

Contents

Acknowledgements vii
Preface ix
Data: recorded materials and transcripts x

1 The spoken language I

1.0 Preliminaries I
1.1 Spoken and written language I
1.2 Functions of language 10
1.3 Structured long turns 16
1.4 Spoken language models and feasibility 20
1.5 Feasibility – what can be taught? 23
1.6 Texts 24

2 Teaching spoken production 25

2.0 The production of spoken language 25
2.1 The aims of the course 27
2.2 Interactional short turns 28
2.3 Transactional turns 33
 ‘Communicative stress’ 34
 Grading tasks: events in time 37
 Grading tasks: descriptions and instructions 46
 Grading tasks: the discoursal approach 50
 Pronunciation and intonation 53

3 Teaching listening comprehension 54

3.0 ‘Listening comprehension ought to be naturally acquired’ 54
3.1 Teaching listening comprehension 55
3.2 What might ‘listening comprehension’ mean? 58
3.3 Native listening: context and co-text 60
3.4 Native listening: strategies 69
3.5 Background: British background and culture 74
 Background: the speaker’s voice 76

Contents

3.6 Choosing materials 80
 Grading materials: by speaker 80
 Grading materials: by intended listener 82
 Grading materials: by content 83
 Grading materials: by support 85
 Choosing materials: types of purpose 88
3.7 Approaching a text 89
3.8 Assessing listening comprehension 99

4 Assessing spoken language 102

4.0 Introduction 102
4.1 Assessing spoken English production 103
4.2 Practical requirements 104
 An assessment profile 104
 The student's tape 105
 Speech in different modes 107
 Task types 108
 The information gap 111
 Scoring procedures 112
4.3 Principles underlying the methodology 117
 Elicit speech which has a purpose 117
 Elicit extended chunks of speech 118
 Elicit structured or organised speech 118
 Control the input 120
 Quantify the notion of 'communicative effectiveness' 121
4.4 Task types and scoring procedures 122
 Tasks: general conditions 122
 Task type A: description 123
 Task type B: instruction/description 126
 Task type C: story-telling 131
 Task type D: the eye-witness account 138
 Task type E: opinion-expressing 142
4.5 Can listening comprehension be assessed? 144

Illustrations 150
Bibliography 160
Index 162