

**THE FIRST NATIONAL SEMINAR WORKSHOP
FOR THE PRODUCTION OF LANGUAGE
LABORATORY MATERIALS 1)**

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The First National Seminar-Workshop for the Production of Language Laboratory Materials was organized under the co-auspices of the British Council of Santiago de Chile and the English Department of the Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Sede Santiago Oriente, Universidad de Chile.

The event was under the general direction of Mr. Denys Sharrocks, Director of the English Language Teaching Institute, London, who came by invitation of the British Council. The administrative arrangements were made by the members of the Language Laboratory Committee of the English Department, Universidad de Chile and Mr. James Y.K. Kerr, Director of the Chilean-British Institute, Santiago.

The Seminar was held in the language laboratory of the Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Sede Santiago Oriente, Universidad de Chile, and it lasted nine working days from 27 March to 6 April 1973, both dates inclusive.

Invitations were sent to members of the English Departments of all the Universities of the country limiting the inscription to two participants per institution due to the physical capacity of the premises and the nature of the work to be done. A total of 45 University teachers attended the Seminar-Workshop. Each teacher was given two sets of background readings consisting of 21 mimeographed articles on different aspects of language laboratory work. The participants could also make use of a reference library which was provided by the British Council and the English Department.

The aim of the Seminar was to train participants in the production of TEFL materials for the language laboratory at University level. The need for this specific training had been widely felt throughout the country since language laboratories started being used in the different Universities. The difficulty in obtaining published materials from abroad as well as the fact that in many cases these materials do not answer the particular needs of our students, called for the preparation of skilled staff in the writing use and evaluation of language laboratory materials.

One of the most outstanding features of the Seminar-Workshop was its specificity as for the first time the language laboratory was not a part of a course on TEFL but the main concern of a special Seminar. This Seminar-Workshop provided the participants with relevant information and practice in the preparation of language laboratory materials, enabling them to go back to their University Centres to apply the new techniques

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and to inform their colleagues. There was general agreement on the unique contribution the language laboratory can make in TEFL in Chile and the need for a follow-up Seminar-Workshop under the qualified tutorship of Mr. Denys Sharrocks was strongly favoured by all the participants.

In order to fulfil the aim of the Seminar-Workshop four types of activities were developed:

- A. Talks on general subjects connected with the language laboratory.
- B. Presentation and discussion of published materials, materials produced by the English Language Teaching Institute, London, and materials produced by different University Centres in Chile.
- C. Production of materials by the participants organized in working groups and tutored by Mr. Denys Sharrocks.
- D. Plenary sessions. The first one intended to give guiding principles and suggestions on the subjects of scriptwriting and the second, to reach general conclusions on the work of the Seminar.

A fifty-page report on this Seminar-Workshop was written, both in English and Spanish, by the following members of the teaching staff of the English Department, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Sede Santiago Oriente, Universidad de Chile: Alfonsina Doddis, Sheila Hamilton-Toovey and Clotilde Vivanco. This report was planned with the intention of serving as a reminder for those teachers who attended the Seminar, and of providing information to those interested in the subject.

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