Slips of the tongue in the London-Lund corpus of spontaneous conversation

ALAN GARNHAM, RICHARD C. SHILLCOCK, GORDON D. A. BROWN, ANDREW I. D. MILL, and ANNE CUTLER

Abstract

This paper presents a list of slips of the tongue which occur in a corpus of English conversation transcribed from tape recordings. The kinds of error included in the list are briefly discussed, as are the criteria for detecting errors. The work forms a basis for an estimate of the frequency of such errors in ordinary speech.

The London-Lund corpus is a collection of spontaneous conversations between educated adult native speakers of British English. Some of the speakers knew they were being recorded, others did not. The corpus comprises 34 texts, each of which contains 5,000 words spoken by people who were being recorded without their knowledge, together with a variable amount of material by speakers who did know of the recording (always considerably less than 5,000 words). The 34 texts have been selected from a larger set collected in the Survey of English Usage, which has been based at University College, London, since 1960, under the directorship of Randolph Quirk. In that survey, primary attention has focused on the speech of those who were unaware of the recording. However, for the purposes of the present paper, no distinction has been made between speakers of the two kinds, because none of them realised that their speech was going to be analysed for errors. Reference to the list of errors and the transcriptions of the texts can readily resolve the question of whether the person who produced a particular error did or did not know that a tape was being made.

The transcription of the corpus is widely available in two forms, as a book (Svartvik and Quirk, 1980), and as a machine-readable tape. For the most part, an orthographic representation has been used, with additional symbols and conventions to represent prosodic and para-linguistic features. Phonetic transcription has been used where non-words were spoken.
This paper presents a list of the speech errors which can be detected with reasonable certainty in the corpus. In most studies of speech errors speakers have been consulted about what they intended to say. Such consultations have obviously been impossible in the present study. However, the study does have the major advantage of allowing a reasonable estimate to be made of the frequency of speech errors in spontaneous speech. Previous collections of speech errors have not been systematic; the errors have been collected as and when they have been noticed. In any case, asking people what they intended to say inevitably disrupts the flow of conversation. For these reasons other collections of errors (e.g. Meringer and Mayer, 1895/1978; Fromkin, 1973) do not allow estimates of frequency to be made.

Only unintentional slips of the tongue have been included in the list of errors. A number of other phenomena have been specifically excluded. False starts are numerous throughout the corpus, but these are interpreted as deliberate changes of plan, which reflect quite different psychological processes from slips of the tongue. Similarly, hesitations and repetitions are phenomena of a completely different kind from exchanges, blends and the other kinds of error listed here. Infelicities of expression are also excluded, for the same reason (see Brown, 1980). One class of omission from our list does call for some comment — that of prosodic errors. These have been left out largely because intuitions about such errors are not very clear, unless they are actually corrected by the speaker (Cutler, 1980). Furthermore, they are very difficult to find in the printed version of the corpus without a great deal of work. The original audio tapes, which would have made the search much easier, have not been made available (Svartvik and Quirk, 1980: 26).

There can be no pretence that all slips of the tongue in the corpus have been listed. Thus the estimate of the frequency of speech errors in conversation is a conservative one. A number of factors have prevented a complete listing from being made.

1. At some points the transcribers were uncertain about the wording. In the book, these pieces of text are enclosed in double angle brackets, << >>. Sometimes a slip of the tongue appears inside such brackets. For example, in S.1.6 TU1106 there is an apparent error, where the speaker says <<inonica>> canonic. However, as the inonica is uncertain, no error has been recorded. Similarly, possible errors in the rest of the text were not recorded if they depended on these uncertain pieces of text. In S.1.7 TU493/4 one speaker comments it's <<starting>> to rain, and another responds has it, apparently producing a tag error. However, if the uncertain starting had been started, or had been so unclear that the second speaker could have taken it to be started, then no unintentional slip of the tongue has occurred.
2. Many sections of text had plausible interpretations both as false
starts and as slips of the tongue. For example, in S.1.7 TU1293 the speaker
says for a [k] second. The [k] could be an anticipation of the third phoneme
in second, but it could also be a false start, a couple of seconds. Without the
speakers’ comments on what was intended it was not possible to classify
such sequences unambiguously as errors. They were, therefore, not
included in the list.

3. Because proper names have been changed in the corpus — only their
prosodic features have been retained in their fictitious counterparts —
certain anticipations and perseverations in the vicinity of such names may
have been missed.

The search for the errors proceeded as follows. The texts were printed
out from the computer tape. Each text was read by one of the authors,
who, using very liberal criteria, marked every potential error. Then three
or four of the authors met together to discuss each of these errors to decide
if there was a plausible alternative explanation of the item, for example as
a false start. Those items which were judged to be genuine slips of the
tongue were provisionally classified. Any remaining conflicts about the
errors were resolved in further discussions when the final list was drawn up.

The errors have been assigned to four main categories, depending upon
the kind of linguistic unit involved.

1. Segment errors are those involving phonemes or phonological
features.

2. Syllable errors have been grouped with morphological errors involv­
ing grammatical morphemes, such as tense and number.

3. Word errors may involve the substitution of either a semantically or a
phonologically similar word. The latter kind of error is a malapropism.
Among function words the chief errors are substitution of one pronoun
for another, or one preposition for another.

4. Errors involving larger units were mainly blends of phrases. Tag
errors — choice of the wrong tag in a tag question — have also been
included in this category.

In the absence of speakers’ comments, the simplest interpretation of
each error has been chosen. For example, a fairly large number of errors
have been classified as anticipations of initial phonemes. However, the
occurrence of the initial phoneme of a later word could be the result of a
number of different kinds of error. The speaker may, for example, have
anticipated the whole word, or have been about to produce a spoonerism.
Once a mistake has been detected, the following material can be
suppressed, producing what looks like a simple segment anticipation.

Within each group the errors are further subcategorised, where pos­
sible, on the basis of the following seven-way classification: anticipation,
perseveration, omission, addition, exchange, substitution, blend. Some
standard terms from the speech error literature have been retained for specific kinds of error, for example, *malapropism* and *haplology*. Table 1 gives the number of errors of each type in the corpus. Table 2 lists the errors.

Table 1. *Number of errors of each kind in the corpus*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Segment</th>
<th>Syllable</th>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Phrase</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Substitution</td>
<td>25¹</td>
<td>18²</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>6⁶</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anticipation</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omission</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Addition</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15²</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perseveration</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blend</td>
<td>2³</td>
<td>4³</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2⁵</td>
<td>3⁶</td>
<td>4⁵</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes

1. Includes two vowel reduction errors.
2. Includes 14 errors in number and tense.
3. One error involving both syllable omission and tense and one shift.
4. Includes nine haplologies.
5. Two Tip of the Tongue states and two function word shifts.
6. Includes five tag errors.

Table 2. *List of speech errors in the London-Lund corpus*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Tone unit</th>
<th>Item¹</th>
<th>Putative target</th>
<th>Gloss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1) Segment errors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.1.1</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>[ʌðəʊ] from that²</td>
<td>apart from that</td>
<td>anticipation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>679</td>
<td>the [ʌw] the only other</td>
<td>only</td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.1.2</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>I am not personally [ɒɹ ə]</td>
<td>prepared</td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>336</td>
<td>the rest of us [bə ə] have been</td>
<td>have been</td>
<td>anticipation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.1.3</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>and [j] when you finished</td>
<td>when you</td>
<td>anticipation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.1.4</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>instead of [p] cluttering up their own place</td>
<td>cluttering up</td>
<td>anticipation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>255</td>
<td>the whole [s] range from which selections</td>
<td>range from</td>
<td>anticipation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>385</td>
<td>what I've done is simply choo[s]</td>
<td>choose</td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.1.5</td>
<td>1097</td>
<td>go [f] into sheer admin</td>
<td>into sheer</td>
<td>anticipation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Slips of the tongue in the London-Lund corpus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Tone unit</th>
<th>Item¹</th>
<th>Putative target</th>
<th>Gloss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S.1.6</td>
<td>1080</td>
<td>his [reta] letters were</td>
<td>letters</td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.1.7</td>
<td>908</td>
<td>the one that [ran] rung</td>
<td>rung</td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1165</td>
<td>for [ra] to get it ready for Christmas</td>
<td>to get it</td>
<td>anticipation?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.1.11</td>
<td>916</td>
<td>you can’t really tell from this [f] thing</td>
<td>thing</td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.1.13</td>
<td>1012</td>
<td>[ðrau] three one three</td>
<td>three</td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.1.14</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>in [trau] County Tyrone</td>
<td>Tyrone</td>
<td>anticipation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>239</td>
<td>[paːsk prə diː] protected the castle</td>
<td>protected the castle</td>
<td>anticipation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>320</td>
<td>to [brai] the Irish Press</td>
<td>buy</td>
<td>addition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>342</td>
<td>Miles of the [kon] column</td>
<td>column</td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>369</td>
<td>a [ba] double bed</td>
<td>double bed</td>
<td>anticipation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>432</td>
<td>I [ʃet] there</td>
<td>sat</td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>525</td>
<td>he [slip] next to the door</td>
<td>sleeps</td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>561</td>
<td>our [pi] our purpose in Northern Ireland</td>
<td>purpose</td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>774</td>
<td>sailed up the [ʃæni] Shannon</td>
<td>Shannon</td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.1</td>
<td>1335</td>
<td>it was [fɔn] fantastic</td>
<td>fantastic</td>
<td>vowel reduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.2</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>it is [invalu] I’m I’m obliged</td>
<td>invaluable</td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>877</td>
<td>the only [b] way he’s got of getting it back</td>
<td>way</td>
<td>anticipation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.3</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>in [st] in in armies and in every General Staff</td>
<td>in armies and</td>
<td>anticipation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.4</td>
<td>553</td>
<td>practical [kr] all practical classes</td>
<td>classes</td>
<td>perseveration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>774</td>
<td>some [sau] sort of coherent body</td>
<td>sort of</td>
<td>anticipation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.5</td>
<td>696</td>
<td>being recorded [sare] surreptitiously</td>
<td>surreptitiously</td>
<td>vowel reduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.6</td>
<td>768</td>
<td>let him [me] be measured</td>
<td>be measured</td>
<td>anticipation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.7</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>they were [se] terribly underpaid</td>
<td>terribly</td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.8</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>so much more [in insen in] intense</td>
<td>intense</td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>304</td>
<td>everything is [mitʃ] more complex</td>
<td>much</td>
<td>perseveration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>322</td>
<td>I think that the [britʃ]</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>omission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>639</td>
<td>I would think [poæk]</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.9</td>
<td>956</td>
<td>almost as [no]? much unknown</td>
<td>much unknown</td>
<td>anticipation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1027</td>
<td>something the [k] patient complains of</td>
<td>patient</td>
<td>anticipation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2. Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Tone unit</th>
<th>Item$^1$</th>
<th>Putative target</th>
<th>Gloss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S.2.10</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>was [t] smoking too heavily the new [bel], were supposed to see the new <em>Mel Brooks</em> film</td>
<td>smoking too <em>Mel Brooks</em></td>
<td>anticipation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.10</td>
<td>735</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.11</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>thunderous [s:prəz]</td>
<td>applause</td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.11</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>country [preznts]</td>
<td>peasants</td>
<td>addition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.11</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>it was [tesprətli] hot</td>
<td>desperately</td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.11</td>
<td>1102</td>
<td>people [klæm] climb those mountains</td>
<td>climb</td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.11</td>
<td>1393</td>
<td>the [rəu] Russian ... course</td>
<td>Russian</td>
<td>perseveration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.11</td>
<td>1423</td>
<td>one six [rən] one rouble sixty-two kopeks</td>
<td>rouble</td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.12</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>[səribs] originally done by Euripides</td>
<td>originally</td>
<td>anticipation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.12</td>
<td>808</td>
<td>the Telegraph and [ræ] [ri?] ringed it</td>
<td>ringed</td>
<td>perseveration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.13</td>
<td>565</td>
<td>that’s the only [wə] reason</td>
<td>reason</td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.13</td>
<td>959</td>
<td>[weræ] whereas somebody coming</td>
<td>whereas</td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.3.1</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>some of the [ʃ] rooms are wrongly shaped</td>
<td>rooms</td>
<td>anticipation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.3.4</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>there has been some [s] paint spent</td>
<td>paint</td>
<td>anticipation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.3.5</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>it’s rather an artificial [du:nimə]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.3.5</td>
<td>1101</td>
<td>I don’t know the [wai] play well enough</td>
<td>play well</td>
<td>anticipation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(2) Syllable/morpheme errors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Item$^1$</th>
<th>Gloss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S.1.1</td>
<td>these are oral contraception</td>
<td>contraceptives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.1.6</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>his mother ... who [sei] they’ve now got a flat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.1.8</td>
<td>891</td>
<td>to get a selective, a bunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.1.14</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>money which have been</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.1.14</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>given ... their hard earned pay which have been very good pay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.1</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>have I ever [tel] talked to you about</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.1</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>I’ve just gave given you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.1</td>
<td>839</td>
<td>my trouble in [plain in tr] in applying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.7</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>we kept keep getting large sums</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.8</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>the Sheikhs would all [dru:] withdraw</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 2. Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Tone unit</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Putative target</th>
<th>Gloss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>220</td>
<td></td>
<td>that was all [ren] Redmond was asking for</td>
<td>Redmond</td>
<td>omission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>286</td>
<td></td>
<td>they are of historical interest</td>
<td>interest</td>
<td>added inflection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.9</td>
<td>482</td>
<td>they were [al] able</td>
<td>able</td>
<td>omission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.11</td>
<td>1262</td>
<td>what was ever giving rise</td>
<td>whatever was</td>
<td>shift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.13</td>
<td>1204</td>
<td>that wasn’t [vasætali] it was just filling in</td>
<td>versatility</td>
<td>omission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.14</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>they were of historical interest</td>
<td>interested</td>
<td>added inflection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.3.1</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>added inflection</td>
<td>S.2.9</td>
<td>omission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.3.2</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>added inflection</td>
<td>S.3.1</td>
<td>omission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.3.3</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>added inflection</td>
<td>S.3.2</td>
<td>omission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.3.4</td>
<td>74/6</td>
<td>added inflection</td>
<td>S.3.3</td>
<td>omission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.3.6</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>added inflection</td>
<td>S.3.4</td>
<td>omission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.3.7</td>
<td>665</td>
<td>added inflection</td>
<td>S.3.6</td>
<td>omission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) Word errors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.1.2</td>
<td>496</td>
<td>you know [win] we’re not</td>
<td>we’re not</td>
<td>haplology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.1.5</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>Mallet [nets] never lets</td>
<td>never lets</td>
<td>haplology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.1.6</td>
<td>605</td>
<td>we, they, when they mark</td>
<td>they</td>
<td>pronoun substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.1.7</td>
<td>658</td>
<td>nearly all reserved and we finally found a couple of seats marked quite clearly</td>
<td>no smoking</td>
<td>semantic substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.1.7</td>
<td>1261</td>
<td>an Indian [parædium]</td>
<td>parodied him</td>
<td>haplology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.1.7</td>
<td>658</td>
<td>the vision of speaking computers on science fiction computers</td>
<td>in</td>
<td>preposition substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>811</td>
<td></td>
<td>can you [kæve] what’s the word connect</td>
<td>connect</td>
<td>Tip of the Tongue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2.  Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Tone unit</th>
<th>Item(^1)</th>
<th>Putative target</th>
<th>Gloss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S.1.8</td>
<td>1040</td>
<td>after he’d had him</td>
<td>she</td>
<td>pronoun substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.1.9</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>they have transcripts</td>
<td>transcriptions</td>
<td>malapropism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>804</td>
<td>so long as I’m in my own little nit</td>
<td>niche</td>
<td>malapropism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1327</td>
<td>following his [bai] father as he read the bible</td>
<td>father as he</td>
<td>anticipation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.1.10</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>which is the American the Australian expression</td>
<td>Australian</td>
<td>semantic substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>681</td>
<td>the eye is as important as the ear</td>
<td>ear</td>
<td>anticipation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>831</td>
<td>we send it even up</td>
<td>even send it up</td>
<td>shift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1048</td>
<td>days which I can probably commute</td>
<td>on which</td>
<td>preposition omission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.1.11</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>we’ve seen I’ve seen … you’ve seen</td>
<td>you</td>
<td>pronoun substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>651</td>
<td>so he [fauks] it</td>
<td>chooses/takes</td>
<td>blend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>697</td>
<td>a good deal too South</td>
<td>too far South</td>
<td>omission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.1.12</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>I was very drifting</td>
<td>??</td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>398</td>
<td>really they I do</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>pronoun substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1195</td>
<td>when [Jo] he does ring up</td>
<td>he</td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.1.13</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>he was offered an engineering degree</td>
<td>job</td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>246</td>
<td>if she’d been if he’d been</td>
<td>he’d</td>
<td>pronoun substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.1.14</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>the [læ] the left-hand side</td>
<td>left hand</td>
<td>haplology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>196</td>
<td>I’d right been right down</td>
<td>I’d been right</td>
<td>omission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>672</td>
<td>you [go] he got</td>
<td>he</td>
<td>pronoun substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>890</td>
<td>they hadn’t got [fæia] (=fire) they hadn’t got flour</td>
<td>flour</td>
<td>malapropism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1002</td>
<td>to my best of my knowledge</td>
<td>the best of my</td>
<td>anticipation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.1</td>
<td>664</td>
<td>this is not a bibliographical [dasti] description</td>
<td>description</td>
<td>malapropism??</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.2</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>we are efficient and trustworthy on, trustworthy I meant to say not efficient</td>
<td>trustworthy</td>
<td>semantic substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>615</td>
<td>it makes them more difficult it makes it more difficult for them to raise money</td>
<td>it</td>
<td>pronoun anticipation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 2.  Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Tone unit</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Putative target</th>
<th>Gloss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S.2.3 82</td>
<td>it’s a bit of [sma] an amalgam</td>
<td>an amalgam</td>
<td>haplophony</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>301</td>
<td>made it all look what which it was ... horribly complicated</td>
<td>what it was</td>
<td>addition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>545</td>
<td>this is the [f] one of the few things</td>
<td>one of the few</td>
<td>anticipation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.4 72</td>
<td>I was larking about with this thing next year</td>
<td>last?</td>
<td>semantic substitution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.5 213</td>
<td>it’s [pra] probably true</td>
<td>probably true</td>
<td>blend??</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.6 842</td>
<td>started out as a [ma] Renaissance specialist</td>
<td>Renaissance</td>
<td>semantic substitution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1241</td>
<td>we ought really to try to get rid of some of those people sharply don’t you?</td>
<td>I think we ought or don’t you think?</td>
<td>omission</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.7 112</td>
<td>one was in French about by Chabrol</td>
<td>by</td>
<td>preposition substitution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1300</td>
<td>that they [swiJul] swizzle things around in</td>
<td>swish/swizzle</td>
<td>blend</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.8 83</td>
<td>it could well equally</td>
<td>equally well</td>
<td>shift</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>289</td>
<td>the [kær] the [?] Protestants</td>
<td>Protestants</td>
<td>semantic substitution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.9 626</td>
<td>general science [n:] general medicine</td>
<td>medicine</td>
<td>semantic substitution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>826</td>
<td>just as much a surgeon’s knife does</td>
<td>much as a</td>
<td>omission</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.10 310</td>
<td>single [ein] lens reflex</td>
<td>single lens</td>
<td>haplophony??</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>487</td>
<td>she’d burnt a couple burst a couple</td>
<td>burst</td>
<td>malapropism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>489</td>
<td>How to Bluff [we] Your Way people who [bain] I’ve been</td>
<td>Your Way</td>
<td>anticipation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>858</td>
<td></td>
<td>I’ve been</td>
<td>haplophy with perseveration of omitted material</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.11 18</td>
<td>applause that you’d expect from the leading soprano</td>
<td>for</td>
<td>preposition substitution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1086</td>
<td>you might be wasting away of resources</td>
<td>wasting away resources</td>
<td>addition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.12 889</td>
<td>burst into hilarics</td>
<td>hilarity/hysteries</td>
<td>blend</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.13 975</td>
<td>that he she’s only ever seen ... once</td>
<td>she</td>
<td>pronoun substitution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>979</td>
<td>seventeen year old [glez] lesbian</td>
<td>girl/lesbian</td>
<td>blend</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>991</td>
<td>she was trying to [skra] strangle</td>
<td>strangle/scratch</td>
<td>blend</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1076</td>
<td>it [d3a] they just</td>
<td>they</td>
<td>pronoun substitution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Tone unit</th>
<th>Item(^1)</th>
<th>Putative target</th>
<th>Gloss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S.2.14</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>I regret for having to inform</td>
<td>regret having out</td>
<td>addition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>133</td>
<td>one of them has dropped off</td>
<td></td>
<td>preposition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>291</td>
<td>if they we do</td>
<td>we</td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>327</td>
<td>[vi:enr] Vienna is a congress Stadt</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
<td>haplology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>667</td>
<td>to think the ways of doing the best</td>
<td>think of</td>
<td>preposition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>820</td>
<td>a mass of great [a] sort of grey hair</td>
<td>grey</td>
<td>omission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>951</td>
<td>it's difficult to get a word edgewise out of him</td>
<td>word out of him</td>
<td>addition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1047</td>
<td>being embroiled into</td>
<td>in</td>
<td>preposition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.3.1</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>you sort of turned us in</td>
<td>down</td>
<td>addition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>844</td>
<td>sixteen fifty</td>
<td>fifteen fifty</td>
<td>preposition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>sixteen sixty</td>
<td>sixteen fifty</td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>844</td>
<td>on the throne during those [pirə] during those years</td>
<td>year</td>
<td>semantic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.3.2</td>
<td>662</td>
<td>list of advertisements and Peter Genial's the only one</td>
<td>applicants</td>
<td>malapropism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>814ff</td>
<td>Pershing</td>
<td>Spearing</td>
<td>Tip of the Tongue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Healing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Stirling</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Shearing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>943</td>
<td>this little RPM this little</td>
<td>forty-five disc</td>
<td>semantic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>forty-five disc</td>
<td></td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1023</td>
<td>it's easier for us it's easier for them</td>
<td>them</td>
<td>pronoun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.3.3</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>round a table on you</td>
<td>on a table round you</td>
<td>preposition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>exchange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>314</td>
<td>how many of those books ... is there only one copy in the library</td>
<td>copy of</td>
<td>preposition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>omission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1132</td>
<td>reception ... in which six finalists turned up</td>
<td>to OR at</td>
<td>preposition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.3.4</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>on the rooms</td>
<td>in</td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>503</td>
<td>we're very proud and glad of [ə:] about that</td>
<td>glad about</td>
<td>preposition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>595</td>
<td>for last for this year</td>
<td>this year</td>
<td>substitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>616</td>
<td>that class that seminar</td>
<td>seminar</td>
<td>semantic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) Glosses indicate that some words are candidates for errors, (i.e. the gloss is not the intended word).
Table 2.  Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Tone unit</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Putative target</th>
<th>Gloss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>708</td>
<td>buy any more sites in the college for the college</td>
<td>for</td>
<td>preposition substitution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>957</td>
<td>papers who [ə?] students who took papers</td>
<td>students</td>
<td>substitution/ anticipation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.3.5</td>
<td>struck me as a [paʊ] as as a play</td>
<td>play</td>
<td>semantic substitution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>708</td>
<td>fruit pickers ... fruit growers</td>
<td>growers</td>
<td>semantic substitution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>782</td>
<td>correct attitude of court [pr]</td>
<td>to court procedure</td>
<td>preposition substitution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.3.6</td>
<td>you know much more about this ... than I am</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>substitution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>a notch was made for Raleigh</td>
<td>niche</td>
<td>malapropism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>637</td>
<td>we’ve [ə:] you’ve thought about</td>
<td>you’ve</td>
<td>pronoun substitution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>728</td>
<td>being conscience being conscious of</td>
<td>conscious</td>
<td>semantic substitution (or word formation?)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(4) Errors involving larger units

S.1.4  197  there was no point in in in doing it was it | was there | tag error |
S.1.5  203  he’ll be here himself soon after ... nine isn’t he | won’t he | tag error |
S.1.8  168  you want something round you when you think it when you look at it | look at it/think about it | blend |
S.1.9  121  this’ll obviously is the bad thing about living in London | this’ll obviously be/this obviously is enlisted/joined up | blend |
S.1.10 40  listed up you see and went out in some ghastly regiment of foot | blend |
| 553  | you’ve got quite respectable glasses bifocals isn’t it | aren’t they | tag error |
S.1.13 431  you might set alight to yourself | set light to yourself/set yourself alight | blend |
S.1.14 77  middle mid Wales | blend |
S.1.14 210/1 | I don’t know what took over [ə] overtook me came over/took hold of | blend |
S.2.2 204  these are miscellaneous family and other personal letters is it | aren’t they | tag error |
S.2.3 258  this was [impos] was be impossible | would be/was | blend |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Tone unit</th>
<th>Item¹</th>
<th>Putative² target</th>
<th>Gloss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S.2.5</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>I always [k] under[s] can't understand</td>
<td>can't (always) understand</td>
<td>syntax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2.14</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>a very great many people</td>
<td>very many/a very great number</td>
<td>blend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.3.2</td>
<td>921</td>
<td>in any case of the Spearing thing</td>
<td>in the case of/in any case with</td>
<td>blend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.3.3</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>in the long term point of view in the college</td>
<td>from the long term point of view/in the long term</td>
<td>blend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1242</td>
<td>to be able to talk to [ʔa] people in your own age</td>
<td>of your own age/in your own age group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.3.6</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>this is after all in one period aren't they</td>
<td>isn't it</td>
<td>tag error</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1041</td>
<td>do sit down in sit in on each other’s lectures</td>
<td>sit in on</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(5) Unclassified

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Tone unit</th>
<th>Item¹</th>
<th>Putative² target</th>
<th>Gloss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S.1.7</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>when it still wasn’t [frns ə:] satisfactory</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.1.8</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>If you’re going to confer a picture into your room</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>628/9</td>
<td>we were being asked to put up our numbers and that we would get a pro-rata staff increase</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes

1. In some cases the interpretation of the errors depends on more global context than can be given here. Readers are referred to the transcriptions in cases of apparently dubious interpretation.
2. Many features of the transcription have not been preserved in this table.

Laboratory of Experimental Psychology
University of Sussex
Falmer
Brighton BN1 9QG
England
Notes

* This research was supported by grants from the Science Research Council, the Social Science Research Council and the Scottish Education Department. The authors thank the staff of the Survey of English Usage for their assistance. Requests for reprints should be addressed to the first author at the Laboratory of Experimental Psychology, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QG, England.

1. Available from Norwegian Computing Centre for the Humanities, Box 53, University of Bergen, N-5014, Bergen, Norway.

2. S.1.6 refers to the number of the text in Svartvik and Quirk (1980), TU1106 refers to the 1106th tone unit within that text.

References


