Dr. Paul Pimsleur, 48, Dies in France

Designed and Programmed the Language Lab

Dr. Paul Pimsleur, a professor of education and romance languages at the State University of New York in Albany and an author, died last Tuesday of a heart attack in Paris where he was visiting professor at the Sorbonne. He was 48 years old.

Dr. Pimsleur, a native of New York City and a graduate of the University of North Carolina, who earned his doctorate at Columbia University, was credited with designing and programming what was termed the nation's first computerized language laboratory, called The Language Lab, and later, The Listening Center, at Ohio State University.

He worked in conjunction with the Ohio Bell Telephone Company, and the system enabled students to learn at their own pace by dialing in directly on pre-programmed computerized language abstractions. Dr. Pimsleur directed the laboratory from 1960 to 1970.

He wrote several books on education and was called a pioneer in the rapid teaching of language and in testing methods. His standardized examinations for foreign-language aptitude and achievement, published by Harcourt Brace Jo- vanovich Inc. and known as the Pimsleur Tests, are widely used in the United States. Dr. Pimsleur was a Fulbright professor in Heidelberg, Germany, in 1968 and 1969.

He is survived by his wife, the former Beverly Fleishman, a lecturer in the division of comparative literature at Ohio University and an educational film maker; a son, Marc-André; a daughter, Julia; his mother, Meira G. Pimsleur of New York, retired director of acquisitions at Columbia Law School; and an author, and a brother, Joel, of San Francisco, a reporter for The San Francisco Chronicle.

A memorial service will be held at 1:30 P.M. tomorrow in St. Paul's Chapel at Columbia University.