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JOHN CLARK and COLIN YALLOP
Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology
Oxford:Basil Blackwell, 1990.
400 pages.

Phonetics and phonology are vast disciplines which include many different topics. Therefore, some degree of complexity, associated with any scientific field, is unavoidable when studying speech in general. Clark & Yallop's *An introduction to phonetics and phonology* achieves the aim of giving an introductory account of speech sciences, and succeeds in presenting a clear and concise description of both areas of study. In many aspects, this is an impressive book. Its main merit lies in its putting together in one book a vast range of different issues covered in phonetic and phonological theory.

The book starts with a short introductory chapter one which presents and outlines the main topics dealt with in the text. Chapter 2 deals with the organs of speech and their various functions. It begins with a very exhaustive description of the anatomy of speech production, paying particular attention to muscular action and the respiratory cycle. Much of the detail present in this chapter is reminiscent of Borden and Harris (1984). This part may be too comprehensive for the beginner student of phonetics, but gives an excellent overview to any-one with interests in speech anatomy. The whole chapter is centred on the production of laryngeal excitation, particularly, modal phonation, that is, normal vocal fold vibration.

Chapters 3 and 4 are concerned with some basic issues within phonetic theory. These include phonation modes, vowel and consonant articulation, manner and place of articulation, voice onset time, secondary articulation and coarticulation, syllabification, etc. It also describes the diversity of speech sounds to be found in languages around the world. This is done less systematically than in other

books, of which Ladefoged (1971) is perhaps a salient one.

Chapters 5 and 6 consider the basic tenets of phonological theory from two rather different theoretical viewpoints. In chapter 5, topics covering phonological processes, neutralization, phonemic and allophonic status, and patterning of sound systems are analyzed from a traditional point of view. Chapter 6 is devoted to Generative Phonology. An account of both the origins and development of the theory is presented. After the publication of Chomsky and Halle's *The sound pattern of English* (*SPE*), in 1968, phonological theory was convulsed by a totally new approach to linguistics in general. Special attention is given in this chapter to a number of theoretical issues that developed from the publication of *SPE*. In particular, there is a very clear explanation of rule notation and rule ordering. The chapter closes with a section on 'abstractness', the basic problem and limitation of classical generative phonology.

The following chapter seven is dedicated to the acoustics of speech production. Again, we have a very detailed account of sound nature and sound propagation. There are very enlightening sections on the source-filter model of speech production and spectrographic analysis. The chapter is weak, though, on various areas, namely acoustic cues and speech perception. As for perception, the chapter only deals briefly with perception tests, and lacks a description of the anatomy and physics of hearing and speech decoding.

Suprasegmental phenomena are analyzed in chapter 8. After a general introduction on the phonetic basis of prosody, the authors analyze pitch, tone and intonation, the intonation of English, stress, and stress assignment, with reference to the rule-based approach to stress placement proposed in *SPE*.

Chapter 9 focuses on the decomposition of speech units into their constituent features. Different feature systems including Jakobson's (Jakobson, Fant & Halle, 1952) and Chomsky and Halle's

(Chomsky & Halle, 1968) are summarized and analyzed.

The final chapter is completely devoted to phonological theory. In the first part, there is a historical account of the progress of phonological theory to our days. The different theoretical frameworks that have appeared during the explosion of models since the publication of *SPE* are reviewed in the second part of Chapter 10. These include Dependency Phonology, Lexical Phonology, and Metrical Phonology. These theoretical models, most of which are commonly called non-linear, are responsible for the complexity originated in present-day phonological theory.

On the whole, *An introduction to phonetics and phonology* stands as a piece of reference to anyone who is interested in or is currently working within the fields of phonetic sciences, phonology or linguistics in general. At the end of each chapter there are some exercises which are particularly of use to students. The book presupposes no previous knowledge of phonetics or phonology. Yet, it provides a very comprehensive and thorough description of the topics, many of which are described with remarkable detail. The reader will find here the necessary information to gain a thorough understanding of the subjects covered.

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JAMES MILROY. *Linguistic Variation and Change: On the Historical Sociolinguistics of English.* Oxford: Blackwell, 1992. xii + 243 pages.

This book consists of a brief Editor's preface by Peter Trudgill, a preface, and seven chapters; by and large, the first chapter is a theoretical statement about the need for a social model of language change, which the author goes on to build in the subsequent chapters. The theme throughout is the integration of the theory of linguistic change into a broader theory of social change. The author, former Professor of Linguistics at the University of Sheffield and Senior Lecturer in English at Queens University, is now engaged in research and writing, and has done considerable work on various historical and dialectal aspects of English, mostly related to Belfast English.

Chapter 1, *Introduction: Language change and variation* (pp. 1-19), begins with a discussion on de Saussure's statements about the uniformity of language which, according to Milroy, are not self-evidently true. The elimination of these structuralist assumptions is thus a previous step towards the question of the study of language change. Contrary to most other approaches proposed in the last decades about the process followed by linguistic change, James Milroy is concerned with a strictly sociolinguistic theory of language change, whose theoretical implications are briefly sketched in pages 4-13. The three principles on which this theory is built concern, (i) the impossibility of observing language independently of society, (ii) the impossibility of describing language structures independently of society, and (iii) the necessity of accounting for language maintenance as a preliminary to any social approach to linguistic change. Milroy then turns to discuss some aspects of Weinreich, Labov and Herzogs *Empirical foundations* (1968), which, despite their emphasis on fieldwork methods, constitute a still mainly system-oriented approach. According to Milroy, it is this internal orientation that has made the actuation problem (i.e., the determination of the causes of linguistic change) an insoluble one.

Chapter 2, *Social and historical linguistics* (pp. 20-47), opens with a discussion of some of the main system-oriented trends concerning the determination of the locus of language change. The author points, that these trends have systematically neglected the role of speakers in the process of change. In a similar way, Labov argues that the locus of change is in the group, not in the individual. As Milroy points out, linguistic change is located in speaker-interaction and is negotiated between speakers in the course of interaction, much as other aspects of discourse are negotiated between them (Milroy 1992: 36).

Chapters 3 and 4 (pp. 48-80 and 81-122, respectively) deal with the analysis and interpretation of linguistic patterns revealed by the community. Both chapters are based on previous research carried out by James and Lesley Milroy in the Belfast area. The question of the embedding of language variation in society is approached from a variationist point of view, following Weinreich, Labov and Herzog's quantitative paradigm. As for the interpretative phase of the model, the most important concern of the author is the relation of the variations previously patterned to the social variables of age, sex, class, and, most important of all, the ethnographic concept of social network.