

Editorial

Barbosa, Plínio A.*

State University of Campinas, Campinas, Brazil

Our team is glad to offer the second issue of the *Journal of Speech Sciences* (JoSS) to the scientific community. JoSS is an open access journal which follows the principles of the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), meaning that its readers can freely read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of any article electronically published in the journal. All papers are registered in the DOAJ. The journal is indexed in Linguistics Abstracts.

This second issue contains three regular papers covering the areas of speech rhythm, cochlear-implanted child speech, and phonetic variability. Five manuscripts were submitted, from which the process of reviewing selected three papers. The three papers of this issue present recent progress in areas of speech science devoted to experimental approaches.

The paper by Ann Marie Olivo from Rice University, USA, *Exploring the speech rhythm continuum: evidence from Ashanti Twi*, uses C and V duration intervals to assess the rhythm of Ashanti Twi (Niger-Congo, Kwa). The measures were made with two native speakers of this language reading a translation of the well-known passage “The North Wind and the Sun”. Ann Marie concludes that attributing the language to a rhythm class is not without problems due to variability of the measures and reinforces Dauer’s proposal for a continuum between to extremes of stress-timing.

The paper by Aline Pessoa, Beatriz Novaes, Lilian Pereira and Zuleica Camargo, from the Catholic University of São Paulo, Brazil, written in Portuguese, *Voice quality and voice dynamics data: acoustic and perceptual correlates of speech of a child using a cochlear implant*, acoustically describes and perceptually assesses the speech of a hearing impaired child with a cochlear implant. Speech productions were recorded at two different moments (at 5 and 6-years old) which concerned one year of therapy. Results revealed the existence of a correspondence between acoustic and perceptual auditory data. In the audio recorded data samples of the 6th year, a greater variability in f_0 was associated at the perceptual level with laryngeal hyperfunction, pausing and reduction of speech rate. The authors presented implications for therapy.

The paper by Jiahong Yuan and Mark Liberman, from the University of Pennsylvania, USA, */l/ Variation in American English: A Corpus Approach*, investigated the variation of /l/ in a large speech corpus automatically segmented through forced alignment. Confirming early research, the results demonstrated that there is a categorical distinction between dark and light /l/ in American English: /l/ in syllable onset is light, and /l/ in syllable coda is dark. As for intervocalic /l/, it can be either light or dark, depending on the stress of the vowels. Intervocalic /l/ is less dark than canonical syllable-coda /l/, but it is always dark. Intervocalic light /l/ is less light than canonical syllable-onset /l/, but it is always light. The authors argue for two levels of contrast in /l/ variation. The first level is determined by its affiliation to a single position in the syllable structure, and the second level is determined by its phonetic context.

This journal was only made possible thanks to a great team working for the journal, and an exceptionally good editorial board. The editor thanks them vividly.

Good reading and long life to speech sciences research with JoSS.

Campinas, 20th of January, 2012