

696 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

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O.E.O. CONTRACT # 1209 CODE # 0200

TITLE: Study of the Relationship Between Language Deviations and  
Cognitive Processes

GROUP CONDUCTING STUDY: Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan

TIME SPAN: March 16, 1966 to April 15, 1967

CURRENT STATUS: In Process-Contract extended to July 15th; three  
progress reports completed, final report due July 15, 1967

Purpose: To conduct a study of the relationship between language and learning processes in Job Corpsmen and a control group of lower-class workers by:

- Determining structure of language that subjects employ
- Determining way in which different subjects use conceptual categories implicit in Standard White English - e.g. time, space
- Finding whether employment record or race has a greater effect on language differences
- Finding a new technique for teaching Standard White English as a "foreign language" to non-verbal youths

Method : Contractor will study the above by:

- Examining four groups of 10-20 subjects:
  - Negro and White Job Corps Enrollees
  - Negro and White workers, unskilled and semi-skilled, in Detroit area
- Conducting with each subject free conversation, conversation about concrete objects, conversation about an experience shared by the subject and interviewer, communication of instructions, and telephone conversation (to eliminate communication by gesture, facial expression, etc.) to determine subject's use of words about time, quantity, cause and activity.
- Developing a technique for teaching standard English to a subgroup by emphasizing the practical need for learning standard English, without degrading the form of English used by the sub-group. Particular emphasis on teaching by concrete objects and situations
- Testing these teaching methods on groups of Job Corps youth

Form of Report: Four progress reports, including tables of raw data, and a final written report, including a program for teaching Standard English to non-verbal groups.

Further Information: Evaluation & Research Branch, Job Corps