SPEECH OF THE ALIENS - 2

P. M. H. Edwards

Dr. Edwards is Professor of Linguistics at the University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

In the first three parts, which comprised the first section of this article, we looked at (I) cases where the Beings allegedly spoke the language of the witnesses; (II) cases where certain E.T. words were reported; (III) cases where the witnesses merely reported that the aliens' language was unintelligible. Now for the final part, followed by general conclusions.

Part IV—Cases where witnesses later attempted to imitate or describe the alien sounds.

26. August 20, 1954, Mosjöen, Norway. Miss Edith Jacobsen said the alien began to talk unintelligibly in a language that didn't resemble any language she had heard—and she had some knowledge of the sounds of English, German, Spanish, French, and Russian. She added that the stranger's language sounded soft and melodious, apparently possessing but few consonants, and no gutturals at all.²⁷

27. November 6, 1957, Dante, Tenn. Mr. E. Clark claims he saw three ET beings who talked *like German soldiers*. Presumably, this is intended to convey the

impression of sharp, staccato, harsh speech.28

28. December 15, 1957, near São Francisco de Sales, Brazil, and less than one week before Mrs. Mendonca's incident on the road to Ponte Porã (see C. E. Lorenzen's book "The Great Flying Hoax", Wm-Frederick Press, New York 1962; p.137). The farmer Antônio Villas-Boas (formerly referred to in the literature as 'Adhemar') says the aliens spoke among themselves in a strident sort of language, which he could affirm was certainly not Syrian or Japanese (two languages spoken in his part of Brazil by recent immigrants). He said his own speech surprised the aliens, for they stopped and peered attentively at his face every time he spoke.

Their speech, he says, bore no resemblance to human speech, for they talked in growls, almost but not quite like dogs. The grunts, he says, were emitted slowly, being neither high-pitched nor too low; some were longer, others shorter, sometimes containing several different sounds at the same time, at other times ending in a tremor. They were like animal growls, and there was absolutely nothing that could be taken for a syllable or a word, in a foreign language. It all sounded the same to him, and it baffled him how those people could understand each other. He added the memory of those sounds still make him shiver, he could not even try to reproduce them, as his vocal organs are not made for them.

He says that, after the grunts had ceased, they seemed to come to a decision, and proceeded to undress him. Those who were growling took him to a door, above which he saw some strange scribble-like inscriptions

in bright red-lettering, in relief.29

29. November, 1958, near Tarland, 60 miles from Aberdeen, Scotland. During army manoeuvres, two

youths were left to hold a hilltop during the night. In the very early hours, at the first hint of dawn, they heard "gurgling" noises from behind some trees, only a few hundred yards from their position. They went to investigate, and saw two beings about 7 or 8ft. tall, stumbling clumsily towards them, using a guttural language.³⁰

30. In 1961, Betty and Barney Hill (cf. John G. Fuller's book "The Interrupted Journey") said the beings spoke to each other in sounds like "M-m-m-m-m."³¹

31. April 24, 1964, Tioga City, N.Y. Mr. G. Wilcox described the speech of two 4ft. beings as smooth and effortless English, the sounds coming from the body, rather than the head.³² (See case 3)

32. May, 1964, Colonia Castelli, near Resistencia, Argentina. Señor Alberto Kalbermatter, driving a truck, almost ran down a huge, dark, human-like being, 3 metres tall, which had abundant black hair. It emitted a guttural cry of tremendous volume,³³

33. July 16, 1964, Conklin, N.Y. Five boys saw a being the size of a little boy, and could not understand what he said. He made peculiar noises as though they came out of a pipe; these they described as similar to the noise made by a 'kazoo'. (The hapless ufonaut

might have been burping.)34

34. A few years ago, a West Calgary (Alta.) youngster had a traumatic experience with alien beings, which cannot be publicly described as yet. However, when he was asked, under hypnosis, to describe the aliens' speech, he loudly made a "B-z-z-z-z, B-z-z-z-z" type of sound, which bears resemblance to the sound described in the previous case, above: (July 16, 1964).

35. July 1, 1965, Valensole, France. M. M. Masse said the two small beings made *gurgling sounds* from their throats;³⁵ (see Case 14). In another account, the sound is described as being like *grumbling noises from*

their middles!36

36. July 26, 1965, Carazinho (RGS), Brazil. Senhor A. B. Azevedo described the speech of five 1.50m. beings as nothing like he'd ever heard in his life. They spoke within earshot for five minutes, and it sounded like a *very sibilant language*.³⁷

37. September 20, 1965, Pichaca, Perú. A girl saw six 90cms. beings talking incomprehensibly, and sound-

ing like the cackling of geese.38

38. August 23, 1965, Lugrin, France. A man saw two small beings in a silvery dress, grunting like pigs.³⁹

39. November 8, 1965, Monza, Italy. A man saw figures in light colours and transparent helmets, who were communicating with *guttural sounds*. 40

40. July 18, 1967, near Doubs, France. M. Joelle Ravier and three others saw four beings at Les Gravières, who were 1 metre tall, black, with potato-

shaped heads, inflated bellies, and who flew away at an incredible speed after speaking to each other in a

musical language.41

41. February 7, 1969, Pirassununga, Brazil. Senhor Tiago Machado, who met two aliens, could not understand the noises which they made: a tube projecting down from the area of the chins seemed to be where their *hoarse*, *guttural sounds* were coming from. When he lit a cigarette, they began to *laugh*, and he saw their teeth were dark.⁴²

42. July 28, 1968, St. Stanislas de Kostka, Canada. Five teenagers saw an ugly creature with skin covered with knobs: it made a sound like the mooing of a

cow.43

Conclusions

a. Taking the evidence for *Part I*-type incidents as a whole (including the many cases not dealt with here, of course), I accept, with reservations, accounts where aliens speak terrestrial languages. Such accounts fall

into at least two categories:

(a) The so-called Evangelical Contactee Fringe; and (b) Cases where witnesses *think* (cf. Betty Hill, and Richard Kehoe) that they were addressed in their native vernacular. Until much more cogent evidence becomes available, I believe we should place accounts of this type on ice, neither believing nor disbelieving them.

Those who believe that the aliens can learn languages merely by tapping our TV programmes, are probably crediting them with exaggerated powers. It is far more likely that they may be learning terrestrial languages from the numerous people whom they have seemingly

been abducting, over the years.

Other people imagine that Earth has been infiltrated by aliens who are thus learning our languages. Aside from the immense body of evidence indicating the strange, unworldly appearance of the ufonauts, it is hardly likely that another race would have developed along similar lines to our own, in separation, to the extent that they could mingle freely with us, without being detected.

Of course, the possibility exists—theoretically, at any rate—that they may have succeeded in producing 'people' similar to ourselves, by some form of cross-breeding with their own kind: but no evidence for this is forthcoming at the moment, to my knowledge.

b. (Part II) As can be seen, we seem to possess an extremely small "vocabulary" of allegedly alien words:

i /misima/(or, if interpreted by a Briton:/misimar/)
 ii /misisi/. These words are said to be probably some form of greeting, according to the contactee.

iii /ñanapodo/)
iv /jabohusita/ } (meaning unknown!)

v /alamo/said to mean our 'Sun'.

vi /orke/said to indicate the 7th planet's orbit (?).

vii /sil/said to mean 'machine', or UFO.

viii /rempaua/or perhaps/rempaua/

ix /abaura/or perhaps/abaura/. These words may possibly indicate thanks. (Cf. Case 8, above).

This is hardly sufficient for formulating any theories, even assuming that the reports containing the words are accurate, and true. Moreover, the witnesses have given us no information on Stress, so that we do not know which syllables bear the emphasis, or Stress, in the above items.

c. (Part IV) Regarding the highly subjective and disparate descriptions which we have, very few apparent

facts emerge:

Many diphthongs and very few consonants, Nasal; Sung rather than spoken.

than spoken. (Case 5. Soft and melodious with very few

consonants, and no gutturals at all.

ii Musical language, quite pleasant (Cases 6 and 40.

V Guttural language. (Cases 29.

v Sibilant language. 32, 41. (Case 36.

vi Strident language. (Case 28. vii Grunts and growls. (Cases 28, 38.

viii Gurgling sounds and grumblings. (Cases 14, 29, 35.

ix Harsh, staccato speech. (Case 27. x Like the cackling of geese. (Case 37.

xi Like a 'kazoo', or "B-z-z-z-z". (Cases 33, perhaps 34.

xii Like "M-m-m-m-m-m". (Case 30. xiii Differently-pitched voices. (Cases 4, 23.

xiv A foreign accent. (Cases 1, 2, 7.

xv Sounded like English. (Cases 2, 12.

xvi Sounds came from the face. (Case 24. xvii Sounds came from the body. (Cases 3, 30, 35.

xviii Smiles, laughter. (Cases 13, 35, 41.

xix Like the mooing of a cow.

(Case 42.

Case 26.

We all know how the average monolingual person, of rather low education, tends to describe how a foreign language sounds to his ears. One of the most frequent words used by such people, I have found, is "guttural"; this is how many people describe strings of unfamiliar sounds, while probably ignoring what 'gutturals' really are. English abounds in guttural, velar, or laryngeal sounds (e.g. k, g, h,) yet we would hardly describe our language as 'guttural'; this is because we are familiar with it. Our unfamiliarity with sounds like the German fricative guttural ch (as in the name ach), and the Arabic ach sound (as in the name ach), cause us to describe those sounds and languages as 'guttural'. It is merely a case of the Pot calling the Kettle 'black'.

Therefore one accepts the descriptions of non-linguistically trained witnesses with a generous serving of salt. There are on Earth some 4,000 languages and many dialects; some of these can be described as having "many diphthongs and very few consonants, others have literally dozens of consonants and only a vowel or two (cf. Caucasian languages). Some sound 'melodious' (cf. Estonian and Swedish, etc.), others sound sibilant (cf. Polish, etc.); to my knowledge, there are, however, no terrestrial languages that sound like

growls, grunts, grumblings, or gurglings, or like 'kazoos', or like the cackling of geese. It is descriptions of this kind that one finds intriguing, and even probably reliable, together—perhaps—with those that report the aliens as speaking a terrestrial language with difficulty, or

with a foreign accent.

We have been led to believe, on the basis of the accumulated large corpus of evidence, that we are perhaps being visited by different races: we can therefore presumably expect a diversity of alien languages, especially if they come from a number of worlds. The birds of Earth range from tiny sparrows to ostriches and the (extinct?) New Zealand giant moas: we are therefore not yet in a position to assert that our visitors, because of their different sizes, appearance and behaviour, necessarily originate from several worlds. A Martian, were he visited by a white man, a negro, an eskimo, a pygmy, an oriental and a South Amerindian. -all, of course, speaking different languages-might find it hard to believe that they all come from this one world of ours.

e. Several millions of our own people are actively trying to encourage us to acquire some knowledge of an auxiliary world-language called Esperanto, to facilitate communication; and an excellent language it is, because anyone can learn to read it in a few weeks, and it is capable of expressing all our thoughts accurately and efficiently; it is even agreeable to the ear. Perhaps our visitors have already achieved this kind of linguistic

unity: we do not know, yet.

f. Next time a talking contact is made, if ever-be ready for it, with some simple questions, like the names of parts of the body and of clothing, and simple objects. Pointing at objects is a gesture that can be misunderstood by some cultures; missionaries found that they were getting the same word for everything they pointed to. Finally, they realized that the word they were repeatedly given, was the native word for 'indexfinger'. In that part of the world, one stuck out one's tongue to point at any object one wished to discuss . . .

I suggest that one pick up a stone, a leaf, a flower, a stick, etc., and say the words slowly and clearly, listening for the alien terms if these are forthcoming-and the position of the stress should be noted on the syllable which bears the apparent emphasis. The drawing of sun and planets can hardly achieve much, especially if the visitors come—as Professor H. Oberth is said to believe—from another solar system; if this is true, such diagrams will only be misleading.

g. Finally, from the evidence we possess, we tend to disbelieve those who would have us think that the aliens use telepathy, or are morally superior to ourselves, or only use sweet-sounding languages; such descriptions remind us of the wishful-thinking of the Evangelical Fringe. This, however, does not mean to imply that we refute evidence of hypnosis and mind-control, of which

there is a quantity in the general literature.

NOTES

 FSR I-4, p. 6.
 Lorenzen, C. E.: in The Humanoids (1966), p. 56.
 Creighton, G.: in FSR XI-1, p. 16; FSR XII-5, p. 22; and The Humanoids (1969 enlarged Neville Spearman edition, p.200) Lorenzen, C. and J.: Flying Saucer Occupants (Signet Book T 3205, 1967), p. 48.

Dutta, Reginald: in FSR IX-2, p. 32; also FSR V-3, p. 5; and Bowen, C. A: The Humanoids (1966), p. 4.

Lorenzen, C. and J.: Flying Saucer Occupants p. 79 (see NOTE 29,

above).

32 Lorenzen, C. E.: in *The Humanoids* (1966), p. 59; and Schwarz, B. E.: in *UFO Percipients* p. 20.

33 Creighton, G.: *The Humanoids* (1966) p. 39.

34 Lorenzen, C. E.: *Ibid.*, p. 59.

35 Creighton, G. (translator): in FSR XII-3, p. 23 (reply by "Mr. G. C.", the French Magistrate, to Luis Schönherr's questionnaire).

the French Magistrate, to Luis Schönherr's questionnaire).

Michel, Aimé: and Bowen, C. A.: in FSR XIV-1, p. 7; and G. E. P. A. (Paris): in FSR XI-6, p. 5.

Creighton, G.: in The Humanoids (1966), p. 41.

Creighton, G.: Ibid., p. 44.

Vallée, Jacques: Ibid., p. 10.

Vallée, Jacques: Ibid., p. 19.

Bowen, C. A.: in FSR XIV-3, p. 18.

A.P.R.O. Bulletin (March-April 1969), p. 5; and Rimes, Nigel A.: UFO Percipients, p. 39.

Creighton, G.: in FSR XV-3, p. 20.

PERSONAL COLUMN

(Rates: first three lines 10s., each additional line, or part, 5s. -\$1.50 for three lines minimum, and 50c. each additional line.)

WANTED . . . references or general information on the landings at Snyders Lake (N.Y.) and Jonesville (Virginia), very briefly mentioned in FSR for March/April 1963, p.12. Also, any information on the observations of Mr. Galbraith (of Canada) in 1948. Please address reply to Jacques Vallée, c/o this Review.

CONTACT (U.K.) holds monthly lecture and discussion meetings invariably once every month at the Caxton Hall, Westminster. Details from Anne Paterson, 413a Upper Richmond Road, London SW15.

LINK-UP brings news, information and opinions from UFO groups. 5s. for four issues, from J. Goddard, 43 Walton Bridge Road, Shepperton, Middlesex.

UFO CHRONICLE . . . Get this factual quarterly magazine for 10s. (\$2.00) per annum. H. E. Hill, 26 Churchside, Vigo Village, near Meopham, Kent, England.

Flying Saucers without Fantasy! SPACELINK is packed with facts, photos, an unrivalled reference section and keeps you in touch with the saucer scene and meeting dates. Sample 3s. 6d., 4 issues 13s. 6d. Foreign 14s. or \$2.00. Miss Christine Henning, SK.Sub-Dept., 99 Mayday Gardens, London SE3.

THE REFERENCE BOOK OF UFO SOUNDS by Dan Butcher is unique. This 36-page quarto publication is packed with references and is now available at 3s. from SIGAP, 23 Coatham Place, Cranleigh, Surrey.

SOUTH YORKS UFO STUDY GROUP. Anyone interested in forming such a group in this area, contact Mr. T. Driver, 3 Kingston Road, Intake, Doncaster, Yorks.

WANTED: the book, "The reference for outstanding UFO sighting reports". Write to Mr. Becquereau, 53 ave du Belloy, 78 le Vesinet, France.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES FOR SALE

Recent additions FLYING SAUCERS HAVE LANDED, by G. Adamski and Desmond Leslie (1970 up-dated edition)
GODS OR SPACEMEN? by W. Raymond Drake
OPERATION EARTH, by B. Le Poer Trench
VIEW OVER ATLANTIS, by John Michell 43/6 31/6 37/-TRUE REPORT ON F.S. No. 5/-Ray Palmer's FLYING SAUCERS (U.S.A.) 5/bi-monthly. Annual subscription:
SAUCERS, SPACE & SCIENCE (Canada)
SPACELINK 3/6 4 issues 13/6 28/-5/-Overseas 14/-PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE Free List LIONEL BEER (SBI7), 15 FRESHWATER COU CRAWFORD STREET, LONDON WIH IHS COURT,