

EDITORIAL: A NEW SECTION AND L2 PROSODY

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In this new issue, the Journal of Speech Sciences (JoSS) team launches a new journal section comprising debates: the Debate Section. This first issue explores new methodological avenues on charismatic speech, introducing a debate paper. The issue is completed with two other papers on experimental prosody, focusing on L2 research.

The new Debate Section is meant to encompass two moments: the launching of a debate paper in one issue of the Journal and letters which address its contents in a following issue. The debate paper must be essentially argumentative in nature and it is supposed to fulfil one of the following requirements: introducing a new idea, a new concept or a new way of connecting current ideas; discussing old ideas and theories in the light of new data; examining an object of study across distinct theories. The chosen theme must highlight the possibility for new developments to stimulate scientific debate. The debate paper is to be largely publicized in order to stimulate replies materialized in the form of letters published in a forthcoming issue which will comment on this debate paper by discussing its contents, ideas and proposals.

It is a great joy to set up the new Debate Section with the debate paper *Advancing research and practice in entrepreneurship through speech analysis - from descriptive rhetorical terms to phonetically informed acoustic charisma metrics* by Oliver Niebuhr, Silke Tegtmeier and Alexander Brem, a fruit of the collaboration of authors in direct contact with industry and technology. The paper is meant to propose a way to teach entrepreneurs to improve their power of persuasion by learning how to associate verbal and non-verbal aspects of charisma in their speech. For doing so the authors propose a new way of connecting ideas from research areas such as phonostylistics, expressive prosody, body language.

The second paper, *Perception of expressive prosodic speech acts performed in USA English by L1 and L2 speakers*, by Albert Rilliard, Donna Erickson, João Antônio de Moraes e Takaaki Shochi, designed an experiment to investigate the audio and visual expression of sixteen attitudes in L1 and L2 American English from which the better-recognized attitudes of contempt, irony, irritation, obviousness, politeness, seduction, sincerity, surprise, and walking-on-eggs were selected for in-depth analysis. They show that the cultural origin has a marginal effect for the categorization of the expressions and that fundamental frequency and intensity patterns exhibited by L1 and L2 speakers are in accordance with theories of Frequency Code and Effort Code, which points to universal characteristics that need further inquiry.

The last paper, *Probing rhythmic patterns in English-L2: a preliminary study on vowel reduction by Brazilian learners at different ages*, by Ronaldo Manguiera Lima Jr and Guilherme Duarte Garcia, hypothesizes that Brazilian learners of English will not face major difficulties reducing unstressed vowels, even when exposed to the second language later in life, due to the non-categorical aspects of speech rhythm as advocated by current prosody research. At least in terms of unstressed vowel reduction, the results confirm their hypotheses, since the production of a control group does not differ significantly from those of the test groups of learners.

We wish an excellent reading for all interested researchers and a long life for the new section, calling for vivid reactions.

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