

INSTRUCTION IN THE LANGUAGE LABORATORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA

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Background

The language laboratory of the University of Geneva, installed at the request of the *Ecole de Langue et de Civilisation françaises* in 1969 in the main building of the University, comprises at present fifteen Revox student positions. Used at the beginning exclusively by the ELCF for its teaching of French to foreigners, it has subsequently been used by the *Ecole de Traduction et d'Interprétation* and by the *Faculté des Lettres* as well. It has been necessary, however, to abandon the utilization of this laboratory by the ETI for reasons of crowding, and it has been reserved for the use of the *Faculté des Lettres* and the ELFC. As a matter of fact, the ETI has for its own use an interpretation room and also a language laboratory put at its disposal by a secondary school.

Present utilization

At present the laboratory is used as follows:

The Department of English Language and Literature uses it ten hours a week exclusively for the practical exercises of the first year. Each student has the possibility of taking one hour a week of a basic course plus one hour, chosen by him, of a general course for two semesters or of an intensive course for one semester.

The professor responsible for this instruction uses commercially prepared materials consisting of pronunciation and intonation exercises and of grammatical and lexical structural exercises. Exercises better adapted to the individual needs of the students are being prepared at present under his direction, and he will put them at the disposal of the students as soon as the University is equipped with a library-study laboratory (see below, *Plans for the immediate future*).

The Department of German Language and Literature uses the laboratory three hours a week as a practical complement to the study of the language. The professor makes use of syntactic and phonetic structural exercises, in part prepared by himself and in part supplied by the Goethe Institute.

The Section of Sciences of Antiquity has had the novel idea of setting up an accelerated basic program in classic Greek for adult beginners. Structural exercises, created and produced by the professor himself, are offered to them at the rate of two and one-half hours a week.

¹Reprinted from *Bulletin CILA, Neuchatel, Switzerland*.

The main user of the laboratory remains the ELCF, for the needs of foreign students. The school offers them:

—oral exercises (two hours a week): Each student records a short *expose* on a given subject and is subsequently corrected individually.

—Morphosyntactic and grammatical structural exercises (thirteen hours a week, five levels). These exercises are in part made up by the professor of the school and in part borrowed from *CEDEMEL IIe degré*. These exercises are introduced into the course by the professors of grammar and lexicology and are checked by the laboratory professors solely from the point of view of pronunciation.

—Various practical exercises: five hours a week.

It is appropriate to add to this description three individual booths set up as an experiment; in them, we offer the students:

—pure phonemic exercises, as a complement to the structural exercises (about eighty cassettes).

—phonostylistic exercises (thirty cassettes in preparation).

—recorded dictations.

Plans for the immediate future

If procedures take their normal course, the University of Geneva will double its language laboratory next year and will thus have thirty positions at its disposal.

Simultaneously, most of the professors have expressed a desire to furnish a more individualized instruction, "à la carte," so to speak. So they have gotten together to request that there be set up next year, in addition, a true library-study laboratory of fifteen positions, which, as far as we can tell now, should be forthcoming. If the experiments undertaken in this area prove conclusive, it really seems that we must envisage an extension of this type of instruction, for it seems to answer very well, if not better than the classic laboratory, the diversified needs of the students in the numerous subjects taught by the University.

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