

Introduction

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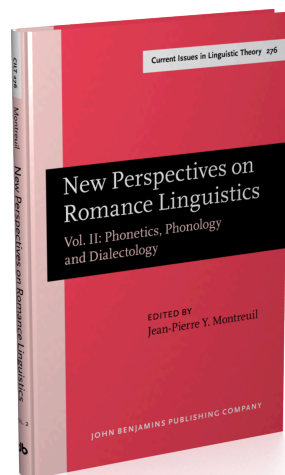
Edited by Jean-Pierre Y. Montreuil

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INTRODUCTION

The 35th annual *Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages* took place on February 24–27, 2005 on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin. Over fifty papers were given and five keynote speakers were heard. The special parasession was entitled *Current Approaches to Historical Linguistics and Dialectology*. This volume includes a selection of papers from both sessions. These offerings relate to phonetics, phonology, morphophonology, dialectology and language variation.

Phonetics. Gary Baker exploits the insights of Gordon's (2002) model for measuring the intensity of rimes and shows that prepalatal vowels lengthen significantly enough to explain restrictions on stress assignment in proparoxytones and to justify recent phonological claims regarding the preservation of moraic structure.

Dylan Herrick provides measurements on mid-vowels and schwa in Eastern Catalan and compares them to similar measurements in the Catalan of Barcelona. He shows that schwa-lowering and mid-vowel neutralization have not yet spread from Barcelona to the neighboring regions under investigation.

Phonology. In three stress-related papers and one segmental study, formal treatments in Optimality Theory are revisited.

Sonia Colina reexamines the input-related problems engendered by traditional analyses that posit final vowel-epenthesis in Spanish. She argues that a clearer picture emerges if it is recognized that nominal plurals stand in an output-to-output relation to singular forms.

Cristian Iscrulescu proposes an alternative to the treatment of Romanian nominal stress offered by Chitoran (2002). Arguing for weight-insensitive feet and a Sympathy understanding of counter-bleeding opacity, he concludes that the nominal stress system demonstrates great regularity and requires few lexically-marked exceptions.

Haïke Jacobs revisits the perennially problematic issue of stress shift in some Latin proparoxytones, for which Bullock (2002) had proposed a double-prosody analysis. Obviating the need for such a mechanism, he opts for the introduction of a specific constraint that penalizes short vowels before -CL- clusters.

Carolina González elicits cross-dialectal pronunciations of coda /b d g/ in nonce words and finds significant variation, notably between the Northern and Central dialects of peninsular Spanish. These observations serve as the

basis for an Optimality Theory analysis detailing the interaction of constraints through reranking and conjunction.

Morphophonology. Francisco Ordoñez and Lori Repetti start with an observation on the oxymoronic character of “stressed enclitics”. They argue, on the basis of pre- vs. post-verbal asymmetries, that clitics and weak pronouns each associate with a different set of properties. The recognition of this distinction is crucial to a satisfactory account of their dialectal Italian data.

In a comparative examination of Romance singular pronouns, John Charles Smith shows how some dative and accusative forms have been refunctionalized, providing a clear case of linguistic exaptation. He goes on to demonstrate, however, that throughout their evolution, these case distinctions have retained some functional value at a more abstract level and borrows from art history the notion of skeuomorphy to underline its relevance to language studies.

Dialectology, sociolinguistics and language variation. Esteve Clua & Maria-Rosa Lloret outline a new methodology to establish accurate quantitative dialectometrics based on large oral corpora. Crucially, they argue that the measurement of linguistic distance must take input forms into account.

Jacques Durand describes the research and methodology underlying the ambitious *Phonologie du français contemporain (PFC)* project. He explains how the data-gathering -of unprecedented proportions- and the controlled protocol will lead to reliable comparative statistics and to a new perspective on regional variation in the Francophone world.

Complementing these cross-dialectal studies, Chip Gerfen and Wendy Rizzo study aspects of the speech of monolingual, bidialectal speakers. They focus on the manner in which six different processes determining coda realizations in Andalusian Spanish are affected by such factors as, among others, linguistic loyalty, word frequency and the presence of a single orthographic norm.

Jim Michnowicz investigates the sociolinguistics of Mayan-influenced labialization of final nasals in Yucatán Spanish. While linguistic theory views this labialization as a marked phenomenon, Michnowicz’s findings suggest that final *-m* is increasing in use and gaining acceptance, as language attitudes are shifting.

In a series of recent articles, Barbara Bullock and Chip Gerfen had scrutinized various aspects of attrition and preservation in the Pennsylvania dialect of Frenchville. Here, they examine, together with Amanda Dalola, the implications of the preservation of low vowels and demonstrate how

convergence is regulated not by phonetic properties alone but by phonological contrasts as well.

Many scholars contributed to the success of LSRL-35 and numerous acknowledgements are in order. The editor is especially thankful to Dina Sherzer and the UT-France Institute, on whose initiative Prof. Jacques Durand could be invited as a special keynote speaker. The financial support of College of Liberal Arts and the Department of French and Italian is also much appreciated.

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Reviewers for this volume included David Birdsong, Carl Blyth, Barbara Bullock, Ioana Chitoran, Sonia Colina, Megan Crowhurst, Timothy Face, Randall Gess, José I. Hualde, Haike Jacobs, Dale Koike, John Lipski, Fernando Martínez-Gil, Scott Myers, Rafael Nuñez-Cedeño, Francisco Ordóñez, Pilar Prieto, Lori Repetti, Bernard Tranel, Enric Vallduví and Dieter Wanner.

Jean-Pierre Montreuil

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