

FOREWORD

This special issue of *Linguistica* is dedicated to the late Professor Rastislav Šuštaršič, who spent most of his career in the English Department at the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, researching and teaching English phonetics and phonology. Rastko was an inspired teacher, trusted colleague, and dear friend. His loss was felt by many – the guest editors of this volume were deeply moved by the response to the call for papers published for this issue. This is also reflected in the number and variety of the contributions that were submitted in his memory.

The special issue opens with a section on Professor Šuštaršič's life and work, as presented by Smiljana Komar (“Professor Rastislav Šuštaršič (24 October 1953 – 2 March 2014)”), Vesna Požgaj Hadži and Tatjana Balažič Bulc (“Rastislav Šuštaršič and Current Issues of Standard Slovene Language”), and Kristina Pegan Vičič (“Rastislav Šuštaršič: Bibliography”). The introductory section is followed by a selection of twenty-three articles that, in various ways, mirror Professor Šuštaršič's academic interests. They encompass works on segmental phonetics, prosody, teaching of pronunciation, phonology, dialectal variation, lexicography, and speech audiometry. The papers in the volume are arranged in alphabetical order by author, although they could also be grouped by their content.

Five authors present their work on segmental phonetics. Biljana Čubrović writes about “The Acoustic Characteristics of Non-native American English Vowels” in native speakers of Serbian who live in the United States. Damir Horga (“The Influence of the Assimilation Operator, Speech Rate and Linguistic Boundary on the Production of /z/ in Croatian”) analyses the coarticulation of Croatian /z/ with /s/, /z/, /š/ and /ž/ in connected text. Smiljana Komar's “The Relationship between the Perception and Production of Four General British Vowels by Slovene University Students of English” presents a production study examining the influence of orthography and phonemic transcription on the production of GB vowels. A treatise on the BATH words is presented by Inger M. Mees and Christina Høock Osorno in their contribution “The Complexity of BATH Words in Cardiff English” – the authors examine this issue in terms of the speakers' social class and age/time differentiation. Finally, Brian Mott contributes a discussion on the different approaches to defining the syllable (“Approaches to the Syllable: An Assessment”).

Prosody and prosody-related phenomena are the focus of six articles. In the article “Unruly Intonation” by Michael Ashby and Patricia Ashby, the value of the rules concerning intonation for English learners is re-examined. Damjan Huber explores the characteristics of sentence stress in the speech of politicians (“Sentence Stress in Slovene Media Speech”). In the article titled “Prosody and Paralanguage in Speech and the Social Media: The Vocal and Graphic Realisation of Affective Meaning,” Alan James uses corpora to present how prosodic and paralinguistic features are mirrored in the ‘graphic’ modality of text messaging and microblogging. A contrastive analysis of English and Slovenian adjectives is tackled by Monika Kavalir, who investigates the differences in the prosody of adjectival structures (“Prosody and Absolute vs. Relative Uses of English and Slovene Adjectives”). How prosody can become a significant part of the paralinguistic information in conversation is

explored by Barbara Pihler Ciglič in her article “The Role of Prosody in the Expression of Irony in Spanish.” Another facet of prosody is addressed by Andrej Stopar, who in his article “The Prosody of Focus: Non-Contrastive, Contrastive and Verum Focus in Slovenian, English and Russian” discusses the intonation contours of different types of focus.

The seven contributions on the value of teaching pronunciation include the work by Gwen Brekelmans, who, in her article “The Value of Phonetics and Pronunciation Teaching for Advanced Learners of English,” looks into English pronunciation stability and the problematic pronunciation features for Dutch learners. Eva Estebas-Vilaplana contributed the article “The Teaching and Learning of L2 English Intonation in a Distance Education Environment: TL_ToBI vs. the Traditional Models,” in which she presents how using an adapted version of ToBI can be beneficial in a distance learning context. Nataša Hirci embarks on a quest to identify Slovenian trainee translators’ views on the pronunciation of English, in an article titled “Investigating Trainee Translators’ Views on the Pronunciation of English: A Slovene Perspective.” Various aspects of pronunciation teaching in an L2 classroom are also addressed in the article “Teaching pronunciation in Spanish/FL A1–B2 Textbooks” by Marjana Šifrar Kalan, who analyses a set of pronunciation tasks in Spanish textbooks. The suitability of similar tasks in French textbooks is examined by Meta Lah in her contribution “‘You Have a Bit of an Accent’ – Teaching Pronunciation to Slovenian Learners of French as a Foreign Language.” The teaching of pronunciation is also the focus of the contribution co-authored by Blažka Müller Pograjc and Jasmina Markič, “Nasal Vowels and Diphthongs in European Portuguese: A Problem for Slovene Speakers,” in which the authors reveal how L1/L2 differences can affect the production of nasal vowels. The importance of long-term, systematic and intensive phonological competence development programmes is also highlighted in Anja Zorman’s contribution “Phonological Competence Development in Italian as Second/Foreign Language.”

The topics covered by the remaining five articles in the special issue are varied. Jasmina Markič contributes the text “Phonetic and Phonological Aspects of Colombian Spanish,” which presents some phonetic and phonological characteristics of Colombian Spanish. Tatjana Marvin, Jure Derganc and Saba Battelino present a treatment of the Freiburg word test for Slovenian used in speech audiometry (“Adapting the Freiburg Monosyllabic Word Test for Slovenian”). Katarina Podbevšek’s “The Expressive Potential in a Dramatic Text: Brecht’s *A Respectable Wedding*” discusses the expression of speech intention in plays. Sonia Vaupot’s contribution “Phonetic and Phonological Characteristics of French Spoken in Europe and Quebec” highlights some features of French in Quebec. Finally, in their article “A Brief Historical Overview of Pronunciations of English in Dictionaries” Jack Windsor Lewis and Inger M. Mees present an overview of the evolution of pronunciation in British English dictionaries.

The guest editors would like to thank the authors for their contributions and the reviewers for their dedicated help in reviewing and improving the papers. We would also like to express our gratitude to the journal editor, the publisher and the proof-readers for their help and patience.

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