

LAGS WORKING PAPERS, FIRST SERIES (1981)

INTRODUCTION

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This initial series of LAGS working papers is restricted to essays and monographs that have not been published elsewhere. The purpose of the series is to provide a medium for discussions that bear directly upon the development of the atlas. For that reason, the programmatic statements concerning the Dialect Survey of Rural Georgia and plans for the LAGS Project, as well as the four interim reports, might also have been included to provide a full review of the work as it progressed during the past 14 years. Because all of these are identified in the forthcoming bibliography of the handbook and because all are published in American Speech or Orbis, they are excluded from this set. Only the second edition of A Compositional Guide to the LAGS Project, first reproduced at Emory in 1977, is included here to provide evidence that is recorded in no other source.

Although all of these papers in the first series were prepared by the editors of the Basic Materials, subsequent issues will invite other contributors. Indeed the present publication of the protocols is intended to make the raw data available for immediate analysis, and this medium, the LAGS Working Papers, will provide a means of reporting interpretations of material in this corpus. This is consistent with the principles of accessibility and cooperation that are central to the project and inseparable from the generous support it has received from the Research Tools Program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Arranged chronologically, these 16 papers trace the development of the research since 1968. This begins with the first planning conference of 1968, extends through the organization of field and scribal procedures, and concludes with the current schedule for the composition of the Descriptive Materials. That operation began in 1981 with the preparation of a computer-assisted concordance program that will index all protocol entries, an estimated 1,500,000 words, phases, and larger structures, parse those phrases, and prepare the word list for the legendry. The second series of working papers will begin with a comprehensive plan for cartographic, legendry, and typescripting work that will follow the completion of the concordance program.

WORKING PAPER #1: "A Conference to Plan a Linguistic Atlas of the Southeastern States, May 16-17, 1968." With the support of W. Gene Watson, coordinator of special programs for the Southeastern Education Laboratory (SEL), linguists, teachers, and curriculum planners were invited to a conference that extended over two days. The participating linguists were Harold B. Allen, Hans Kurath, Raven I. McDavid, Jr., James B. McMillan, Lee Pederson, A. Hood Roberts, Rudolph Troike, Juanita V. Williamson, and Gordon R. Wood. These nine specialists in linguistic geography, Southern language and culture, and applied English linguistics met in three closed sessions that were fully recorded on tape. During the morning session of 16 May, Kurath, McDavid, McMillan, and Williamson led the discussions of area delimitation and field procedures. In the afternoon, Allen, Van Riper, and Wood extended the range to include editorial procedures, and Roberts and Troike followed with a consideration of theoretical and pedagogical questions and applications as they related to the proposed col-

lection of data. In the evening of May 16, the group reconvened for informal discussions, and these were renewed in the morning session of May 17, where the central topic was the pedagogical implications of linguistic geography in the Gulf States. During the afternoon, the linguists were joined by the teachers and curriculum planners to extend the discussion along thoroughly practical lines. Edited by Pederson, this working paper is a summary of those discussions that concludes with a retrospective, a review of the recommendations of those meetings in light of the work completed during the intervening 14 years.

WORKING PAPER #2: "The Conduct of An Atlas Interview in the Gulf States" is a four-hour discussion of the LAGS work sheets by Raven I. McDavid, Jr. This tape-recorded analysis of the field instrument was made in Atlanta, November 25-27, 1970. Here McDavid identifies many of the problems he elaborates in his essay in the Manual and provides many of the contexts that are recorded in the LAGS work sheets. Upon completion of the discussion, McDavid prepared a set of 4x6 slips upon which he recorded further comments on the implications of each item in the work sheets and included a detailed set of sample frames for asking the questions. Leas edited the typescript of the full conversation and inserted the crucial information from the slips that had not been mentioned orally by McDavid. This text represents the principal training tool for all regular LAGS fieldworkers, beginning with Pederson and Foster in 1970 and extending through the work of Crist, McCall, Rutledge, Rawlings, McKemie, Frazer, Bailey, and Bassett. For that reason, this text is an essential reading for anyone who would understand the aims and methods of the LAGS fieldworkers because this is the singular voice of the LAGS work sheets.

WORKING PAPER #3: "The Emory Collection of the Louisiana Workbooks."

In an essay written by Leas, the contents of the 74 workbooks are described. Wise presented these texts to Kurath with the hope of laying the foundation for a dialect survey in the Gulf States. They were archived first at Ann Arbor, then transferred to Chicago under the eye of Raven I. McDavid, Jr., and finally sent to Pederson in April, 1971. The summary of the form and content of these documents indicates the preliminary information available to Billiard, Foster, McDavid, and Pederson, when they organized the final format of the LAGS work sheets in 1972.

WORKING PAPER #4: "Toward the Publication of the Linguistic Atlas of the Gulf States" is a report by Pederson to 19 regular LAGS consultants, September 2, 1976. This prospectus outlines the expected results of the project through 1980, as described in the NEH proposal of 1976, and offers recommendations for revision of this plan. Those revisions include the dependence upon the present fiche publication, the handbook and legendary formats, and a summary of typescripting problems. The report concludes with a promise to develop the plan more fully during the following year.

WORKING PAPER #5: A Compositional Guide to the LAGS Project is the report to the consultants promised in WP #4. Issued in November, 1977, that monograph by Pederson, edited here by Leas, includes four chapters that provide 1) a definition of terms, 2) the principles of graphic composition, 3) the principles of protocol composition, and 4) a tentative plan for atlas composition. This text became the principal reference for all LAGS scribes after 1977 and serves as a preliminary form of the LAGS editorial book.

WORKING PAPER #6: "The Phonological Content of a Field Record" is an essay written by Bailey in an LSA seminar in sociolinguistics, conducted by Labov in July, 1977. The study of deletion of /t/ and /d/ after /l/ and /n/ illustrates the feasibility of quantitative study with LAGS data. This includes both a simple cross tabulation and the variable rule program developed by Cedergren and Sankoff to establish phonological, grammatical, and stylistic constraints on deletion of /t/ and /d/.

WORKING PAPER #7: "A Preliminary Survey of Terms in the LAGS Urban Supplement" is a monograph begun by Leas in an Emory seminar in lexicography conducted by Duckert in the winter of 1978. This was a useful reference in planning the final urban research and in evaluating the effectiveness of the instrument. Leas' findings have already been forwarded to the editors of the DARE project, who found it to contain a number of words and phrases unrecorded elsewhere in the lexicon of American English.

WORKING PAPER #8: "The Regional and Social Dialects of East Tennessee: A Preliminary Overview" is an essay submitted to the NCTE Research Foundation in November, 1979, as a final report of the LAGS survey in East Tennessee, 1971-73. This includes an outline of preliminary LAGS methodology, a summary of the consonants and vowels, the incidence of phonemes, morphological features, and lexical selection, and a few generalizations about regional, subregional, and social features in East Tennessee speech.

WORKING PAPER #9: "A Plan for the LAGS Concordance" is a report by Pederson and Leas, a revision of an earlier paper written by Pederson in consultation with John Nitti and Ronald Wood and distributed to LAGS consultants in the summer of 1980. The plan includes: 1) a description of the corpus, 2) a summary of preliminary efforts to control a corpus of 1.5 million entries and 1.5 million permutations, 3) a rationale for computer use, 4) an out-

line of the methodology from the perspective of the LAGS editors, and 5) an illustration of the penultimate product. No effort was made to describe the final product, a camera-ready index, because the range of entry types and the number of entries are problems that must be resolved in discussions with the University of Georgia Press, the publishers of the index.

WORKING PAPER #10: "LAGS Field Records: Form and Content," by Bassett and Leas, was begun in 1979 and completed in 1981. It analyzes, describes, and evaluates the general quality of the LAGS tape collection. Special attention is given to the difficulties in making professional quality recordings in the field, including the factors of human error, radio interference, mechanical failure, and the living background against which the interview is cast. The primary value of this report is to define the terms noted, often vaguely, by scribes concerning the quality of the field records.

WORKING PAPER #11: "LAGS Demographics" is a monograph prepared by the LAGS staff that summarizes the population statistics of all counties and localities, 1790-1970, in the LAGS sample. These statistics are then discussed in relation to LAGS community and locality types, as outlined in the handbook, with particular attention to the "Arab type" localities, especially those with populations under 2,500. All of these rural places are classified as one of these eight types: 1) agricultural centers, 2) moribund villages, 3) mining towns, 4) lumber towns, 5) fishing villages, 6) textile towns, 7) embryo suburbs, and 8) tourist centers.

WORKING PAPER #12: "LAGS Informants: Social Characteristics" is an essay written by Leas in 1981 that summarizes data on age, ancestry, religion, and occupation as the information relates to the 1,118 informants. Tables organized by sector present four sets of characteristics: 1) the ages of the informants, arranged

by decades, 2) the states or countries of birth of their parents and grandparents, 3) the religious preferences (usually the denominations of upbringing rather than those chosen in later life), and 4) the principal occupations at the time of the interview. Deferred from this discussion are both the facts of social class, because they are outlined in the handbook, and the factor of education, because it is far too complicated to analyze in general terms.

American education in rural areas prior to World War I is extremely uneven, and much of that complexity extended into the middle decades of the present century. An analysis of that cultural system will require elaborate sociological and historical research before findings can be reduced to tabular form.

WORKING PAPER #13: "LAGS Fieldworkers: Styles and Contributions" is a historical review and evaluation by Pederson of the methods and accomplishments of the investigators. Although the work of the principal fieldworkers, who gathered more than 850 of the 1,118 records, is most fully discussed, generalizations and specific characteristics of volunteer fieldworkers are also considered. Finally, the 17 fieldworkers, participants in the major data-gathering phases of the work since 1973, are ranked on 10 scales by Leas and Pederson, who together transcribed 650 of the 1,118 field records.

WORKING PAPER #14: "LAGS Scribes: Idiolects and Habits of Composition" is an evaluation by Pederson of the eight regular participants who prepared 1,114 of the protocols. Passing reference is also made to the four protocols contributed by Raven I. McDavid, Jr., as a model for all subsequent work, but the essay concentrates on a summary of idiolectal characteristics, scribal habits, contributions, and skills of the eight writers. This report concludes with the evaluation of the scribes by Pederson on 20 scales, nine

of which are drawn from the LANE Handbook and 11 more that are identified to represent the special requirements of the LAGS project.

WORKING PAPER #15: "LAGS Protocols: Editorial Procedures," written by Leas in 1981, elaborates the full range of problems and tasks that required attention before the protocols were photographed by UMI. In addition to a more detailed explanation of the proofreading operation and auditing programs, summarized in the handbook, the paper identifies those protocols that were recopied, retranscribed, or extensively emended prior to photography with a full explanation of why such work was necessary. This report is especially useful in relation to the evaluation of scribes in WP #14 because it clearly lays out the kinds of problems reflected in the work of some of the scribes.

WORK PAPER #16: "A Preliminary Program for LAGS Typescripting" is an essay by Bassett begun in a seminar in linguistic geography at Emory in 1978. Since that time, he has continued to develop the procedures that were suggested in the early work and here offers an overview of the problems and possibilities of typescripting, proposing a schedule to begin the work that combines the rules of the conversion plan of WP #9 with the requisites of effective typescripting. This includes a full set of procedures and examples to identify the resources of the proposed texts.