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The /r/ sound in language –
Introduction to the Special Issue

This special issue of *Lublin Studies in Modern Languages and Literature* entitled “The /r/ sound in language” is a collection of papers tied together not only by their shared theme, but also by the fact that their authors were the participants of the conference on the /r/ sound in language, held on May 27th, 2017 at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland. The conference was organized by the Division of Applied Linguistics MCSU and included a wide variety of presentations not only from the fields of phonetics and phonology, but also from other areas such as speech-language pathology or philosophy of language. The conference featured keynote addresses delivered by distinguished guests: Anna Bloch-Rozmej, Bożydar Kaczmarek, Jolanta Szpyra-Kozłowska and Tomasz Woźniak. It was a truly interdisciplinary meeting which brought closer together not only scholars but also languages that were discussed: English, Polish, Spanish, German, French, Russian, Arabic, Hebrew, Irish and Danish.

May we take this opportunity to thank all the participants of the conference, the MCSU authorities, the contributors of this special

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issue and all the reviewers who have kindly devoted their valuable
time to reviewing the submitted papers.

The first article in this issue is **Krzysztof Jaskuła’s** “The /r/ which
dies hard – a diachronic look at the developments of the rhotic sound
in selected Celtic, Germanic and Romance languages”, in which
selected developments of the /r/ sound from different languages are
described and exemplified. The author approaches the issue from a
diachronic perspective. **Weronika Markowska**’s “Фонодидактика
русских [p] и [p’] в контексте холистического мультимодального
подхода” discusses the Russian [r] and [r’] and the problems that
these sounds may cause for the learner. Drawing from the works of
Jolanta Szpyra-Kozłowska, Markowska offers phonodidactic solutions
on how to deal with the problems. **Bartosz Pietrzak’s** paper entitled
“Rhotic phonemes in Semitic languages – the case of Classical Arabic and Biblical Hebrew” investigates
rhotic phonemes /r/ and /ʕ/ in Classical Arabic and Biblical Hebrew.
The phonemes under discussion do not appear to have shared the same
fate in the history of the phonologies of Semitic languages in general.
In his contribution entitled “Can phonemes be considered
troublemakers? The case of the Danish /r/” **Mikołaj Sobkowiak** deals
with the contribution of the /r/ sound to the overall complexity of the
Danish sound system. The author presents various phonetic
phenomena in which the Danish /r/ appears (e.g. r-colouring, fusion of
/r/ with adjacent vowels, interaction between /r/ and /ə/) and discusses
the difficult relations between Danish orthography and pronunciation.
In **Piotr Sorbet**’s “Consideraciones acerca de las consonantes róticas”
we find a discussion on the subject of Spanish rhotic consonants as
well as the methodological and descriptive problems associated with
them. **Jolanta Szpyra-Kozłowska** in her “The rhotic in fake and
authentic Polish-accented English” explores the realizations of the /r/
sound as found in artificial and genuine deliveries of Polish-accented
English of several foreign actors and actresses from the film The
Zookeeper’s Wife, and in authentic speech samples obtained from 25
Polish learners of English. **Zygmunt Tęcza**’s primary aim in his “Die
/r/-Allophone in der modernen deutschen Phonolexikographie” is to
look at the ways in which the main consonantal and vocalic realizations of /r/ of contemporary German are treated in four modern German pronunciation dictionaries. Finally, Artur Tworek’s paper “Artikulatorische Vielfalt des /r/-Phonems im heutigen Standarddeutschen” draws attention to the complex articulatory realisations of the /r/ sound in present-day German.

We wish you good reading!

Editors