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INTRODUCTION

Syllabus development for second language teaching has been of fundamental importance to both applied linguists and language teachers in recent years. Everyone concerned with the teaching of second languages wants to know much more about what it is that should be taught to make the learners of second languages become communicatively competent. Communicative competence is seen as involving more than mastery of a series of grammatical (syntactic and morphological) structures. The considerable interest in the content of the language syllabus is due to the increasing application of the recent theoretical views and studies in syllabus design especially the work of the Council of Europe with Wilkins' (1972) proposals for notional syllabuses, Trim's (1973) analysis of communicative potential, Bung's (1973) work on specific language needs, van Ek's (1975) specification of the Threshold Level for Modern Language Learning in Schools intended for learners of European languages, and others.

The work on discourse analysis carried out by Sinclair (1972), Widdowson (1973), Candlin (1976) and others has also had a strong influence on syllabus development. Candlin (1977) wrote that the term 'discourse' has been used to refer to a sequence of sentences and 'discourse analysis' is the investigation into the formal devices used to connect sentences together. In other words, we can say that this

means that discourse is regarded as a product of the language code and discourse analysis is an extension of the scope of grammatical description. The term 'discourse' has also been used to refer to the connection between what is said and what is meant and done, the connection between linguistic form and social meaning and action. Therefore, the relations between sentences and social meanings and actions could be called 'discourse' and the study of these 'discourse analysis' (Criper and Widdowson, 1975).

More than forty years ago J. R. Firth encouraged linguists to study conversation in order to better understand what language is and how it works. For Firth, language was only meaningful in its context. However, he was ignored by other linguists of the time because they followed Bloomfield who was concerned only with form. Bloomfield argued that linguistics is only concerned with those phonological, lexical and syntactic features which the utterances share, not with explaining how identical utterances have different functions in different situations and how listeners correctly decode those utterances. However, despite the disagreement among linguists of the time, discourse analysis has come to be regarded as an important area of inquiry.

Candlin (1977), for example, has argued that a linguistic form not be interpreted independently of a particular context because the ability to recognize a linguistic form does not guarantee that a learner can actually use that form correctly.

In short, discourse analysis has had an important influence on recent thinking about language teaching and syllabus design.

As a result of studies in discourse analysis and syllabus design, as well as the intention to define communicative competence, there was a movement away from grammatical syllabuses, to situational syllabuses, and more recently to what are described as notional, functional or communicative syllabuses (Munby, 1978).

Communicative Competence

The term 'communicative competence' was used by Dell Hymes (1971) when he argued that Chomsky's definition of competence was too narrow because it deals with linguistic competence only. In Aspects of the Theory of Syntax (1965, p. 3), Chomsky writes:

Linguistic theory is concerned primarily with an ideal speaker-listener, in a completely homogeneous speech community, who knows its language perfectly and is unaffected by such grammatically irrelevant conditions as memory limitations, distractions, shifts of attention and interest, and errors (random or characteristic) in applying his knowledge of the language in actual performance.

The mastery of the abstract system of rules means that a person is able to understand and produce any and all of the correctly formed sentences of his language. The speaker-

listener's knowledge of his language Chomsky calls linguistic competence, and the actual use of language in concrete situations, he calls linguistic performance.

Hymes (1971) argues that Chomsky's categories of competence and performance are inadequate because they do not include the sociocultural component which is a significant part of language in use. Criter and Widdowson (1975) point out that while knowledge of the rules of grammar is necessary because it will ensure that each sentence is correctly generated, it will not ensure that the forms of any utterances are appropriate to the context in which they are made. We cannot separate language from the social component, and it would be incomplete and inadequate to consider only the rules of grammar. The fundamental importance of language is that it serves as a means of communication; it involves people in some sort of interaction. Therefore, to know the language is not only to know the rules of grammar but to know something about how to make use of such rules in order to produce appropriate utterances. It is necessary to learn the conventions of use which control the selection of correctly formed utterances appropriate to a particular social situation. Chomsky, among other linguists, seemed to have assumed that it is only the rules of grammar which are systematic and therefore worthy of scientific investigation. He was concerned with the properties of language as an abstract formal system of rules and not with the use of

language in social context. Jakobovits (1970) argued that the rules which govern social interaction are a necessary part of the linguistic competence of a speaker and should not be ignored. He does not ignore the rules of grammar, but suggests that both, the social context selection rules and the rules of grammar, are necessary for a speaker to be linguistically competent.

By making a distinction between linguistic competence and performance, Chomsky and his followers considered linguistic competence to be the object of study for the linguist, while performance involves psychological and social constraints. They concentrated only on one aspect, that is, the linguistic competence, which enabled them to define linguistics within their theoretical framework.

Criper and Widdowson (1975) suggest that this approach, although a necessary step in any enquiry, is too limited for the language teacher because he is not only concerned with competence in describing or contrasting language systems but with the way these systems are used. In other words, learning a language means not only learning the rules of the formal linguistic system, that is, the rules of grammar but also how to use language appropriately in different social contexts. Without knowing how to use language appropriately, the rules of grammar would be useless (Hymes, 1971). A learner who knows how to use grammar in order to communicate appropriately can be said to know the language.

In other words, he must know what sort of language to use in what situation and with whom, when to remain silent or to speak, what gestures are appropriate to go with what speech. Therefore, teachers should not only appeal to the abstract system of grammatical rules but also to sociolinguistics, the study of language in use.

Hymes (1971) defines communicative competence as the speaker's ability to produce appropriate utterances not only grammatically correct sentences. His definition covers four aspects of competence that include not only the grammatical aspect (something formally possible) but also sociocultural (something contextually appropriate and effective), psycholinguistic (something implementationally feasible), and something in fact done, actually performed, and what its doing entails. In other words, Hymes' definition of communicative competence shows the relationship between grammatical, psycholinguistic and sociolinguistic aspects which produce and interpret cultural behaviour that actually occurs.

Other linguists who broadly agree with the Hymesian view of communicative competence are Cooper (1968), Jakobovits (1970) and Widdowson (1971, 1975). They all reject the Chomskian view of linguistic competence as being limited and have their own views of communicative competence. Jakobovits (1970) specifies four aspects of communicative competence, psycholinguistic, sociolinguistic,

paralinguistic and kinesis. The most important difference between Jakobovits and Hymes is that Jakobovits omits linguistic competence in the restricted sense of grammatical knowledge as a less important aspect of a speaker's competence. Hymes includes grammatical knowledge as one of the parts of communicative competence and emphasises the importance of the relationship between grammatical, socio-cultural and psycholinguistic aspects.

Cooper (1968) is also concerned with the sociolinguistic and grammatical aspects of communicative competence, and Widdowson (1971, 1975), Sinclair and Coulthard (1975), and Candlin, Leather and Bruton (1974, 1976) view communicative competence through the analysis of language in use at discourse level.

Halliday (1970, 1971) is also concerned with language in use as Hymes is. He has developed a sociosemantic approach to language and its use. The central point of his approach is the notion of 'meaning potential'. Halliday describes it as the sets of options in meaning which are available to the speaker-listener. He suggests that there are three stages which display systematic options and they are at the disposal of the speaker. In other words, a social theory determines what the speaker can do, what he can mean and what he can say. The significance of this approach lies in the fact that linguistic form is being approached in a different way, that is from the standpoint of meaning (Munby, 1978).

Approaches to Language Syllabus Design

A variety of approaches to language teaching has been seen in the past thirty years or so. The difference between them lies in the methods rather than the content. There has been a remarkable stability in the principles that underlie the choice of what is to be taught and how this material should be ordered.

Grammatical Syllabuses

The idea of the 'grammatical syllabus' was fully described by Mackey (1965) and also by Halliday, McIntosh and Strevens (1964). According to the grammatical syllabus units of language were defined in grammatical terms. Language was split into parts determined by grammatical categories of the language. The materials in such a syllabus were grouped on the basis of superficial formal criteria because language learning was thought of as a matter of acquiring the ability to produce sentence patterns automatically. The objective of linguistic grouping was to teach those items that were syntactically related to each other so that the learners could discover the underlying regularities that allow the generation of well-formed surface structures (Corder, 1973).

More recently, however, this approach to language teaching has been seriously criticized on the grounds that grammatical syllabuses seem not to lead the learners to successful communicative competence. The reason for this

failure, it is alleged, is that grammatical syllabuses do not provide the requisite conditions. The learners lack the right sort of motivation because grammatical syllabuses have unrealistic objectives. They attempt to teach the entire grammatical system despite the fact that not all parts will be equally useful to all learners. Moreover, exercises and drills used in such syllabuses are usually of little value because they consist of sentences that are grammatically similar but semantically unconnected. In other words, the bringing together of grammatically identical sentences is highly artificial, since in real communication it is sentences that are alike in meaning that occur together and not those that are alike in structure (Wilkins, 1972).

Corder (1973) also suggests that such syllabuses do not provide the learners with the meanings of the grammatical categories that are being learned or their appropriate use. Jakobovits (1970), Rivers (1972) and Widdowson (1968) make similar points arguing that the grammatical syllabuses take for granted that the communicative use of language will automatically be learned once the grammatical rules have been learned.

Mackay (1977) writes that grammatical syllabuses are characterized by concentration on the progression from simple structures to complex ones. In other words, the structures which are considered to be linguistically simpler are taught before the structures which are more complex. The use of this kind of logic in organizing a syllabus

seems to be based on linguistic descriptions of the knowledge to be acquired. Corder (1973) writes that this type of organization is a necessary but not a sufficient condition for creating an effective syllabus. We also have to take into consideration psychological constraints. What might be a logical sequence of structures in terms of some linguistic description might not be logical in psychological terms. The general belief seems to be that a simple structure is easier to learn than a complex one. And this is logical enough. However, Corder (1973) argues that we do not know that a particular structure is easier to learn and therefore should be presented first. He gives an example of the verb "to be" which is used as an auxiliary in the formation of the progressive and perfect forms. This verb is usually taught first in its function as a copula. Corder writes that there is no linguistic reason why we should not teach the forms of the auxiliary "to be" first and teach its function as a copula second. The belief that the verb "to be" should be taught as a copula first seems to derive from some notions of the relative difficulty of learning the two different functions of the verb "to be". But, according to Corder, there seems to be no clear reason why such structures as "she is studying" and "we are singing" are more difficult to learn than "she is a dancer" and "we are brave". It seems that there is a linguistic reason for teaching the verb "to be" in its function as a copula first and as an auxiliary second, and that the progressive structure requires

more transformations (+ auxiliary, + -ing form) than the copula. But it is the functional rather than linguistic grounds which make the verb "to be" as a copula before the verb "to be" as an auxiliary a dubious sequence.

Most of the text-books still widely used in second language teaching are typical examples of the grammatical syllabus. One of them is The Lado English Series (1970) which has been used in many Canadian schools both public and private, and with children as well as adults. The book claims to be an "entirely new type of text-book series for students of English as a second language" (Lado, 1970, p. 1). Its intention is not only to lead the student to a secure mastery of the material the book contains, but also to give him a firm confidence in his ability to use it. Lado writes that the goal of the series is not to teach grammar as such but to help the student use English sentences. However, when we look at the content of Book 1 for beginners, we can see that the book is based on a grammatical syllabus. In Unit 1, the students are introduced to affirmative statements "this is Philip" and "Philip is a student". On the morphological level, we start with the verb "to be" in its function as a copula. In Unit 10, the students are introduced to simple present tense "Philip speaks English", while in the last two units, 19 and 20, the students are introduced to the simple past tense "did you see the game last night?" Corder (1975) suggests that this kind of sequencing of grammatical forms seems to be

based on the notion of relative ease or difficulty found only in linguistic theory or description. He then continues that simplicity and complexity, or ease and difficulty of learning a second language are psycholinguistic problems that might be related, but not in a simple way to theoretical linguistic descriptions. In fact, simplicity or complexity of learning is only one of a number of criteria that should be used when organizing a syllabus. For example, usefulness of the items in the syllabus to the learner might also be an important factor. This would then be based on sociolinguistic considerations of the functions of language in communication and not only on the grammatical ones. The grammatical syllabus provides for the acquisition of grammatical competence and assumes either that grammatical competence is the same thing as communicative competence, or that the learner can acquire communicative competence after he has acquired the grammatical system (Wilkins, 1976).

The adequacy of grammatical syllabuses has been questioned in recent years. This does not mean that what is learned through the grammatical syllabus is of no value to the learner. It means that there should be a more adequate approach in language teaching and that language learning is not complete once the content of the grammatical syllabus has been acquired.

Situational Syllabuses

Another approach to language teaching has been much

discussed in recent years, the situational one. A number of linguists such as Widdowson (1968), Newmark and Reibel (1968) and Wilkins (1972) pointed out that language should be taught in context because language is always used in a social context and cannot be fully understood without reference to that context. Wilkins (1976) suggests that the situational syllabus is based on the fact that the situations in which the learner might find himself can be predicted. Unlike the structures grouped together in grammatical syllabuses, this type of a syllabus focusses teaching on natural situations. The structures necessary to function effectively in a situation are grammatically diverse. Mackay (1977) however, points out that although the situational syllabuses are characterized by the relation of the language to an explicitly identified situation, they can sometimes be added to the grammatical syllabuses as an afterthought. For example, L. G. Alexander's book Question and Answer (1967) deals with various situations such as "In the Park", "At the Hotel", "In a Department Store". Each situation is followed by a set of questions to be answered. In the second section, the learners are expected to ask the questions. In the third section, they either have to conduct the same dialogue or give an account of the situation. Before presenting each situation, a list of grammatical structures is given. For example, before the situation "In the Park", the auxiliary verbs "to be", "to do" and "can", the question word "what" and "yes/no" tag answers

are listed.

E. F. Candlin in his book Present Day English for Foreign Students (1962) has the same approach. After a situation is presented, purely structural exercises follow, such as "put the right pronoun into these sentences", "make these sentences negative", "make these sentences plural", etc.

The underlying belief is that because of the relevance of natural situations, the learner becomes motivated to learn the language. However, Wilkins (1976) criticises situational syllabuses because the situation can never be entirely predictable as we cannot know in advance the learner's intentions. He also argues that this type of a syllabus would be uneconomical because the learner is unlikely to be able to transfer what he has learned in one situation to other situations.

To produce a complete syllabus according to situational criteria seems to be rather difficult because of a number of problems that arise in such an attempt. First, it is necessary to define the term 'situation'. Wilkins (1972) points out that it can be defined quite narrowly in terms of physical context in which the language event occurs. For example, situations like "At the Post Office", "In the Restaurant" and so on do not create great difficulty because language interactions that take place are closely related to the situation itself. However, it would be very hard to believe that the speaker is linguistically restricted in the physical situation in which he finds

himself. What he says is what he has chosen to say and that depends on his intentions and purposes. Even in very restricted physical situations in which certain intentions are regularly expressed and certain linguistic exchanges regularly carried out, the speaker does not have to use the language which is related to the situation. For example, he might go into the store, not to buy anything, but to complain about the non-delivery of a product which he has purchased, or to ask a friend who works there whether he wants to join him for lunch. Making complaints, or inviting someone is not what one typically goes to a store for.

The making of requests, the seeking of information can take place in almost any situation. Wilkins (1976) suggests that one way in which this problem might be overcome is by extending the notion of situation to include uses of language like those just mentioned. However, if the term 'situation' is defined more widely and not just as a physical context, then it would seem practically impossible to construct a situational syllabus because it would be necessary to describe a situation which represents the world, reality, life itself. It would then seem impossible to create a situational syllabus for a general language course. Rather, it might be valuable to design such a syllabus for specific and narrowly definable contexts of learning through which learners may acquire a set of appropriate responses to that specific situation. An example of that would be a "tourist phrase-book" (Mackay, 1977).

Notional Syllabuses

In the 1970's, a new approach to language teaching aroused considerable interest. It has been called the notional, functional, communicative or semantic syllabus. Because of its focus on the communicative purpose in learning language and culture, it might prove to be one of the most acceptable approaches to both syllabus design and language teaching in general. However, it is necessary to say that the approach is only in its first stages of development. It has not yet gained general acceptance as successful by experimentation with different groups of learners, and not much has been said about the methodology to accompany this approach.

The notional approach means that we focus on the notions which the learner is expected to be able to express. He is expected to be able to communicate in the second language rather than only acquire the grammatical forms of the language or recreate the situations he has learned through a situational syllabus (Wilkins, 1976; Mackay, 1977).

The idea of using language communicatively has always been a concern of applied linguists, course designers and language teachers. In the 1970's, it was developed within the Council of Europe. Trim (1973) was the originator of the idea, while Wilkins (1972, 1976) fully developed the theoretical basis of the notional approach to language teaching. The notional syllabus, unlike the grammatical

and situational syllabuses,

takes the communicative facts of language into account from the beginning without losing sight of grammatical and situational factors. It is potentially superior to the grammatical syllabus because it will produce communicative competence and because its evident concern with the use of language will sustain the motivation of the learners. It is superior to the situational syllabus because it can ensure that the most important grammatical forms are included and because it can cover all kinds of language functions, not only those that typically occur in certain situations (Wilkins, 1976, p. 19).

Wilkins points out that most language syllabuses are derived from synthetic language-teaching strategy. That is to say, the different parts of language are taught separately and step by step, as for example in the grammatical syllabuses, which take the learner progressively through the syntactical forms of the language he is learning. However, there are language syllabuses based on an analytic language-teaching strategy in which language components are not seen as isolated building blocks which the learner must progressively master. Wilkins (1976) points out that the analytic language-teaching strategy allows for a greater variety of linguistic structure from the beginning. The analytic approaches to language teaching are organized

not only in terms of the purposes for which people are learning language, but also the kinds of language performance necessary to meet those purposes. As we are more concerned with finding a way to express what it is that people do with language, the units in an analytical approach are not labelled primarily in grammatical terms. Language behaviour, that is, what people do with language, is structurally varied and if there is no careful linguistic control, this approach to language teaching would seem to be possible only at an advanced level where we would be able to dispense with linguistic control. Thus, this would not be possible at the beginning level where linguistic control must exist although the course might be based on the notional syllabus. Wilkins (1976) is aware of the structural diversity in such syllabuses and suggests that significant linguistic generalizations have to be dealt with by isolating them so that the learner can focus upon them.

Newmark (1963) writes that the learner should be taught to use the language in a natural way, not taught linguistic forms in a synthetic way. He suggests that constant attention to grammatical form is neither necessary nor sufficient for successful language learning, while teaching language in meaningful and usable contexts is both necessary and sufficient for successful language learning.

O'Neill (1977) argues that teachers ought to be con-

cerned with both communication and the problems of learning the system behind it from the beginning and says that those who are, begin with what they think to be useful, easy, interesting and, therefore, motivating elements of language. They might, for example, be "my name is..." and "I live in...". They are chosen not only because they are accessible but also because they are useful. At the same time, the learner can use them confidently and without too much effort.

Johnson (1977) discusses the difficulty of reconciling the notional/functional and structural progression particularly at the beginning level. The course designer is always faced with the problems of including complex but common structures in the units where they have to be introduced. For example, in the unit on "Making Requests", the structure "Would you mind shutting the door?" is structurally complex. The structure "I would like you to shut the door" is considered to be simpler and, according to the grammatical syllabus, it should be taught first. However, with the notional syllabus that would not seem to be possible. A more common structure and not a simpler one would be introduced first unless we switch the order of the units to ensure that the simple structure is introduced before the more complex one. This is difficult because other units will also introduce other elements of various structural complexity and their order then would have to be taken into consideration. Johnson (1977) therefore suggests that

at the beginning level teachers should be aware of the new trends in language teaching but they should not abandon their traditional approaches, grammatical or situational, which provide them with at least some success.

Alexander (1976) speculates that there might be three possible frameworks for the beginning level. The first is the strict structural grading system which has already been extensively applied in second language teaching. The second framework, hypothetically, at least, is a syllabus based only on functions which does not provide a basis for linguistic control. Such a syllabus would fail to present essential grammar adequately. The third framework would be a notional/structural syllabus that would combine language functions and traditional structural grading. Alexander sums up by saying that the notional/structural syllabus construction should not be underestimated, and he believes that it would be feasible and more acceptable in an adult beginner's course.

Wilkins (1977) suggests that the communicative purpose for which the language is going to be acquired needs to be considered right from the beginning. He recommends that before designing a syllabus we keep the following question uppermost in mind "What is it that people want to do with language?", rather than design a course on the grammatical foundation and then ask a question "What will the language be used for?" (p. 5). The learner needs a

kind of language that would enable him to do certain things. For example, he might use language to express approval, suggestion, disagreement, etc. In other words, it is important to see what it is people want to communicate and then decide what grammatical forms of language would be appropriate for such communication.

Also, Hymes (1971), Coe (1975) and Widdowson (1973) suggested that contextual appropriateness is an important factor for effective communication. Therefore, the rules of use and language features appropriate to the relevant social context should be taught. In other words, the learner needs both grammatical and contextual competence in order to be communicatively competent and dealing only with one component would probably be incomplete and therefore invalid (Munby, 1978). Since communication takes place in definite but varied social contexts, we must take into consideration both linguistic and extralinguistic factors.

Wilkins (1977) writes that a fully notional approach to language teaching would mean the complete abandonment of the grammatical basis of learning, but such an approach has to be well justified. This can only be justified when the learner needs the second language in real life from the very first moment. An example might be a foreign student who has come to study in a country where English is a medium of communication and therefore needs it from the very beginning. Wilkins writes that it is necessary to take full account of his communication needs from an early stage

because they are urgent for him. He thinks that if we adopt a more traditional approach and try to create a grammatical foundation first, then we would be denying the possibility of real communication until some later stage. However, I think that with such an extreme approach a real beginner would find himself lost and confused, and in need of something more concrete than a set of abstract notions. It seems necessary to try to incorporate the functional idea in a form of teaching which still has a grammatical component present, and both dimensions need to be present right from the beginning. This means that the learner is provided with the necessary linguistic forms and with the language which he can use in real communication.

Wilkins (1972) was aware of grammatical, situational and notional constraints. Therefore, he suggests controlling or grading the different grammatical realizations of a given notion by means of a 'spiral' approach. The term 'spiral' means that the same resources of language are continually being used in different combinations to express different meanings. In language teaching, however, the 'linear' approach still prevails. Theoretically, items to be learned are isolated and presented one after the other. They are practised until they are learned (Howatt, 1974).

Wilkins (1972) suggests returning periodically to the already introduced items at different levels, thus increasing the learner's command. In other words, the material

studied previously is integrated with the new learning. The same or similar functions are presented in different sociocultural situations, while different functions can be presented in the same or similar situations. The structure and lexicon to be taught result from the integration of function with situation (Wilkins, 1976).

Following these theoretical ideas about second language teaching, a number of materials based on the notional principles have been published in recent years. However, none of them are purely notional because they also incorporate structural or situational characteristics, or both. An example is Kaleidoscope (English for Juniors), 1976. The six units have items such as "People and Names", "Places", "Colours and Shapes", "Where", "Signs and Signals" and "Numbers and Patterns". In the first unit, the learners are taught how to identify certain characters by name, and acquire English names of their own choice. They also learn how to count in English and conduct a simple conversation on the telephone. From the very first lesson, the teacher and the learners begin to use English in the organisation of everyday classroom affairs. Although there is no strict structural grading we can see that particular linguistic forms together with some social phrases arise from the content of each unit. For example, questions "Who's this?", statements "This is Diana" and "Diana", and commands "Hurry up!" are taught in the first unit of Kaleidoscope.

Another set of materials based on the notional principles is Gambits by Keller and Warner published in 1976 and 1977. Gambits are conversational books suitable for high intermediate and advanced groups. Over five hundred gambits are presented in the set of three modules. The first module deals with "openers". They are used to lead into something that you have on your mind. For example, the attention-getting opener would include interrupters such as "Pardon me", "Excuse me", and "Sorry".

The second module deals with "links". If you want to connect what has just been said, you might for example disagree with the speaker and you offer your opinion by saying "I think the real problem is money, not time".

The third module deals with "responders and closers". For example, if you agree with someone, you might respond like "That's right", "Okay", and "Correct". When you have to tell someone that you have to go, you might use a closer by saying "I have to run", "I must be going", and "Could you excuse me please".

Contemporary English, Book 1, 1979, by Peter Shaw et al. is also based on the notional principles. However, it is not purely notional because it incorporates structural characteristics. Each unit contains functions, for example, "requesting things", and also the structures in each unit. In the first unit, the structures are, for example, the verb "to be", indefinite and definite articles, singular nouns, numerals and prepositional phrases, such as "on",

"in", "near" and "of".

Purely notional materials, especially for real beginners have not been published yet. However, I have already mentioned that purely notional materials are unlikely to be effective for a beginning level.

Before we even discuss the appropriate teaching materials for the beginning level, and before we design a language course, we must take into account the needs of the learner. Munby (1978) writes that before deciding what to teach the learner, it is necessary to find out what his language requirements are. We must, for example, find out with whom the learner has to communicate, and we must also discover his purpose in language learning. In other words, "the specification of communication needs" (Munby, 1978, p. 24) has to be obtained before the syllabus is constructed.

I am concerned with the adult real beginner who knows no English at all. At that stage, the questions of motivation and relevance are crucial. If the course is designed to meet the learner's needs, he will probably be highly motivated because what he is learning is relevant.

The notional principles to language teaching have already been applied and courses designed for the intermediate and advanced learners, for example, at Concordia University in the Continuing Education Language Institute. My intention is to apply the notional principles and design a syllabus for real beginners, learners who have no knowledge of English and who had no previous formal training

in English as a second language.

THE PROFILE OF COMMUNICATION NEEDS

The Background to the Study

A few years ago language courses offered at the Concordia English Language Institute did not fully satisfy the students' language needs. The steady enrollment of foreign students who needed English for academic purposes demanded more appropriate courses which would prepare them for university where English is the medium of communication. General English courses were offered, and traditional, structurally-based texts such as New Horizons in English, 1975, by Lars Mellgren and Michael Walker, were used.

In 1976, a survey of language needs was carried out among the students who were in intermediate and advanced classes at the Language Institute. The report of the survey (Allen and Lemelin, 1977) showed that it was necessary to design courses which would be academically oriented. During the winter term (January-April) 1977, a reading course designed and written by the Curriculum Development Unit (Allen, Cyr, Lemelin, Long, Ricard, Spada, Vogel, 1977) was used in two pilot groups. These comprised twenty-two Venezuelan students who were at the intermediate level of Continuing Education's English as a Second Language Programme. The materials were also used in an advanced level Continuing Education class where the students were of various nation-

alities. Because all the students were planning to study either science, social science or engineering in an English-medium university, the content of the materials was designed to reflect these interests.

At the end of the course, a questionnaire, designed to obtain the students' opinions both of the course in general and of the specific units, was administered. Most of the students found the reading passages interesting and they liked reading selections with scientific content. They also expressed an interest in topics of general interest particularly those concerning Canada. Although they had many suggestions for subjects of general and scientific interest, most of the students found the variety of subject matter dealt with during the course to be satisfactory.

The reading course was considered to be only one part of a four skill programme of English language instruction for adults requiring English for academic purposes. Later in the year, a writing course was designed to accompany the reading one. However, these courses satisfied the students' language needs only at intermediate and advanced levels. The materials used in the lower levels were still traditional and structurally-based texts and the approach to language teaching was also traditional. This created the gap between the lower levels and the higher ones in which the approach to language teaching was notional. As a result, the Curriculum Development Unit (Allen, Bates, Curcin, Thibaudeau, Ullmann, 1978) wrote a set of level

objectives for the Intensive ESL Programme at Continuing Education. The level objectives specified what the students at each level were supposed to be able to do at the end of a particular level. They were designed to prepare students to enter an English-medium university. Five levels were established: low and high elementary, low and high intermediate and advanced.

Theoretical Approach

The Intensive ESL Programme at Continuing Education is an English for Academic Purposes (EAP) Programme designed to give foreign students intending to attend university special training in reading academic material, listening to lectures, participating in seminars, and writing papers and exams. The programme also provides instruction in essential study skills such as library use, scanning, skimming and note-taking.

An English for Academic Purposes course is a kind of language course for specific purposes (ESP). ESP courses are those where the syllabus and materials are determined after the analysis of the students' language needs and not by non-learner-centred criteria such as the institution's or the teacher's predetermined preference for General English or for treating English as part of a general education (Munby, 1978).

The syllabus used in all five levels is based on notional principles. This means that the focus is on

language use not on language form. The crucial question is "What will the students have to do with their English?" The level objectives are determined by the functions that the students will need, for example, giving and following instructions, seeking of factual information, asking for clarification, making requests, complaining, interrupting, generalizing, giving examples, and summarizing.

The objectives are also notional in that they do not break down into the four traditional skills, listening, speaking, reading and writing. Instead, since the emphasis of our objectives is on having the students participate in communication situations within the classroom, most activities do not isolate one skill but rather combine several. For example, newspaper reports, which are part of the activities that are implemented in the syllabus, involve reading (to find an article of interest for presentation), writing (making notes from the article), speaking (both by the student presenting the article and by those asking questions), listening (note-taking by the other students) and finally summary writing.

It is important to discuss the place of grammar in the objectives of the notional syllabus. Grammar cannot be ignored since it is necessary for any communication. What is different in the notional approach to grammar is the recognition that to know and use a language requires more than a knowledge of its grammatical form. This results in a different focus in the notional syllabus. The accurate

use of appropriate language in communication activities is considered most important, not the mere mastery of grammatical forms. The grammatical forms taught in the notional syllabus depend on what is to be done with language, what functions are to be expressed. This is reverse of a situationalized grammatical syllabus where the teaching order of grammatical items is pre-determined and these items are then contextualized in dialogues or other activities. For example, in the level objectives for a low elementary class "reporting" is listed. For this the students would need the past tense. However, this does not mean that reporting would just be another name for "past tense" although the past tense can be introduced here. In fact, there is seldom a 1-1 correspondence between form and function. For instance, cause and effect have many linguistic realizations. e.g. Because of earthquakes, many people die.

Earthquakes can result in the death of many people.

The death of many people is brought about by earthquakes.

Earthquakes result in the death of many people.

The death of many people results from earthquakes.

Recent research in language acquisition studies shows that consciously "learning" a grammatical rule is not equivalent to "acquiring" a rule. The terms "language learning" and "language acquisition" were refined by Krashen (1976). He writes that "acquisition" is a process which takes place when the child is exposed to the necessary

linguistic input during the critical period. Then complete competence in the target language (first or second) occurs. Language "learning" is a conscious process, and it is assumed that most adults do not acquire, but depend wholly on conscious learning. There is, however, some evidence that adults are able to acquire language to at least some extent when exposed to the necessary linguistic input as children are and not the rule isolation and feedback that characterizes classroom language learning (Krashen, 1976). One can learn consciously rules of grammar but may not be able to apply them appropriately in a particular situation. This is not to say that adults cannot use their conscious knowledge of rules to aid in the acquisition of the language but that the internalization of grammatical rules seems to depend to a large extent on other factors in addition to the learning of grammatical rules and the manipulation of grammatical forms. The teacher will have to introduce and review grammatical forms at all levels. Wilkins (1972) suggests that this be done by means of a "spiral" approach. Howatt (1974) explained and contrasted the terms "spiral" and "linear" and pointed out that the linear approach prevails in language teaching. (For definition of the terms "spiral" and "linear" refer to Chapter I.) However, the "spiral" approach is likely to produce more desirable results by introducing the different grammatical realizations of the same functions at different levels. The opportunity to use grammatical forms in communicative

activities that the teacher provides within the classroom allows the students to internalize the rules that they need in order to communicate successfully in English.

The Profile of Communication Needs

The notional approach to language teaching was adopted and syllabuses and materials developed for the five levels at the Language Institute. However, during the past two years, there has been a regular enrollment of foreign students who are real beginners. They have the same goals as more advanced students, that is, to enter an English-medium university. There is a need for a theoretically sound syllabus for the beginning level.

This is what needs to be done: first, to identify the students in the course; second, to find out what their needs are; and, third, to design a syllabus that reflects their language needs.

0.0 Students

Gathering the information concerning the students' identity and language is the first step in describing the students. The data relating to identity tell us the students' age, sex and nationality. The data concerning the second language are concerned with the following: the students' mother tongue, the second language he wants to learn, and the extent of his command of that language.

In order to identify a group of students who were enrolled in the Intensive ESL Programme at the Language

Institute in the winter term (January-April) 1980, a questionnaire was designed and administered. The students also took a placement test at the Language Institute which consisted of an oral interview and a composition (see Appendix I).

Students whose test results showed a zero-level command of English were placed in the beginner level. It is these beginner level students for whom the proposed syllabus is being designed.

Student Language Needs

Munby (1978) designed a model for the specification of students' language needs based on a sociocultural orientation towards communication. A profile of the students' terminal language needs will now be developed based on the variables described below:

- 1.0 Purpose
- 2.0 Setting
- 3.0 Interaction
- 4.0 Medium
- 5.0 Communicative activities and subject-matter
- 6.0 Communicative key

1.0 Purpose

This variable is concerned with the purpose for which the second language is required. The needs of the students may be divided into academic needs, where English is required for further academic study, e.g. medical students requiring English in order to understand lectures and read medical textbooks in English; and, occupational needs, where English

is required in order to perform a particular practical job, e.g. doctors requiring English to work with patients.

In the present study, we are concerned with academic needs because the specific group for which the syllabus will be designed is going to attend an English-medium university.

To determine the purpose for which the second language is required it is also necessary to find out what academic disciplines the students will go into. In other words, it is important to find out whether the students will go into mathematics, social science, biological science, engineering, etc.

2.0 Setting

This variable refers to the physical setting (Hymes, 1972). The physical setting is divided into temporal and spatial settings.

Temporal setting refers to the time in which the second language will be used. It is necessary to determine how many hours a day or week English is required and whether it is required regularly, often, occasionally or seldom.

Spatial setting refers to the place in which the second language will be used. This includes the country, the town and the place of study. The fact that all the students will stay in Canada and attend an English-medium university means that the syllabus to be designed for academic purposes will also include the social component. The social component

Subcategories of Physical Setting*

duration

temporal

frequency

Physical
Setting

country

town

spatial

place of study

*Figure 1 modified (Munby, 1978, p. 61, figure 8).

will give the students those functions necessary for communication in the following academic study situations: classroom, lecture room, laboratory, library, and private study.

Psycho-social setting refers to the environment in which the second language is used (Munby, 1978). The different types of environment are predictable from the physical setting (time and place) previously identified. Examples of different environments in which the second language might be used are urban, professional, educationally developed, etc. Information previously gathered about the students' identity, purpose and physical setting will point to the types of environment that apply in the particular case. For example, let us take a group of Iranian students in their mid-twenties, who need English for communicating in the university environment. The psycho-social setting will be culturally different, intellectual, professional, familiar physical, familiar human, demanding, formal and informal, serious, and private and public. The list of psycho-social environments in which the Iranian students will need to use English comes from the inventory of psycho-social setting devised by Munby (1978). The same inventory will be used in determining the psycho-social setting for our group of beginners at the Language Institute.

3.0 Interaction

This variable refers to the relationships that the

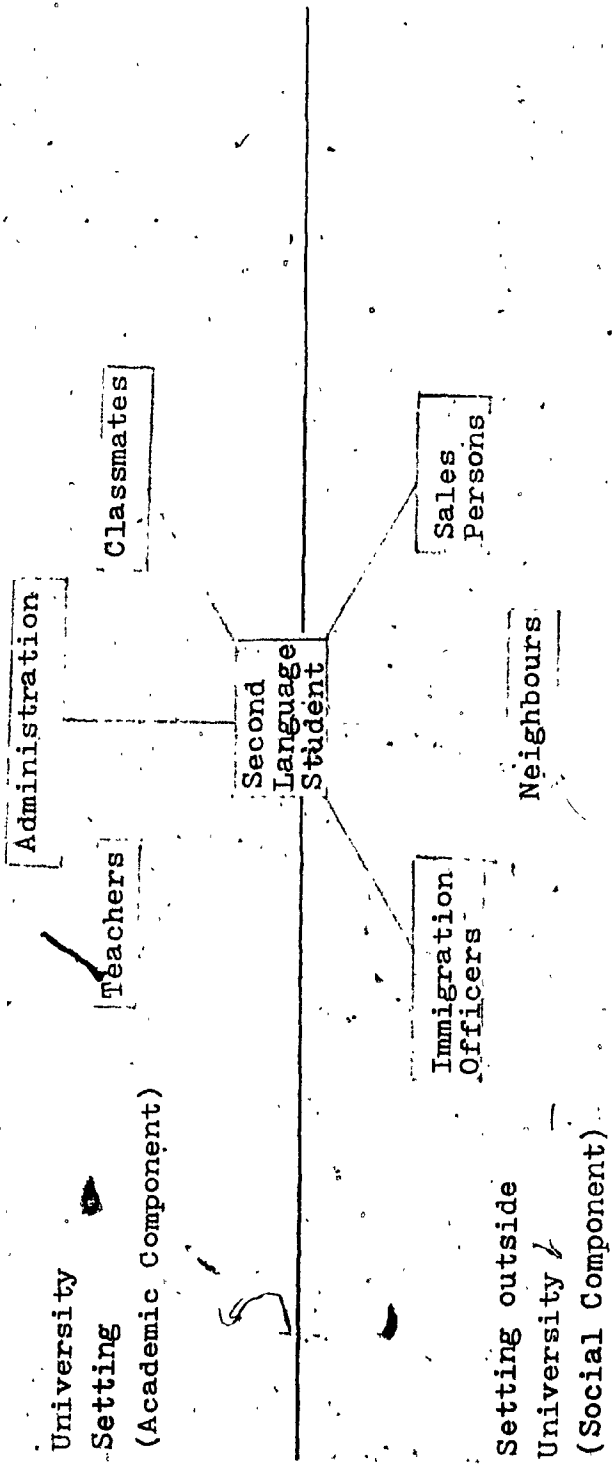
students will have with other members of the community of the second language. We already know that our group of students is university-bound.

It is also necessary to identify the members of the community that the students will interact with. In the university environment, the students will be interacting with individuals and small groups of adults, men and women, and mainly Canadians or acculturated immigrants.

The students will also interact with the members of the second language community outside the university (see figure 2 as an example of interaction).

Munby (1978) divides social relationships into asymmetrical and symmetrical relationships. The common denominator of symmetrical relations is cohesiveness. In other words, in a symmetrical relationship, there is a high degree of solidarity and familiarity. The underlying characteristic of an asymmetrical relationship, on the other hand, is mainly power of one member of the community exercising some degree of control over the other. For example, there may be differences of age, class (social or economic), occupation, etc. A relationship between an adult and a child clearly indicates that the power of one member of the community over the other is derived from his age while the relationship between two students would indicate that the cohesiveness of their relationship derives from the fact that they have the same status (Munby, 1978).

Example of Social Relationships*



*Figure 2 (modified (Munby, 1978, p. 69, figure 9)

The following list is an example of possible asymmetrical and symmetrical social relationships between the students and the members of the community.

Asymmetrical social relationships

superior - subordinate (Director of Studies - student)

native - non-native (Professor - student)

administrator - public (Admission Office - student)

adviser - advisee (University Ombudsman - student)

professional - non-professional (Librarian - student)

Symmetrical social relationships

equal - equal (student - student)

colleague - colleague (professor - professor)

group member - group member (student - student)

friend - friend (Mary - Joan)

The purpose of specifying the social relationships that are implied by the interaction of the students with the members of the second language community is to help predict the attitudinal constraints on the communicative activities in which the students have to engage (Munby, 1978).

4.0 Medium

This variable refers to the basic distinction between speaking and writing (Munby, 1978). The students' communication in the second language has to take place in either the spoken or written medium, or in both. Further,

whatever the medium, it is necessary to know whether the students have to be able to produce the second language as well as to understand it. In other words, in assessing this variable, we are deciding whether the type of competence required is productive or receptive. In fact, four specifications are possible:

- spoken - receptive
- spoken - productive
- written - receptive
- written - productive

This information is fundamental in determining the language skills that will be required by the students. For example, for a group of university-bound students, both the spoken and written forms are necessary for communication in the second language. In a university environment, spoken - receptive (listening to lectures), written - receptive (reading necessary texts) and written - productive (writing exams and papers) are more important, while spoken - productive is essential for communication in everyday situations, that is, outside the university, speaking to other students, etc.

5.0 Communicative activities and subject-matter

This variable refers to the communicative activities that the students will need in order to function in an university environment. An example of a communicative activity might be "reading intensively for all the information in the text". The language function for this par-

ticular activity might be "seeking of factual information". The language realizations might be "The radio telescope is in principle very similar to the optical telescope. In its simplest form it consists of a parabolic reflector with the primary feed or antenna at the focus..." (Close, 1965, p. 63).

The subject-matter refers to a series of topics which the students are interested in and need for future studies in the second language. Munby (1978) writes that subject-matter is the main generator of the lexical items that the students have to be able to understand or produce. For example, a history student studying reference material (standard textbooks, articles, etc.) in English, has to read intensively for all the information in the text, to read for the specific information needed to carry out an assignment, to read to find out the writer's stance on a particular issue, to read for the main information in the text. These are the activities, while the subject-matter would be topics in, let us say, the industrial revolution, the first and second world wars, etc.

The subject-matter or topics for the group of students at the Language Institute will not be selected from one particular field of study because they will all go into different fields of study and therefore their topic interests will be different. However, the fact that the majority of them will go into sciences, engineering and social science will help to narrow down the selection of the topics which

would be of general interest to the students.

6.0 Communicative key

This is the final variable in the processing of a profile of communication needs. Hymes (1972) defined the term 'key' as "the tone, manner, and spirit in which an act is done". Alexander (1975) called it 'style'. How the speakers address each other depends on their social and psychological roles. For example, speakers may address each other formally or informally, courteously or discourteously, in a friendly or unfriendly manner, depending on their relationship and their attitudes toward each other.

Munby (1978) devised an index consisting of labels in a set of attitudinal tones. The procedure is to predict from the index the likely keys for each communicative activity in which the speakers engage, in this particular case, the group of students at the Language Institute. In other words, the importance of this variable is to predict the attitudes which the students will need to recognize (R) or produce (P) when interacting with the speakers of the target language. If we take, for example, the communicative activity "interacting orally with colleagues on the subject-matters in the student's particular field of study", the likely keys will be: (P) informal, sociable, willing, active, certain-uncertain, approving-disapproving, dissenting, intelligent/thinking; (R) informal, sociable-unsociable, willing-unwilling,

intelligent/thinking, certain-uncertain, disinterested-biased, approving-disapproving, dissenting.

Conclusion

Once all the variables are applied, a profile of the terminal communication needs of a particular student or a group of students emerges. The framework for this profile is based partly on the model designed by Munby (1978) with its sociocultural orientation towards communication. This profile provides us with the information on students' terminal language needs necessary in designing the appropriate syllabus.

THE PROFILE OF COMMUNICATION NEEDS FOR THE GROUP OF STUDENTS

AT THE CONTINUING EDUCATION LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

- 0.0 Students 30 total
- 0.1 Identity
- 0.1.1 Age: between eighteen and twenty eight
- 0.1.2 Sex: 19 males and 11 females
- 0.1.3 Nationality: 15 Iranians
12 Spanish
3 other
- 0.2 Language
- 0.2.1 Mother Tongue: 15 Persian
12 Spanish (Latin American)
3 other
- 0.2.2 Target Language: English
- 0.2.3 Present level of the TL: real beginners
-
- 1.0 Purpose
- 1.1 Educational: all students
- 1.1.1 Specific academic discipline: 10 civil engineering
9 electrical engineering
3 mechanical engineering
3 computer science
3 sciences (physics and chemistry)
2 management
-

2.0 Setting2.1 Physical setting: temporal2.1.1 Duration: approximately 5 hours a day¹

2.1.2 Frequency: regularly

2.2 Physical setting: spatial

2.2.1 Country: Canada

2.2.2 Town: 26 - Montreal

4 - other

2.2.3 Place of study: university (lecture room, class-room, laboratory, library, private study)

2.3 Psycho-social
Setting:²

intellectual/thinking

professional

educationally developed

urban

public and private

familiar and unfamiliar human

familiar and unfamiliar physical

formal and informal

demanding

age/sex non-discriminating

culturally different

3.0 Interaction3.1 Position: students

¹The students will use English at the university approximately five hours a day because they will be enrolled on a full-time basis. A full-time student is someone who takes 30 credits a year of five six-credit courses.

²Munby, John. Communicative Syllabus Design, 1978, p. 64-65.

- 3.2 Members of the community (at the university):
1. teachers
 2. administrators
 3. supervisors
 4. advisers
 5. secretaries
 6. librarians
 7. colleagues

3.3 Members of the community (at the university) identity:

- 3.3.1 Number: individuals/small groups
- 3.3.2 Age: adults
- 3.3.3 Sex: mixed
- 3.3.4 Nationality: mainly Canadians or acculturated immigrants

3.4 Social relationships:

- 3.4.1 Asymmetrical:
- superior - subordinate
 - senior - junior
 - teacher - student
 - evaluator - applicant
 - administrator - public
 - adviser - advisee
 - professional - non-professional
 - native - non-native
 - older generation - younger generation
- 3.4.2 Symmetrical:
- equal - equal
 - colleague - colleague
 - group member - group member
 - competitor - competitor

classmate - classmate

friend - friend

acquaintance - acquaintance

stranger - stranger

adult - adult

own generation - own generation

4.0 Medium

4.1 spoken - receptive

4.2 spoken - productive

4.3 written - receptive

4.4 written - productive

5.0 Communicative activities and subject-matter

5.1. Communicative activities

5.1.1 Understanding lectures;

5.1.2 Interacting orally with colleagues on the subject-matters in their particular field of study;

5.1.3 Interacting orally with professors on the subject-matters in their particular field of study;

5.1.4 Discussing in seminars and workshops;

5.1.5 Reading academic material;

5.1.6 Reading intensively for all the information in the text;

5.1.7 Reading for specific information to carry out an assignment;

- 5.1.8 Reading to find out the writer's stance on a particular issue;
- 5.1.9 Reading extensively in search of information wanted from unknown sources;
- 5.1.10 Reading for main information in a text (note-taking in English, writing up notes in English);
- 5.1.11 Writing exams/lab reports/papers in their particular field of study;
- 5.2. Subject-matter¹
 - 5.2.1 environment;
 - 5.2.2 education;
 - 5.2.3 science: its nature and importance;
 - 5.2.4 science related to daily life;
 - 5.2.5 scientific discoveries;
 - 5.2.6 problems in science;
 - 5.2.7 sources of energy;
 - 5.2.8 social science (accounting, economics, administration);
 - 5.2.9 socio-economic problems;
 - 5.2.10 political problems;
 - 5.2.11 the world economic situation;
 - 5.2.12 mass media;
 - 5.2.13 languages in countries;
 - 5.2.14 Canada: Canadian government, customs, politics, literature, legal system, Canadian life;

¹With the help from their teachers and Persian and Spanish students from the advanced level, the students expressed their interest to deal with the following subjects.

6.0 Communicative keyActivitiesKey (P)Key (R)

6.1.1 Understanding
lectures

N/A¹

formal
intelligent/
thinking
authoritative
certain
resolute
interested-
disinterested

6.1.2 Interacting
orally with
other colleagues
on the subject-
matter in their
particular field
of study

informal
sociable
interested-
disinterested
willing
active/
pleasant
certain-
uncertain
approving-
disapproving
dissenting

informal
socialbe-
unsociable
interested-
disinterested
willing-
unwilling
active
pleasant-
unpleasant
certain-
uncertain
approving-
disapproving
dissenting

6.1.3 Interacting
orally with
professors on
the subject-
matter in their
particular field
of study

formal
certain-
uncertain
intelligent/
thinking
interested
willing
approving
pleasant
courteous

formal-
informal
certain/
uncertain
intelligent/
thinking
interested-
disinterested
willing-
unwilling
pleased
happy-unhappy
serious

¹Not applicable.

Activities

6.1.4 Discussing in
seminars and
workshops

Key (P)

informal
interested
willing

approving-
disapproving

active

certain-
uncertain

intelligent/
thinking

disinterested-
biased

Key (R)

informal
interested
willing-
unwilling

approving-
disapproving

active-inactive

certain-
uncertain

intelligent/
thinking

disinterested-
biased

6.1.5 to 6.1.11
do not apply here

N/A

N/A

DESIGNING THE SYLLABUS

The syllabus outline presented here is designed to serve as the first level of a course in English for academic purposes for university-bound students at the Continuing Education Language Institute of Concordia University. The entire syllabus of the course is based on the profile of students' terminal language needs as identified in the previous chapter. For pedagogic and administrative reasons, the syllabus of the course is divided into six levels: beginner, low elementary, high elementary, low intermediate, high intermediate, and advanced. Students can test into the programme at any level.

When the students complete the advanced level, their terminal language needs will have been achieved. Here, however, I will deal with the syllabus for the beginner level only. The syllabus constructed for this level is the first step toward fulfilling the students' terminal language needs.

Although this is an English for Academic Purposes Programme, at this level of language learning it seems necessary to start with the 'social' component of the syllabus while the 'academic' component will be introduced later on. The reason for starting with the 'social' component first is that, although these students are university-bound and their language needs are academic, they have no knowledge

of the target language; they have never had any formal instruction in the target language in their countries; they have had little if any informal exposure to the target language; and they were placed in the beginner level after taking the placement test at the Continuing Education Language Institute. In other words, it would seem necessary for the students to receive formal instruction which would help them to communicate with the members of the target language community in everyday situations. Once the students are able to fulfil the basic language functions found in the 'social' component of the syllabus, they will be exposed to some of the functions, the ones that seem relevant, useful and appropriate in the 'academic' component of the syllabus. With those language functions they should be able to engage in communication in the university environment.

To summarize, the beginner level syllabus will comprise two components, the 'social' component and the 'academic' component. This level is introductory because it requires no previous knowledge of the target language, and its content is neutral with respect to a particular student's particular academic discipline. In other words, the content of the syllabus will not deal with topics related to, for example, engineering, computer science or management.

Although I have suggested the division of the beginner level syllabus into 'social' and 'academic' components, I will restrict myself to the syllabus content for the

'social' component only because the work involved in the 'academic' component is beyond the scope of this paper.

The Description of the Objectives.

We can divide the objectives into two categories. The first category deals with the general objectives of the entire course. There are two general objectives. First, at the end of the advanced level, students should be able to participate in everyday communication with other members of the community. Secondly, they should be able to function appropriately in the university environment.

The second category deals with the beginner level objectives. Terminal objectives for the beginner level are expressed in terms of the language functions which the students should be able to use (Wilkins, 1976; van Ek, 1976; Munby, 1978). They are "giving and requesting factual information", "socializing", "suasion (getting things done)", "expressing opinions", "expressing feelings", and "expressing judgements" (see figure 3 below).

In terms of the subject-matter or topics, the students should be able to function in respect to the ones listed under the 'social' component of the syllabus.

Social component:

1. Personal identification
2. House and home
3. Education and future career
4. Free time, entertainment

Description of the Objectives

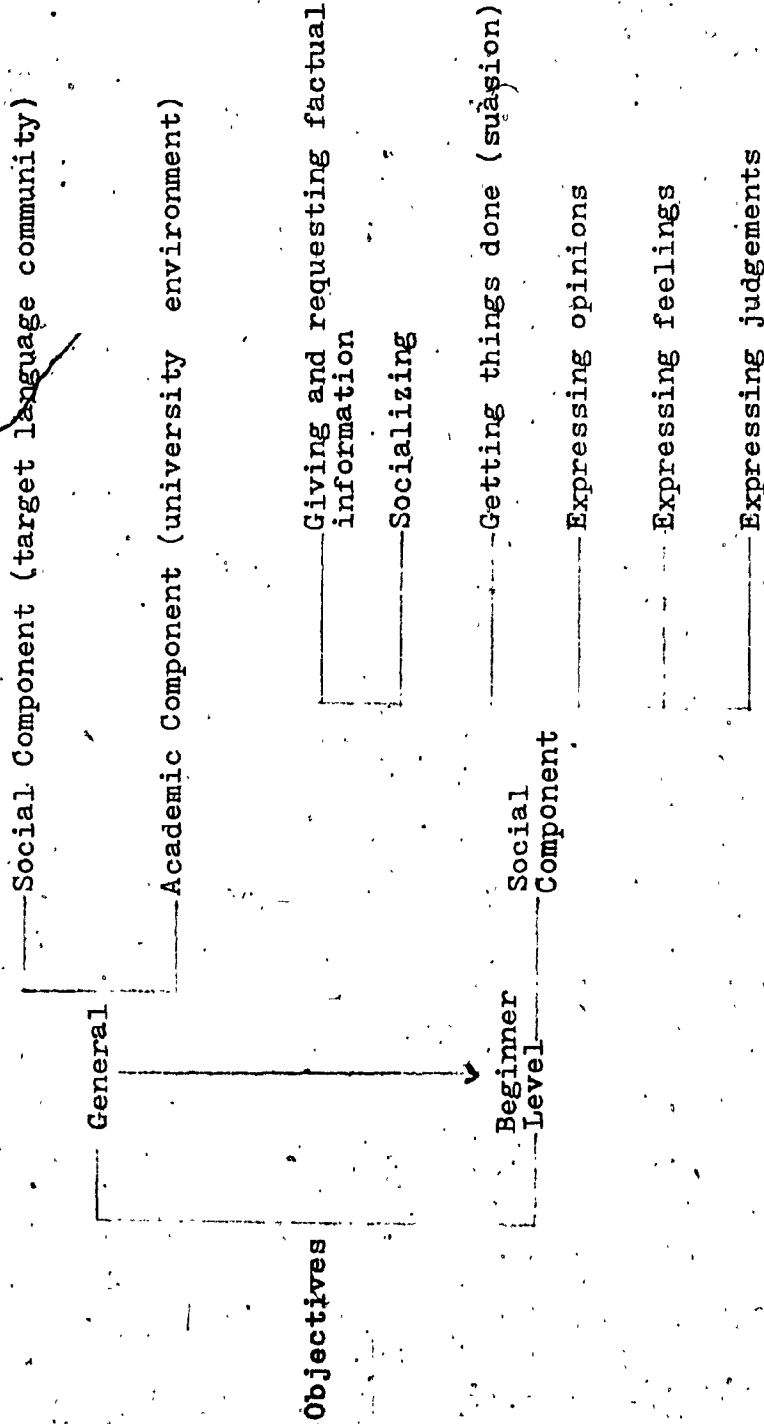


Figure 3

5. Travel
6. Local transportation
7. Shopping
8. Food and drink
9. Services
10. Places
11. Relations with other people
12. Health and welfare

Selection of the topics found in the 'social' component of the syllabus is based on van Ek's selection of topics in his book The Threshold Level for Modern Language Learning in Schools (1976). They were selected because they are very general and cover a wide area of social life.

The Beginner Level Objectives

1. The students should be able to understand and also to express factual information.
2. The students should be able to understand and also to express themselves when socializing with other people.
3. The students should be able to understand and also to express suasion.
4. The students should be able to understand and also to express opinions.
5. The students should be able to understand and also to express feelings.

6. The students should be able to understand and also to express judgements.

In order to reach these objectives the students should be exposed to positive attitudes towards second language learning and also to the culture of the target language community.

Level Objective 1

The students should be able to understand and to express factual information.

1.1

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding and Expressing Personal Identification	name	spoken: receptive	formal - informal	formal - informal	First/last name I'm...
	age	spoken: productive			I'm... 22... 22 years old
	date and place of birth	written: receptive			I was born on/in...
	address	written: productive			2055 St. Mathieu... It's... I live... ...in...
	telephone number				It's... 283-4850...
	sex				male/female
	marital status				I'm... married/single

1.1

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding and Expressing Personal Identification	nationality origin education occupation/ profession	spoken: receptive spoken: productive written: receptive written: productive	formal - informal	formal - informal	I'm... I'm from... I'm a... college/ university student. I study... I learn... I take courses... There are... There is a... course in... I go to Mr./Mrs./Ms./Miss ... is my... teacher I'm... I'm going to be a... I was a... I work in a...

-1.2

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding and Expressing Identification of others	family and friends	spoken: receptive spoken: productive written: receptive written: productive	informal	informal	I have... parents mother father sister brother son daughter baby/child grandparents grandmother grandfather husband wife uncle aunt cousins niece nephew my father/mother... He's... She's... Peter's my/our...

1.2

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding and Expressing Identification of others	family and friends	spoken: receptive spoken: productive written: receptive written: productive	informal	informal	That's... my friend... Mary Jones: Mary and John are my/our friends.

1.4

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding a Request for Identification and Asking for Identification	name date and place of birth address	spoken: receptive spoken: productive written: receptive written: productive	formal - informal interested sociable friendly	formal - informal interested	What's your/his/her name? How old are you? How old is Peter? When were you born? Where were you born?
Asking for Identification	address	written: productive			What's your/John's/their address? Where do you live? Where does Mary live?
	telephone				What's your/Peter's phone (telephone) number?
	marital status				Are you single/married? Is Mary...
	nationality				Are you... What nationality are you?
	origin				Where are you from?

I.4

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding a Request for Identification and Asking for Identification	name places: location	spoken: receptive spoken: productive written: receptive written: productive	formal - informal interested	formal - informal interested	What's this? What's that? What is it? What's this in English? Where's... Where are...

1.5

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
<p>Understanding a Request for Identification of others and Asking for Identification of others</p>	<p>family and friends</p>	<p>spoken: receptive spoken: productive written: receptive written: productive</p>	<p>informal interested sociable friendly</p>	<p>informal interested</p>	<p>Do you have... Have you... Who's... What's...</p>

1.6

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding Descriptions and Describing	physical characteristics: people (family, neighbours, friends...) places location	spoken: receptive spoken: productive written: receptive written: productive	formal - informal	formal - informal	Peter is short... Mary is fat... John is tall... Susan is thin... Her eyes are blue/green/black... He's very young/old... It's a small apartment... It's an old store. It's a new building. It's the big one. I live on the corner of... It's near/far/ beside/close to/ next to/ just up (down) the street/ over there/in/at/on/under/... ...far from... North/South/East/West...

1.7

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
<p>Understanding a Request for Descriptions and Asking for Descriptions</p>	<p>people: physical characteristics age relationships state</p>	<p>spoken: receptive spoken: productive written: receptive written: productive</p>	<p>informal interested pleasant sociable courteous</p>	<p>informal interested</p>	<p>What does Peter look like? Is Peter... What colour is his hair? ...are his eyes? Is Mary old/young... How old is Mary? Is she your mother/sister... Mary's your friend, right? John and Mary are your friends, aren't they? Who's he/she/that? Is Mary angry? Are they tired? Was he sorry? He's angry, right?</p>

1.7

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding a Request for Descriptions and Asking for Descriptions	actions location things	spoken: receptive spoken: productive written: receptive written: productive	informal interested pleasant	informal interested	What's Peter doing? Can Mary cook? Did John go home? Where's... Where are... Is it... How far... What's it like? Is it... Are they... What is it? What's it look like? How large/big/small is... Does it have... How many... What colour/size/shape...

1.8.

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding Reporting and Reporting	open category	spoken: receptive spoken: productive written: receptive written: productive	formal - informal certain	informal certain	Yesterday... Last night... Last summer... Last month... Last year... Last week... Two days ago... I went... We visited... Peter came... I was... We were... I had...

1.9

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding a Request for a Report and Asking for a Report	open category	spoken: receptive spoken: productive written: receptive written: productive	informal interested	informal interested	Did you... Were you... Was he... Did you have... What did you do? Where did you go last night... When did you... How long...

1.10

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding Narration and Narrating	open category narration	written: receptive written: productive	formal - informal	formal - informal	Mr. Johnson went home at six o'clock. He was very tired. He was also very hungry. His wife prepared the dinner and he was very glad. After dinner he wanted to watch television. But he did not. He was sleepy. So, he went to bed at nine o'clock. First... Then/next... Second/third... Finally... He was sleeping... They were playing/talking/writing/reading...
	sequence of events				
	actions				

1.12

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)		LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding a Request for Clarification	open category		formal - informal polite courteous - discourteous	formal - informal polite courteous discourteous	Pardon? Could you repeat that, please? Could you say that again? What? What did you say? Say that again?

Level Objective 2

The students should be able to understand
and to express themselves when socializing
with other people.

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)		LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding Greetings and Expressing Greetings	Relationships with other people	spoken: receptive spoken: productive	formal - informal pleasant - unpleasant	formal - informal polite - impolite friendly	Hello... Hi... Good morning... Good afternoon... Good evening... How are you? I'm fine, thank you. How are you? Fine, thanks... Very well, thanks.

2.2

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding Introductions and Introducing	Relation-ships with other people	spoken: receptive spoken: productive	formal - informal pleasant polite friendly	formal - informal pleasant polite friendly	This is... I'd like you to meet... May I introduce you to... Let me introduce Mary to you... Meet John... I want you to meet Peter... Mary... I'm Mary... My name's Mary...

2.3

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding Farewells and Expressing Farewells	Relation-ships with other people	spoken: receptive spoken: productive	formal - informal pleasant polite friendly	formal - informal pleasant polite friendly	Bye... Good bye... See you... See you tomorrow/ next week... Must go now... Got to go... I have to go now... So long...

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding Gratitude and Expressing Gratitude	Relationships with other people	spoken: receptive spoken: productive	polite courteous respectful formal - informal grateful	polite courteous respect- full formal - informal grateful	Thank you... Thanks... Thank you very much Thanks very much Thanks a lot

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding Apology and Expressing Apology	Relationships with other people	spoken: receptive spoken: productive	formal - informal polite	formal - informal polite	Sorry... I'm sorry... I'm very sorry... Excuse me... Please forgive me... Excuse me, please.

Level Objective 3

The students should be able to understand
and to express suasion.

3.1

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
<p>Understanding or instructions or directions of others and instructing or directing others to do something</p>	<p>Relationships with other people</p> <p>places</p>	<p>spoken: receptive</p> <p>spoken: productive</p>	<p>formal - informal</p> <p>polite - impolite</p> <p>kind - unkind</p> <p>firm</p>	<p>formal - informal</p> <p>polite</p> <p>kind</p> <p>firm</p>	<p>Stand...</p> <p>Sit...</p> <p>Give me/Peter...</p> <p>Take it...</p> <p>Do it...</p> <p>Get it...</p> <p>...read/write...</p> <p>Show me...</p> <p>Be quiet (please).</p> <p>Go...</p> <p>Go two blocks/streets...</p> <p>Turn right/left...</p> <p>Continue north/south/east/west...</p> <p>Stop near the...</p> <p>Drive to...</p> <p>Take the next street left...</p>

3.2

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understand Warnings and Express Warnings	Relationships with other people	spoken: receptive spoken: productive	authoritative	authoritative	Look out! Be careful! Don't... Don't do that... You'd better I wouldn't if I were you... I don't think you should... Watch it!

6

3.3

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding Suggestions and Giving Suggestions	Relation-ships with other people	spoken: receptive spoken: productive	formal - informal polite	formal - informal polite	Let's... How about... What about... You should... Why don't you... I can recommend...

3.4

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding Offer to assist and Express Offer to assist	Relationships with other people	spoken: receptive spoken: productive	formal - informal polite caring willing	formal - informal polite	Can I help you? Let me help you? Want me to help you? Need a hand? I'll give you a hand.

3.5

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)		LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
<p>Understanding Requests for Assistance and Expressing Requests for Assistance</p>	<p>Relationships with other people</p>	<p>spoken: receptive spoken: productive</p>	<p>formal - informal polite - impolite authoritative</p>	<p>formal - informal polite</p>	<p>Help! Can you help me, please? Help me! Give me a hand. Don't just stand there.</p>

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	- ATTITUDINAL TONES (R) (P)		LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding a Request for Capability and Asking about Capability	open category	spoken: receptive spoken: productive, written: receptive written: productive	uncertain polite	uncertain polite	Can you... Can she... Can Peter come today? Do you know how to... Does John know how to...

4.7

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding Certainty/ Uncertainty and Expressing Certainty/ Uncertainty	open category	spoken: receptive spoken: productive written: receptive written: productive	certain - uncertain	certain - uncertain	I'm sure. I'm certain. I think so. I'm not sure. I'm not certain. I know... I don't know... I don't think so. Maybe... Perhaps...

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding a Request about Certainty/ Uncertainty and Asking about Certainty/ Uncertainty	open category	spoken: receptive spoken: productive written: receptive	uncertain	uncertain	Are you sure? Are you quite sure? Is he certain? Do you think so? Maybe? Aren't you sure? Do you know... Does she know...

4.9

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding Obligation and Expressing Obligation	Relationships with other people actions	spoken: receptive spoken: productive written: receptive written: productive	authoritative firm convincing	authoritative firm	I must... Peter must... I have to... You really have to... Mary has to... John has to study... They have to learn English well. They must study hard.

4.10.

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R) (P)		LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding a Request for Obligation and Asking about Obligation.	Relationships with other people actions	spoken: receptive spoken: productive written: receptive	uncertain	uncertain	Must I... Must we... Do I have to... Does she have to... Do we really have to...

4.11

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R) (P)		LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding a Request for Permission and Asking for Permission	Relationships with other people activities	spoken: receptive spoken: productive written: receptive	polite kind respectful	polite kind respectful	Can I... Can we... May I stay? Is it O.K.? Is it all right if she stays? Do you mind if...

Level Objective 5

The students should be able to understand
and to express feelings.

5.1

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding Likes/Dislikes and Expressing Likes/Dislikes	people places things activity	spoken: receptive spoken: productive written: receptive written: productive	certain loving - hating	certain loving - hating	I like... He likes... Yes, I like him! I love... She loves... They like him very much. I don't like... He doesn't like... They dislike... I hate... He hates... I like cakes. He doesn't like fruit. They hate spinach. I like skiing. He doesn't like swimming very much. They hate hockey. He likes taking courses at... She loves reading.

5.2

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding Inquiring about Likes/Dislikes and Inquiring about Likes/Dislikes	people places things activity	spoken: receptive spoken: productive written: receptive written: productive	uncertain	uncertain	Do you like...? Does Peter like...? Who do you...? What place do you...? Where do you like to live? Do you like to live in...? Where does John like to...? Do you like...? What do you like...? ...the most... What does John like for...? What would you like for...? Is it nice? Do you like skiing? What does he like do do? What would you like to do?

5.3

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
<p>Understanding and Expressing Surprise</p>	<p>Relationships with other people</p>	<p>spoken: receptive spoken: productive</p>	<p>surprised astonished fascinated amazed</p>	<p>surprised</p>	<p>...oh! ...wow! ...really! ...what! What did you say! It can't be! ...how nice. It's surprising. What a surprise.</p>

5.4

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding Satisfaction/ Disatisfaction and Expressing Satisfaction/ Disatisfaction	Relationships with other people	spoken: receptive spoken: productive	satisfied - dissatisfied delighted disappointed	satisfied dissatisfied sfied	This is very nice. It's all right now. Great! Terrific! That's... I'm satisfied. Oh no! Too bad! That's too bad/horrible/terrible. I don't like it at all.

5.5

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding Preference and Expressing Preference	people place things activity	spoken: receptive spoken: productive written: receptive written: productive	certain honest	certain	I like... He prefers... John! John is better than Tim. I like Peter more than Tim. Montreal! ...more than... movies more than theatre... I like chicken. He prefers fish. engineering! Engineering is more interesting than... He likes sports more than dancing. She prefers reading.

5.6

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding Inquiring about Preference and Inquiring about Preference	people place things activity	spoken: receptive spoken: productive written: receptive written: productive	uncertain interested	uncertain interested	...Peter or Tim? Do you prefer... or... Does he like... or... Who do you like more/better... ...Montreal or your town? Which place do you prefer/like more? Which film do you like more...or... Which one does John like more? Which one? coffee or tea? engineering or computer science? Which one? Does he like... or... Which one do you prefer.

5.7

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding Want/Desire and Express Want/Desire	activity thing people	spoken: receptive spoken: productive written: receptive written: productive	certain wishful	certain wishful	I want... He wants... We wish...could I would like... He'd like... I want to study medicine. He'd like to become a doctor. She'd like to pass the test. John wants a new car. I wish I had a vacation. I'd like to be like John.

5.8

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding Inquiring about Want/Desire and Inquiring about Want/Desire	thing house food drink clothes, etc. activity quality quantity	spoken: receptive spoken: productive written: receptive written: productive	uncertain interested	uncertain interested	Want a new car? Does he want a place of his own? What do you want for... What did Mary say she wants? What does he want? Do you want... Want to... What do you want to do? Does he want to... Do you want to... What colour do you want? What kind? What size? How many? How much? How many courses do you want to take?

5.9

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding Intention and Expressing Intention	activity open category	spoken: receptive spoken: productive written: receptive written: productive	certain firm	certain	...going to... I'm going to... He's going to study management. I intend to... I will talk to John.

5.10

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding Inquiring about Intention and Inquiring about Intention	activity open category	spoken: receptive spoken: productive written: receptive written: productive	uncertain interested	uncertain interested	Are you going to...? Will you ...? Do you intend to...? Is John going to his country soon? Does he intend to stay there? Will you visit him? Are you going to see him tomorrow? Do you intend to tell him about...?

Level Objective 6

The students should be able to understand
and to express judgements.

6.1

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
Understanding Approval/ Disapproval and Expressing Approval/ Disapproval	Relationships with other people	spoken: receptive -spoken: productive	approving - disapproving	approving - disapproving	Good! Very good! That's fine... That's O.K. That's all right. It's... Excellent! Great! Yes/Oh yeah... No... It's not nice. It's not very nice. That's bad. That's not very good.

6.2

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	TOPICS	MEDIUM	ATTITUDINAL TONES (R)	ATTITUDINAL TONES (P)	LANGUAGE REALIZATIONS
<p>Understanding Granting Forgiveness and Granting Forgiveness</p>	<p>Relationships with other people</p>	<p>spoken: receptive spoken: productive</p>	<p>formal - informal forgiving</p>	<p>formal - informal forgiving</p>	<p>That's all right. It doesn't matter. That's O.K. I forgive you.</p>

The Teaching of Grammar at the Beginner Level

Teaching of grammar at the beginner level is only part of the objective. The reason is that the students need to acquire only those grammatical patterns which they will use immediately in the context of communication. The following grammatical categories were selected only after specifying the syllabus content. They are presented here to serve as a guide to teachers who are teaching at the beginner level.

Grammatical Categories

Sentence Types

1. Declarative sentences (subject - predicate - complement)
 - a) affirmative and negative.
2. Interrogative sentences:
 - a) yes/no questions
 - b) question-word sentences
3. Imperative sentences:
 - a) commands
 - b) polite requests

Sentence Complexity

1. Simple sentences
2. Compound sentences:
 - a) "and"
 - b) "or"
 - c) without conjunction

Nouns

Number

1. Singular

2. Plural

Adjectives

Form

1. Positive degree

2. Comparative degree (-er, more); irregular forms

3. Superlative degree (-est, most); irregular forms

Adverbs

Form

1. Non-derived adverbs, e.g. soon, fast

Articles

1. Indefinite article: a(n)

2. Definite article: the

3. Absence of definite article "the"

Verbs

Types

1. Main verbs

2. Copula: be

3. Auxiliaries: be, have, be going to, will, do

4. Modals: can, could, may, must, have to, will, would

Forms

1. Finite forms

2. Infinitive

3. Imperative

4. Present participle/gerund

Aspect

1. Simple and continuous

Tense

1. Present
2. Past
3. Future: be going to, will

Pronouns

1. Personal
2. Possessive:
 - a) adjectives: my, your, his, her, its, our, their
 - b) pronouns: mine, yours, his, hers, its, ours, theirs
3. Demonstrative:
 - a) adjectives: this, that, these, those
 - b) pronouns: this, that, these, those
4. Interrogative:
 - a) adjectives: what, which
 - b) pronouns: who, what, which
6. Indefinite: all, some, any
7. Propword: one (I like to write one better.)

Numerals

1. Cardinal
2. Ordinal
3. Also: half, quarter

Classroom Techniques

In order to fulfil the terminal objectives of the beginner level several classroom techniques are proposed. In addition to the developing of language forms, these techniques appear to be more student-centred and less teacher-controlled; the student is given more freedom and opportunities to develop the ability to convey a message; less emphasis would be placed on the correction of errors; the student is given more opportunities to communicate in the target language (Bosquet, 1980).

Technique A:

Purpose: to enable students to participate in oral and written activities involving reporting and description.

Description:

- a) giving and understanding a short account of activities.
- b) understanding both oral and written descriptions of people, places, and situations.
- c) the production of these descriptions in written paragraph form using:
 - i) indentation
 - ii) capitalization
 - iii) punctuation.

Technique B:

Purpose: to prepare students to read and understand

short graded passages.

Description:

- a) answering comprehension questions based on the reading.
- b) giving evidence for their choice from the reading passage.
- c) doing short written exercises on the reading.

Technique C:

Purpose: to enable students to understand semi-contextualized material, short passages and dialogues.

Description:

- a) understanding and recording letters of the alphabet, numbers, dates, and space and time relationships.
- b) answering comprehension questions based on short passages.

Technique D:

Purpose: to teach students to follow instructions and to practice communicative activities in pairs or small groups inside and outside the classroom.

Description:

- a) understanding and carrying out instructions.
- b) gathering information by reading, asking questions and listening.

- c) presenting this information in oral and/or written form.

Technique E:

Purpose: to prepare students to participate (listen and speak) in common social exchanges.

Description:

a) participating in everyday situations. For example:

- i) shopping
- ii) looking for a place to stay
- iii) using the post office
- iv) at the bank
- v) at a restaurant
- vi) going to the movies
- vii) at a party
- viii) at the immigration office
- ix) at the health centre
- x) at the university information desk
- xi) in the admissions office
- xii) at the accounts office
- xiii) in the library, etc.

Teaching Materials

In order to select or create appropriate materials for the beginner level it is necessary to gather relevant information which will constitute a coherent objective profile of those materials (Bosquet, 1980). We can divide teaching materials into two categories. The first category consists

of commercially produced materials. They are created and developed by experts in the field of second language teaching. The second category consists of teaching and learning materials that can be created, developed and produced by the second language teachers. Those produced commercially are usually used as the main texts in the course while those produced by the teachers are usually used as supplementary materials.

In order to be suitable, teaching materials have to reflect the approach. In this case, we need materials that would very likely produce communicative and functional interaction patterns and will suggest such techniques as tasks, role-playing, simulation games, etc.

A sample of teacher-produced materials that might be used as supplementary at the beginner level is given in Appendix II. The first one is a sample paragraph which might be used to prepare students to read and understand short graded passages. In the exercises that follow, students are asked to look for information in the reading passage and give their answers in written form. The other sample materials might be used to prepare students to follow instructions and gather information by reading, asking questions and listening. This information can then be presented in oral or written form.

The purpose of both commercially produced materials and teacher created ones is to develop the students' communicative competence and facilitate the attainment of the level

objectives.

Conclusion

This thesis has dealt with the specification of the syllabus content based on the information gathered about the learners and their communication needs. The learner and his language requirements have been closely examined. However, further research to evaluate the reliability of certain aspects of the language requirements variable is necessary. This especially refers to those parts where decisions had to be made according to the subjective judgement of the syllabus designer.

It is also necessary to point out that the implementation of the syllabus would be constrained because other variables besides the one examined in this paper, have to be taken into account. For example, the socio-political variable which is concerned with the attitude of government, the status of the target language and so on, has to be examined. Another important variable refers to learner's motivation and his expectations. The methodological variable is concerned with the selection, adaptation, and production of suitable materials, for example. We cannot ignore the fact that teacher training is also important to take into account. Therefore, in order to implement a syllabus we have to deal with other variables as well. Finally, a point worth mentioning is that this paper has been concerned with the sociolinguistic orientation towards syllabus design which allows for more relevant and appropriate specification of the syllabus itself.

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APPENDIX I

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITYCELI

Placement Interviewers' Information Sheet - July, 1980.

Students will come to you after having seen a short animated film. They will also have been asked to write about the film and will consequently have had a chance to formulate their thoughts and impressions about it.

The oral interview consists of two parts:

- A. (Questions 1-6) biographical and background personal information.
- B. (Question 7) free speaking - describe the film.

Please evaluate them on a scale of 1-4 according to the criteria below. It is important to note that the communicative-functional approach of our syllabus makes it appropriate to evaluate the students according to their ability to communicate their thoughts coherently rather than on their use of grammatically exact form.

Please also note that the interviewers' comments in Question 8 and the interviewers' initials are very helpful in placing the students and standardizing evaluations.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 1. (Beg.) Extensive repetition, sign language and consultation of friends necessary to communicate i.e. raw beginners.
- 2. (Elem.) Repetition (rephrasing), slowing down are necessary to communicate. Student speaks haltingly, i.e. elementary.
- 3. (Inter.) Understands with minimum of rephrasing and repetition, can be understood fairly well, accent does not impede communication, i.e. intermediate.
- 4. (Adv.) Understands well, communicates easily, i.e. advanced.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
CELI PLACEMENT INTERVIEWER'S FORM

INTENSIVE
SEMI
EVENING

COMMENTS

1. NAME _____ SEX _____
(UNDERLINE FAMILY NAME) AGE _____

2. COUNTRY _____ LANGUAGE(S) _____

3. PREVIOUS STUDY OR CONTACT WITH ENGLISH
WHERE _____
FOR HOW LONG _____

4. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND (HIGHEST LEVEL COMPLETED) _____

5. REASON FOR STUDYING ENGLISH (CHECK THE MAIN REASON ONLY AND
GIVE DETAILS)

- ACADEMIC _____
- BUSINESS _____
- GENERAL _____

1 2 3 4

6. HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT CONCORDIA'S ENGLISH PROGRAMME?

7. DESCRIPTION OF FILM

1 2 3 4

8. COMMENTS OR OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE STUDENT (shy, fluent,
gregarious, etc.) _____

APPENDIX II

CANADA

Canada is a big country in North America. It occupies 3,851,809 square miles and it is the second largest country in the world. There are ten provinces and two territories in Canada. Ottawa is the national capital. The population is about 22 million. People have come here from many different countries, so they speak many different languages, i.e. Italian, Greek, Spanish, etc. English and French are the official languages in Canada. It is a beautiful country and I love it.

- Analysis:
1. How many sentences are there in this paragraph?
 2. How many main ideas are there?
 3. How many "capital" letters are there?
 4. How many verbs are there?

Exercise:

1. What is the title of this paragraph? Do you think it is a good one? Give it a different one.
2. What is the first (introductory) sentence? Write it.
3. What is the last (concluding) sentence? Write it.
4. How many facts are there about Canada? List them in sequence.
5. List any new vocabulary you have noticed.
6. Change the first sentence to start with, "There is...".
7. Change the verb in the third sentence.
8. Rewrite the fifth sentence. Don't use the word "population".
9. Rewrite the sixth sentence as three separate ones.

TASK

NAME _____

Look at the map of Canada and find the answers to these questions:

1. How many provinces are there in Canada?
2. How many Northern Territories are there?
3. How many provinces are islands?
4. What is the capital of Canada?
5. What is the name of the big island off the coast of British Columbia?
6. What provinces are east of Quebec?
7. What province does Labrador belong to?
8. What province is west of Manitoba?
9. What province is south of Quebec?
10. What country is south of Canada?
11. What is the capital of Alberta?
12. Name 4 cities in Ontario.
13. Name 2 Great Lakes.
14. What is the name of the largest river in Quebec?
15. What is the capital of Quebec?

TASK

NAME _____

Your friend has a broken arm and can't write. Your arm is not broken so you are going to fill out your friend's identification card for him (or her).

Find a partner and write down all the information you need to complete the card.

IDENTIFICATION CARD

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

CITY.....PROVINCE.....

POSTAL CODE.....TELEPHONE NO.....

DATE OF BIRTH.....PLACE OF BIRTH.....

HEIGHT.....WEIGHT.....

COLOUR OF HAIR.....

COLOUR OF EYES.....

NEXT OF KIN.....

ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN.....

.....

TASK

NAME _____

The following people are looking for housing. Look through the ads for rental accomodation with your partner. Find housing that would help these people. Place the number of the ad on the right side of you paper.

1. Family with 5 children. Father works as a clerk downtown. Needs housing immediately. _____
2. University student. Single female. Smokes. Has very little money. Will be in Montreal for 3 years. _____
3. Newly-married couple. Both professionals. Have a dog. Have their own fridge and stove. _____
4. Famous drummer with a rock band. Single male. Needs lots of space for his instruments. Practices every day. _____
5. Student. Single woman. New immigrant. Has a part-time job at night so she sleeps irregular hours. _____
6. Single mother on welfare*. Has 2 small children. _____

* on welfare: receiving financial help from government

PEEL PLAZA

3460 Peel

Right above Sherbrooke A few luxurious alcoves and 1 bedroom apartments available for immediate or later occupancy Please call

288-3173

PEEL / Sherbrooke Large 3 1/2 \$325 844-8401, 489-9462

PINE 454

West of Park Avenue large spacious apartments high ceilings beautifully finished floors Now taking applications for May 31 4, 5 1/2, 7 1/2 rooms available 843-7782

QUIET apartment hotel in downtown Montreal close to Metro. Voyageur bus terminal and public parks Parking is available in the vicinity Moderate daily and weekly rates available upon request For information please call 521-5264 Or write to Hotel La Residence 847 Sherbrooke St East Montreal, Que H2L 1K6

Sherbrooke & Bleury

368 Sherbrooke West Apts 3 1/2 rooms heated hot water, stove and fridge supplied \$170 - \$200 monthly Call 937-1484

STANLEY COURT

1431 Stanley (Courtyard) Above Ste Catherine Choice bright 1 1/2 and 2 1/2 room apts., freshly decorated Moderate rental yearly leases Apply after 3 p.m. Supt premises or 288-7081

SUBLET 3 1/2 air-conditioning electricity paid western exposure \$260, 9 month lease immediate 933-1490 after 6

SUBLET, Durocher and Milton, May 1st 4 1/2 \$280 per month, negotiable, option to renew 845-9862

SUBLET, large 1 1/2 highrise on Ste. Famille, swimming pool, sauna, night doorman, May to September, \$190 844-2141 after 7 p.m.

SUBLET 4 1/2, June to September, Peel Plaza Apartments, utilities, cable TV, air conditioned pool, sauna included renewal parking available \$487, 288-3173

SUBLET, 3 1/2, Alwater and Du Maisonneuve luxury highrise, central air electric paid May 1st occupancy Option to renew 937-7178

SUBLET large alcove, 9th floor, pool, sauna, grocery store in building 3440 Durocher \$215 monthly, all facilities Call 288-5692

ST. MARC 1438 1 1/2, \$145 T.V., all included, Janitor 932-7502

ST. MARC, 2 1/2 rooms and 3 1/2 rooms carpeted, furnished or unfurnished, \$165 and up, immediate 747-7913 747-7908

ST. MARK near de Maisonneuve, 1 1/2, 2 1/2, 3 1/2, 4 1/2, Close to Metro bus, electricity, heating paid, 484-0828 932-4503

Downtown

LE ROCHEFORT Place Henri Dunant (1225 Sussex)

Facing Henri Dunant Park (South of Alwater Metro) Near hospitals Alexis Nihon Center and Forum, Modern highrise, fireproof, roof top swimming pool, sauna. Alcoves, furnished and unfurnished. Taxes included. Unfurnished 3 1/2 Unobstructed view of the St Lawrence River Open daily 1225 Sussex, 933-1168

MARCO POLO

1 1/2 and 3 1/2 apartments, garage available Immediate occupancy 931-7403

METRO BEAUBIEN, 4 1/2, renovated parking \$150 Electric heating Call 694-1138

NEAR Forum 2 rooms furnished or unfurnished near Metro shopping all conveniences Possible 932-1015

NEAR McGill University, large townhouse beginning of century entirely renovated (1 room (5 bedrooms) fully equipped, fireplace parking lot \$1000, plus heating electricity water tax, immediate occupancy References requested, 935-7151

NUNS ISLAND, Sublet 3 1/2 in highrise river view, balcony, pool, sauna, parking May 1st, \$282 Days 874-8978 Evenings 781-2833

NUNS ISLAND studio sublet, indoor pool, parking, May, 464-2418, 769-2855

NUNS ISLAND, Sublet 3 1/2 room apt, highrise bldg, pool, sauna, parking, \$280 monthly, immediate 787-8311

NUNS ISLAND, large studio to sublet, \$180 767-5684, after 5 p.m.

NUNS ISLAND, Sublet 4 1/2, balcony, indoor parking \$250 00, David Fox 392-8334, 9-6 p.m., 789-9036 evenings

OLD MONTREAL Viger, St Denis Handsome gray stone building Metro nearby Bright 2 1/2 \$165, everything paid, 845-4987, 843-8128

OLD MONTREAL loft apartment and studio 3,200 ft 937-9000

OXFORD above Sherbrooke 20 room, self-contained duplex 4 bathrooms 2 fireplaces verathaned floors, natural woodwork, stained glass windows, laundry room, large work shop, \$1,000 488-1090

PARK AVENUE Mount royal, 4 1/2, stove fridge Call between 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., 273-8903 Mr Lebel

PEEL PLAZA 2 bedrooms 2 bathrooms, 20th floor, sunny, beautiful view, sublet May 1 to September 1 \$590 monthly, 288-9088

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Côte St. Luc

- 31 **ASHDALE HOUSE** (Earle Road) bright 3 1/2 and 4 1/2 apartments with 2 complete bathrooms, outdoor pool, sauna in highrise building 489-1335, 845-2285
- 32 **ATTRACTIVE** quiet 3 1/2, May 1st and July 1st, equipped heated, pool, taxes paid 489-2480
- 33 **ATTRACTIVE**, 3 1/2, 4 1/2, 2 months free Reasonable rent, 489-7686.
- 34 **BACHELOR**, 2 1/2, semi basement everything included private entrance \$160 487-4378
- 35 **BRAND** new 5 1/2 condominium apartment opposite Cavendish Mall heated air conditioned garage, 2 bathrooms all services paid \$775 486-4604 evenings weekends
- 36 **BRAND NEW** custom built 7 1/2 upper 2 bathrooms May, June 487-4796
- 37 **BRIERCLIFF** luxurious 5 1/2 condominium apartment, near Cavendish Mall fully air conditioned garage 2 baths doorman, swimming pool sauna \$700, Occupancy May, Contact Margaret, day 384-0161 night
- BRIGHT** 3 1/2, newly painted, equipped, janitor service, laundry room, reasonable. 481-2148.
- 38 **BRIGHT**, luxurious 5705 Westminster corner Guelph facing park large 3 1/2 4 1/2 private balcony newly equipped and decorated Excellent shopping and transportation \$190-\$285 273-3619, 487-3919

CASTEL ROYAL

- 39 4 1/2 3 1/2 2 Luxurious highrise, swimming pool sauna whirlpool exercise rooms etc 487-5664 Even 486 8095
- 40 **CLOVER ROAD** upper duplex, 8 1/2, Rent \$575 July 1st 487-3130
- 41 **COTE ST LUC** Emerald 5615 modern, painted, elevator, 3 1/2, 4 1/2 \$210 and up taxes paid 656-9882, 488-6677, afternoons 487-5208
- 42 **COTE ST. LUC** Rd. 6060 (Hampton) 2 1/2 rooms balcony, elevator 66 bus \$185 Supt
- 43 **COTE ST. LUC**, Guelph luxurious bachelor in duplex, fully equipped 688-6861
- 44 **COTE ST LUC** Cavendish New luxurious 6 1/2 condominium May 488-6596
- 45 **COTE ST. LUC RD.** 5770 4 1/2 5 1/2 large rooms May 1st occupancy 739-3476, 486-7674
- 46 **COTE ST LUC** and Cavendish modern 4 1/2 apartment \$375 Electricity included May 1st 487-2681 7-11 p.m.
- 47 **COTE ST. LUC** Rd Corner Hampton Fully equipped 3 1/2 \$190 4 1/2 \$220 488-1532
- 48 **COTE ST. LUC ROAD** 6775 elevator building modern large 3 1/2 balcony \$200 taxes included 488-8900
- 49 **CRANBROOKE** 5455, Côte St. Luc, 3 1/2, 4 1/2, heated, elevator, 278-1391.

Jowntown

- ABOVE SHERBROOKE** Stanley Street 3 1/2 4 1/2 731-9624
- ATTRACTIVE** Dr Penfield furnished 3 1/2 air conditioned balcony swimming pool garage doorman May to October \$425 References 9-5-6445
- ATWATER AREA**, 1 1/2, modern furnished \$165, 933-0704
- ATWATER-GUY AREA** Beautiful studio apartments Just renovated, well maintained charming older buildings Modern bath-rooms, kitchen's Some furnished Great value from \$135 to \$200 2 1/2, 3 1/2, 4 1/2 from \$175-\$335 932-6841
- ATWATER METRO** furnished 4 bedroom house 3800 monthly Immediate occupancy 866-2412 local 418
- ATWATER** 3015 Sherbrooke St W 1 1/2 2 1/2 4 1/2 Clean equipped, elevator, laundromat 937-1301
- ATWATER METRO** 1 1/2 furnished, weekly \$35 937 7617
- ATWATER AREA** Gorgeous 2 bedroom apartment Quiet street. All modern conveniences Bright and sunny \$300 Call Hannah Buxton 462-9122 288-6594
Whitehead Relocan Broker
- AYLMER** 3525, 1 1/2 2 1/2, near McGill University, painted, furnished, heated, electricity included, elevator, 843-3265.
- BACHELOR APARTMENT**, everything included \$135 monthly 2046 Mountain St. management
- BASEMENT** apartment 3 1/2, partially furnished \$190 monthly Immediate, 284-1078 evenings
- BEAUTIFUL** penthouse, 4 1/2 large balcony covering 3 rooms, sublet May 1st 3580 Lorne Ave \$350 all included 284-1320 844-4380
- BOURRET** 4645 4 1/2, May 1, July 1 Equipped elevator excellent location 737-1910 487-7779
- CENTRALLY** located downtown furnished or unfurnished bachelors, 4 1/2 and alcoves including fridge and stove electricity One month free Please call 844-6856
- CENTRAL** near McGill University 1 1/2 everything paid \$120 844-4542

CENTRAL

Summerhill Ave.
1575-1555

- 3 1/2 4 1/2 rooms \$240 \$280 \$290 Modern bright semi-private rooms Modern conveniences & elevator Apply Supt 935 7274 933-2222
- CHARMING** quiet 5 1/2 heated, interesting layout sublet May 1st Option to renew \$300 937-1287
- CHARMING** 3 1/2, 1935 Tupper Unfurnished \$175 heated 932-5845
- CHATEAU LAROCQUE**, 1436 Mackay St at Guy Metro Beautiful 3 1/2 highrise air-conditioned electricity paid 934-0186 935-9768
- CHATEAUNEUF** 1260 Dr Penfield 1 & 2 bedroom apartment furnished or unfurnished 843-8263

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