20th July, 1954.

My dear Dawson,

I was glad to get your letter, as always, and to look through your draft.

I think everyone, including Darlington, would agree that he has not proved a causal relation between blood group O and the linguistic peculiarities of the peoples with a high proportion of this gene. Very likely he has expressed himself over-confidently, as indeed is his custom, but a paper written merely to say this would be rathercaptious.

On the point with which you particularly take issue, namely that there is a genetic basis for linguistic and particularly dialectic peculiarities, the case is much stronger than the "man of straw" which you choose to attack. I do not know whether you have considered, for example, the evidence provided by the mispronunciations of children. In England, and it would need research to say whether this was also true of other TH countries, small children still use a TH sound, voiced or unvoiced, when trying to imitate a sibilant, and in other cases, in imitation of an F or V. Of course, parents and nurses often use mispronounced 'baby talk' which the babies imitate, but I suppose you will not ascribe the tendency of children to mispronounce, exclusively to this cause.
For my own part, I should like to see a scholarly comparison of the mispronunciations common in France, Spain, Germany and Russia, to see whether children of different racial types have similar difficulties in pronouncing their respective languages.

Conversation books for the use of Frenchmen, instruct them to use DZ for TH in, for example, 'the' and 'those'. I take this to mean that the sound is more within the capacity of the ordinary Frenchman, and that prolonged practice would be needed before he could easily pronounce our TH sounds properly. Did he give himself that practice at the age of three?

In short, I think you could write a much better article if you want to discuss the general question of genetics and language.

Sincerely yours,

ex. paper out blank (On the demonstration of a genetic component of language)