

DISCUSSION ON PAPER 29

DR. GOOD brought up the subject of frequency counts, as being a branch of the mechanical analysis of language. He said that if in a sample of a population (i.e. a text) the total number of words is N , and if the number of distinct words in it that occur once and only once each is n_1 , then the probability that the next word sampled will be a new one is n_1/N .

MR. NEEDHAM asked whether Mr. Levison had considered the use of "random superimposed coding" for getting crude frequency counts without any sorting. He and Mr. Levison agreed to discuss the matter privately after the session.

A. F. R. BROWN