

APPENDIX V

INSTRUCTIONS USED IN THE PILOT-TESTING SESSIONS

We are interested to know how well you can learn a foreign language. These tests are very important, and so we urge you to do your best.

You should have been given two things:

One, a sharpened pencil. Check to make sure you have one. (Pause)

Two, a paper stand with a small booklet of blank pages of different colors inserted in it. Check to be sure that you have this stand.

(Pause)

Now you will be asked to fill in some information on the first page of this stand.

First, print your name in the following order: Last name, first name, and middle initial. (Pause)

Then, put down your sex and after that your age.

Next indicate whether you are freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior, and indicate also your semester.

Last, print your major subject.

Now turn the page.

Now, listen to the procedure of this experiment very carefully.

This film will first show you the different pairs of English and Russian words which you are to learn today. Each time a pair of English and Russian words will appear on the screen. It may or may not be illustrated by pictures. In this way, you will see, in the first section of the film, all the English and Russian words you are going to learn.

(Show card.) Here is an example of what you will see. (Pause)

In this way, all the different pairs of English and Russian words

which you are to learn will be shown to you in the first section of the film. The first section of the film is to give you a general idea of the kind of words you are going to learn. In the second section of the film you will start using the pencil and the paper stand. This part of the film will consist of a number of repetitions of the different words which will have been shown to you in the first section. But here the idea is to test how well you are progressing in learning each pair of English and Russian words. For instance, in the first section, you saw this pair of words. (Show card with both words.)

Now, in the second section of the film you will not see both these words on the screen at the same time. But, instead, at first, you will see only the English word on your left side of the screen. Thus, you will see: (Show card with English word.)

After this word disappears from the screen, there will be nothing on the screen for a few seconds except a graph-like impression. During this time of the graph-like impression, you are only to think of the Russian word for the English word but you are not to write at this time. When the screen becomes completely white, and only then, print the Russian word in capital letters in the pages of your paper stand. You will start printing these words on the pages after the first page. You will put only one word on a page and you will use only one side of the page, the right side of the page. Your spelling of the word will be taken into consideration to decide if your answer is right or wrong.

Now for practice (cover the Russian on card, then show the Russian) print the Russian word on your page. Now turn that page and you will be ready for the first word you will have to write from the film. You should now have a blue page.

Don't talk with each other: Don't look at what your neighbor is writing.

After you have written each word and turned the page, the original pair of English and Russian words will appear on the screen and remain there for a few seconds.

You are to make no corrections at this time. You must turn your page immediately after writing your answer and before the answer appears on the screen.

Thus, in the second section of this film, each time you will see the English word first - for a few seconds. Following that there will be a graph-like impression on the screen.

After that, there will be nothing on the screen for a few seconds except bright light. During this time, you are to write down on the next page the Russian word corresponding to the English word which was on the screen before. Then you turn that page over to the left side of the stand. Remember to turn the page every time, whether you are able to print the Russian word or not. If you do not know the answer put a dash on that page. You must do all this quickly while the screen is white and before the original pair of English and Russian words appear on the screen. Let me repeat. (Repeat the last sentence.)

Do not talk with one another and do not look at your neighbor's work. You will be penalized if you do.

This then is the general procedure.

Any questions?

We don't expect that you will get all the answers right the first time. But all of you will do better with increasing repetitions. But you should try to do your best from the beginning.

Now, you will see the first section of the film. (5 min.)

The first section is now complete.

The second section will now begin. Be sure to start using the pencil and paper stand for this section. Ready, now, for the second section.

A few of the following questions were asked of the students at the end of the session, according to the amount of time at their disposal. The purpose of these questions was just to make a spot-check on several circumstances connected with the testing situation without attempting a quantitative analysis of the students' responses:

1. Were the instructions too brief, too long, etc.?
2. Were you able to see adequately what you were writing?
3. Did you have too little time to write?
4. Did you find this experiment too boring or tiring?
5. Did you know any Russian before seeing these films?
6. Do you have any other suggestions or criticisms?
7. What devices did you use for remembering the words?
8. Did you find the situation more interesting as you continued?
9. Is it too tiring to work through all the repetitions of the films?