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Focus on English Phonetics is a collection of papers presented at the 3rd Belgrade International Meeting of English Phoneticians, held at the University of Belgrade in March 2012. The book follows the path laid down by the previous two collections, *Ta(l)king English Phonetics Across Frontiers* (2009, Cambridge Scholars Publishing) and *Exploring English Phonetics* (2012, Cambridge Scholars Publishing), and brings together research in various fields of English phonetics, from both theoretical and pedagogical perspectives.

Eighteen chapters, written by researchers from nine different countries, are grouped in four thematic units. Part One, *Phoneme and beyond* looks into prosodic properties of the English language. Part Two, *Suprasegmentals and beyond* explores several questions related to suprasegmental phonetics. Part Three, *Applied phonetics and beyond*, looks into EFL phonetics and phonology teaching, or pronunciation training. Part Four, *Phonology and beyond*, discusses issues related to English phonology.

The volume starts with Alan Cruttenden's chapter titled *Using MRI to see English sounds and their overlap*, which describes the use of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) in the study of segmental articulation and, particularly, coarticulation phenomena. The author discusses this new procedure recently developed at Oxford, which can produce dynamic images of the tongue moving in the mouth. He illustrates the chapter with some sample MRI images and points readers interested in seeing dynamic images to the website attached to the 7th edition of Gimson's *Pronunciation of English* (Cruttenden, 2008).

In the chapter titled *Acquiring L2 vowels: The production of high English vowels by Bulgarian native speakers*, Tsvetanka Chernogorova focuses on problems in acquiring the English vowel system, particularly the high vowels /i:, ɪ, u:, ʊ/, by Bulgarian students. The study shows that their similarity to the Bulgarian vowels /i/ and /u/ causes different levels of production of English high vowels among first-year English majors at the University of Sofia, ranging from complete substitution to very high degrees of acquisition.

The aim of Andrej Bjelaković's chapter *Original pronunciation: The accent of Shakespeare's London*, is to provide a sketch of Early Modern English (EME) pronunciation. The author draws from several major works dealing with EME phonology, and lists the main differences in pronunciation between present-day English and that of the 17th century. The author confirms that the EME sound system, although phonetically different, is phonologically rather similar to its present-day counterpart and that the mainstream EME pronunciation shares many features with some regional accents of contemporary English.

Stefano Quaino in the chapter *Pitch alignment in Welsh English: the case of rising tones in Gwynedd*, discusses the results of an acoustic analysis of Gwynedd English.

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He uses the Praat program to analyse rising tones and underline their distinguishing features. He suggests that the position of pitch peak could be a distinguishing feature of Welsh English.

In *An acoustic analysis of the punch lines in English Jokes*, Ken-Ichi Kadooka focuses on pitch contour and Paratone. The author uses acoustic analysis to explore the description of the punch-line paratone in jokes as a subtype of the low paratone, characterized by a combination of phonetic features, such as a lower pitch, slower tempo, and a pause preceding it, by which the end of the joke is signalled. The punch line paratone also includes a gradual lowering of the baseline pitch from the beginning towards the end of the joke – until the punch line. The author presents an analysis which illustrates this description, to a certain extent.

In *Observations on the nucleus in English and Serbian*, Brian Mott summarizes differences between English and Serbian utterances in the position of the nuclear stress. He argues that the versatility of the nucleus in Serbian is comparable to that of English, and, partly using Wells (2006), investigates which elements of the Serbian sentence can receive tonic stress and what concomitant changes in pragmatic value this entails. Based on examples obtained from recordings, the author classifies utterances into various types, such as WH-questions, interrogatives with an emphatic particle in Serbian, and those containing negative adverbs, intensifiers, emphatic pronouns or possessives.

In the chapter *Methodological issues in the acoustic analysis of spontaneous speech prosody*, Aleksandar Pejčić investigates the prosodic characteristics of Serbian and British persuasive political speech. He discusses some common methodological problems and difficulties, especially those relating to the choice of suitable speech tokens, in terms of subject, register, and style, the regional, gender and age differences of the speakers, and also errors and subsequent repairs. Data obtained as part of this research is used to illustrate the author's theories, and possible pedagogical implications for spontaneous speech analysis are highlighted.

Vladimir Phillipov attempts to establish a correlation between syntax and intonation in his chapter *The status of intonation in a level approach in the organization of language*. The author argues that intonation is an exponent of fluctuation, in other words, a shift in the status of a linguistic item leading to a different function, while preserving the form.

Yulia Nenasheva examines different approaches to prosodic research. In the chapter *Intonation patterns and phonetic stereotypes: new life for old terminology*, she presents a study of prosodic components of the utterance, such as its durational, dynamic and tonal qualities and argues that the meaning of an utterance is expressed through the arrangement and interaction of prosodic elements in an intonation pattern. Her research shows that these prosodic complexes possess certain distinctive features, and that sets of these features identify them as intonation patterns that serve as models in speech production, through a realization of phonetic stereotypes.

In the chapter *Intonation interference and its impact on effective communication between native/non-native speakers*, Oksana Pervezentseva presents a study on the ways in which prosody affects communication between native and non-native speakers in situations of artificial bilingualism. She focuses on communicative-pragmatic types of utterances that are likely to be subject to interference, and to cause miscommunication.

Her findings show the sensitivity of native speakers to the inaccurate use of intonation patterns, usually in the emotional-modal aspect.

Patricia Ashby looks into the new teaching methodology, 'the flipped classroom', which takes advantage of modern technologies such as screen-capture software, and educational vodcasting. In her chapter *To flip or not to flip? Phonetics, phonology and the flipped classroom* she presents the results of a study of the effectiveness of flipping in teaching final year phonology students at the University of Westminster. She concludes that flipping increased students' confidence and knowledge of the subject matter and argues that there is a place for the flipped classroom in UK tertiary education, and possibly in other countries, too.

Rastislav Šuštaršić discusses the importance of *Minimal pairs in English phonetics teaching*. He argues that knowledge of the phonemic contrasts in English and their frequency of occurrence, and identification of the main differences between the sound systems of English and Slovene are preconditions for the effective teaching of English pronunciation, particularly for teaching sounds that are problematic for Slovene students of English. The author suggests several approaches to introducing minimal pairs in teaching English pronunciation, and some activities that focus on the distinctiveness of English vowels and consonants.

In the chapter *Beginnings, endings, and the in-betweens: prosodic signals of discourse topic in English and Serbian*, Tatjana Paunović discusses the use of prosodic cues at the discourse level, specifically, in signalling discourse structure. She analysed the F0/pitch, intensity, and duration measured at intonation unit boundaries, first peak/onset, and nuclear accent syllable, and overall pitch range and intensity of intonation units in a reading task performed by two groups of participants: L1 speakers of Serbian, who are also EFL learners, and L1 speakers of British English. The study shows that while there are important differences between the native-speaker group and the EFL group in reading the English text, there are also certain similarities, as well as differences in the English and Serbian texts when read by their respective native speakers. The author concludes that not all of the EFL students' problems in reading the L2 text could be attributed to L1 prosodic transfer.

Snezhina Dimitrova examines language attitudes among Bulgarian EFL learners. In the chapter titled *British or American pronunciation?* She compares students' pronunciation preferences with their spoken performance. The study was done on forty-seven recordings and included both auditory and acoustic analyses with the aim of establishing how consistent the Bulgarian tertiary-level learners were in their use of the well-known salient segmental and suprasegmental features of the pronunciation model of their choice. The author states that the most prominent traits that students use inconsistently when trying to imitate the British Received Pronunciation or the General American accent are the vowel quality of words from the LOT and BATH lexical sets, rhoticity and t-voicing, position of lexical stress and the individual word pronunciation.

In the chapter *Slavic English accents revisited: a case study of Russian Serbian-English in films*, Biljana Čubrović looks at the linguistic credibility of what the film industry approves of as acceptable Russian accents. She analysed Rade Šerbedžija's speech in four recent films, from a segmental viewpoint, using the tools of acoustic phonetic analysis, and also from an auditory perspective, where necessary. The aim was to establish how much his non-native accent was twisted for this purpose, how much

effort was invested in making this actor, with a South Slavonic language background, can sound like a native Russian speaker, and whether he can pass as one.

Isao Ueda in the chapter titled *Phonetic similarity in transliterated English trademarks – a preliminary study in Japanese* surveys how newly proposed trademarks are examined in Japan. Transliteration in *Katakana*, demanded by the Japanese trademark law, may result in distortion of their original phonological structure, which can cause the application to be rejected. The author shows several examples of trademarks and argues that the similarity decision was affected by factors such as segmental contents, the different position of the syllable in a word, and the total length of the trademark. The author also gives several suggestions to improve the existing situation.

In *Level ordering of affixes: a phonological perspective* Jelena Vujić discusses various aspects of phonology-morphology interactions and their implications for suffixation processes. She offers an outline of a number of theoretical approaches to English word-formation. She concludes that phonology and morphology strongly interact when it comes to derivation in English.

In the last chapter in this volume, titled *The functional classification of English vowels: Phonological and orthographic evidence*, Csaba Csides argues that a number of phonological and orthographic regularities demonstrate that the tense-lax division of English vowels is functional rather than phonetic. Phonological processes discussed in connection with these arguments are Vowel Shift, Trisyllabic Laxness, Laxing by ending, CiVlaxing, Pre-cluster laxing and Laxing by free U. Csides also looks into sound values of English vowel letters and the difference between free and covered graphic positions, and concludes that tense and lax vowels tend to occur in different types of graphic (ortographic) positions but also that the effect of the free position rule may be eliminated by overriding phonological regularities.

Focus on English Phonetics offers a variety of theoretical, applied and experimental investigations of English phonetics and English pronunciation. The book will be of equal interest to researchers, students and teachers. The variety of viewpoints will certainly attract a wide audience, as the editors suggest, at least as diverse as the authors and topics. The quality of the papers adds to the recommendations of this volume, and we can only look forward to the 4th Belgrade International Meeting of English Phoneticians, to be held in Belgrade in February and March 2014, and the next volume that will result from it.

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