and the chief dead ones be systematically treated in the light of modern linguistic psychology, but attention would be paid to all the wider implications of the social and technological approach to language itself.

No attempt has ever been made to focus attention on the manifold devices for recording and communicating; the codes, notations, and nomenclatures, which the sciences exhibit; or the stages in the development of symbolic abbreviation, condensation, and simplification.

Members of Linguistic Societies are 95% philologists of the old school whose learning can only be utilized as and when it may be required; symbolic interpretation is 95% in the hands of fundamentalists, incipient paranoiacs, and exploiters of the ineffable. There may be 5% of logic which is more than perverted grammatical analysis, but philosophy and aesthetics can hardly claim even that measure of sympathy for their aberrations. Grammar itself, once the queen of the educational sciences, is now universally recognized by every serious student of language as the last stronghold of word-magic, behind which are entrenched all the reactionary forces of education, and in which are concentrated all the vices of the teaching profession.

The emotive power of words is given its full scope by this lack of symbolic orientation; and on the fruitful soil which official verbalism thus provides, the popular press, advertisement, and political rhetoric are free to flourish.

III. THE FUTURE

A. Major Immediate Opportunities

Immediate opportunities of promoting Basic in the interests of international understanding are open on almost every hand and are presented by:

- a. Publications (as above).
- b. Circulation of publications and printed matter, with collection of signatures.
- c. Press publicity and correspondence.
- d. Radio news, radio courses, and radio amateurs.
- e. Other channels of international communication -- the talking picture, commercial codes, hotels, liners, The Trans-Siberian Railway, etc.
- f. Universities and educational institutions.
- g. Prizes and competitions.
- h. Congresses, and international organizations (Power Engineers, The Pacific Institute, International Rotary, Missionary bodies, and the 16 Expert Committees of the League of Nations).
- i. A Geneva headquarters.
- j. Representatives in all countries.

In addition to means chiefly in the nature of agencies open to consideration for the purposes of promotional diffusion, an important opportunity of a somewhat different character also arises in connection with the standardization of international terms.

1. Representatives and Offices

Of these different possibilities, the last is clearly the most important. It is trained representatives in the main areas of Europe and the East who will prepare the necessary translations, safeguard copyrights, collect signatures, feed the Press, attend congresses, and above all take care of Radio.

Fifty-six States are now included in the League of Nations. For these -- together with the United States, Brazil, the U.S.S.R., and Geneva itself -- 60 local representatives may one day be called for. The Orthological Institute is already in touch with suitable advisers in 30 of these areas. The major linguistic groups of India and Africa would account for another dozen.

For correspondence and collaboration with these geographical centres, a minimum staff at headquarters of six permanent translators is desirable -- apart from the occasional services of experts, and a corresponding increase of secretarial assistance.

With the rapid growth of interest in the project throughout America, and the dominant activity of America in international organization, an American office is now essential.

For the diffusion of Basic outside America and the English-speaking countries a neutral committee with at least an independent mailing office is the only solution. The fact that representatives of 60 States, speaking 50 different languages are permanently gathered in Geneva, and that The Orthological Institute has valuable supporters in most departments of the League itself, makes Geneva the obvious centre for this method of expansion. It is highly undesirable that the advocacy of Basic should seem to be inspired by Anglo-Saxon interests, when, in fact, the demand in foreign countries is almost universal. The function of the American and English centres would be advisory in the first instance; they would be concerned with research and with the standardization of Anglo-American usage.

2. Standardization of International Terms

One of the chief merits of Basic being its capacity to cover the needs of the various sciences up to the level at which international nomenclatures are, or should be, available, its efficiency as a world-medium is increased by every step in the direction of standardization.

Its further applications in engineering, medicine, and international law, for example, are hindered chiefly by the backward state of these sciences;

even in the direction of commercial standardization, and the still more challenging problem of international titles, etc. for radio news, progress has been surprisingly slow for lack of a coordinating incentive.

Basic not only supplies that incentive, but by its technique and affiliations could materially assist in this vital task of internationalism, if funds were available for a far reaching program of cooperative endeavor in what is happily a non-controversial field.

To take the radio possibility alone, if an unofficial international committee, working in conjunction with the representatives of Basic in all countries, could issue rulings on 50 borderland terms a year, 500 new words would be placed automatically at the disposal of radio speakers by 1942. Indeed, the progress would probably be much faster, to judge by the preliminary results of a questionnaire now being circulated by The Orthological Institute in conjunction with the New Education Fellowship. Of 300 terms already adopted in Japan, and common to the six main European languages, over 200 seem to be meeting with universal assent; and at least another 200, at the same level, could have been included in the original questionnaire.

B. Research Program

Basic English has therefore now reached a stage at which its adequate promotion must rely upon the support of those concerned with international organization in all its branches. Meanwhile it is desired to complete the research program of which it forms a part, particularly in those borderland fields where its further application might also be of practical value.

At the present time the further advance of international communication and international understanding is confronted by the language barrier in the Far East and in Africa; and by the related problem of the internationalization of Western Scientific Terminologies, with particular reference to Medicine, Engineering, and Codification of Law.

The Need for Cooperation

In some of these fields, particularly as regards Japan, Africa, and the preliminaries of Scientific Standardization, we have already pursued our inquiries far enough to be in touch with the most likely sources of information in others; and the Orthological Institute has itself been approached to initiate further research. In others, we will endeavour to avail ourselves of new opportunities of cooperation, and it is our hope that the wide experience of the Rockefeller Foundation may be of assistance in getting in touch with other researchers, and in selecting those aspects of the subject which are most likely to justify investigation at the present time.

If work that is now urgently necessary for all forms of international progress is not to be indefinitely postponed, it is important that the services of those who have developed special aptitudes for the new technique should not be lost. An opportunity of using and co-ordinating the experience

of this particular group of borderland workers may not recur, and the logical outcome of more than ten years labour in a previously uncharted region of knowledge might then be lost for a generation. Several of the investigators named in the accompanying Memorandum are already employed in other directions where their abilities would be wasted from the standpoint of international organization; but each could now make a special contribution which would be of value to all the others.

APPENDIX

Personal

The inventor of the system is Mr. C. K. Ogden of Magdalene College, Cambridge.

- Born 1889
- 1908 Scholar of Magdalene College, Cambridge (M.A. 1915)
- 1909 Began work on an exhaustive study of the influence of Language on Thought, and the problems of International Communication; commencing with Greek thought.
- 1910 First Class Honours, Classical Tripos, Cambridge University.
- 1913 Investigated methods of language teaching in Italy and Germany, after travelling to India.
- 1914 Published The Problem of the Continuation School (described by French Government investigator, Professor Elie Halevy, as chiefly responsible for the Education act of 1918). Translated Kerschensteiner's The Schools and the Nation, with Introduction by Viscount Haldane.
- Studied influence of language on contemporary German thought. Translated Driesch's History and Theory of Vitalism.
- 1915 Studied influence of language in modern economic theory, and the conduct of trade disputes. As Hon. Research investigator to the British Association Committee on Industrial Fatigue, prepared the 1915 report of that Committee (with special reference to terminology), and summarized findings in The Nineteenth Century.
- 1916-1922 Converted The Cambridge Magazine, founded by him in 1912 as an organ of international opinion; translating and digesting more than 200 periodicals weekly (with Mrs. C. R. Buxton, and the assistance of 150 translators). From 1916-1919 maintained a circulation of 10,000 to 20,000 (i.e. greater than that of any other English weekly), with the support of Thomas Hardy, Arnold Bennett, John Masfield, J. M. Keynes, G. Lowes Dickinson, Lord Snowden, and the late Lord Courtney.
- 1916-1918 Made special study of the problem of Colour Notation - the creation of an international scientific language for Colour, by analogy with the notation of Sound. (Results still unpublished; but announced for 1934, as a volume in the International Library of Psychology, under title Colour Harmony).
- 1917 Published Fecundity versus Civilization (with Preface by Arnold Bennett), and Militarism versus Feminism; under pseudonym 'Adelyne More'.

- 1919-1922 Correlated earlier linguistic studies with experience of the influence of word-magic in war-time, and the part played by language in contemporary thought in general. Summary published in 1922-3 in The Meaning of Meaning (with I. A. Richards).
- 1921-1922 Published results of a special study of the linguistic factor in Aesthetics in illustrated volume The Foundations of Aesthetics (with I. A. Richards and James Wood)
- 1922 Took over editorship of international Psychological journal Psyche (founded in 1920 in conjunction with W. Whately Smith) as organ for the publication of research in connection with linguistic psychology and international language problems.
- 1923 Took over financial control of Psyche, published quarterly till Vol. XII, 1932, and now announced for 1933 as an annual devoted to the work of the Orthological Institute.
- Organized and edited the "International Library of Psychology, Philosophy, and Scientific Method" as background for orthological publications. Publication of the first 100 volumes celebrated in 1932 (New York, Harcourt Brace & Co.).
- Initiated the "Today and Tomorrow Series" (with J.B.S. Haldanes Daedalus and Bertrand Russell's Icarus) of which 100 volumes were published 1923-1929 (New York, E.P.Dutton - inaugurating the educational 'dollar book' movement.
- Planned and edited The History of Civilization in 200 volumes (1932, 60 published), as historical background for orthological publications (New York, Alfred Knopf).
- 1924 Translated, from the German, Vaihinger's Philosophy of As-if, and from the French Jules Romains' Eyeless Sight, as material for theory of Linguistic Fictions and theory of Colour Notation respectively.
- 1925 Translated from the French Pieron's Thought and the Brain, as background for linguistic approach to Psychology.
- 1925-1926 Wrote with I. A. Richards The Meaning of Psychology (Harpers, New York), as introduction to linguistic psychology. Adapted for England as The A B C of Psychology in 1928.
- 1925 Planned and edited the "Psyche Miniatures" to include Basic English volumes.
- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <u>Medical Series</u> | 12 volumes published to 1932 |
| <u>General Series</u> | 40 volumes published to 1932 (of which 20 issued as dollar books "The New Science Series" by W.W.Norton Company 1926 - 30, New York) |
| <u>Basic English Series</u> | 12 volumes published to 1932 |
- 1926 Visited America as Science Adviser to The Forum. Initiated competition series on 'Definitions' and 'The Future of English' as part of study of The American Language.

- 1926 Translated August Forel's 2 volume life-work The Social Life of the Ants as background for study of Animal communication (New York, Putnam's).
- Planned and edited the "Science for You" series (5 volumes published to 1932; New York, Brentano).
- 1927 Returned to America to continue study of American language tendencies, and problem of Codification in America.
- Planned and edited the "Library of Educational Psychology", as background for application of linguistic psychology in Education (New York, Brentano, 2 volumes published to 1932).
- Wrote article "Aesthetics" for 13th Edition of Encyclopaedia Britannica.
- Basic English and complete orthological program formulated. Invented Panopticon subsequently patented in England.
- 1928-1930 Directed survey by Orthological Institute of the problem of Invention in the modern world, developing a variety of inventions and apparatus for the recording and reproduction of language, in connection with Basic English. Published in Psyche proposals for the reform of the laws relating to Patents (with Dr. H.S.Hatfield), which formed a basis for the Patents discussion at the British Association meeting in 1931. (The cooperation of inventors essential for further study of Notation in borderland sciences.)
- 1929-1931 Made detailed study of Life and Linguistic theories of Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832), published in September 1932, under the title Bentham's Theory of Fictions in the International Library of Psychology.
- 1930 Translated Paulhan's Laws of Feeling from the French, as material for Basic English applied to Psychology.
- Wrote Introduction to Hartmann's Philosophy of the Unconscious.
- 1930-1931 Fellow of Magdalene College, Cambridge.
- 1931 Edited Bentham's Theory of Legislation
- Published Opposition, as supplementary volume to the Basic English series.
- 1932 May. Addressed the Royal Institute of International Relations on Basic.
- Delivered the Bentham Centenary Lecture at University College, London, on June 7th, published September 1932 as Jeremy Bentham 1832-2032, with 12 Appendices.