

Language Works 7(2)

The year is drawing to a close and it is quiet at the university while students and staff are away on their Christmas break, hopefully relaxing after a busy semester at the departments of language sciences around the country. Before we can finally part with the year of 2022, however, it is time to welcome the newest issue of our student journal, Language Works! Happy reading and happy New Year from the editorial team.

The articles in the current issue

In the first article Elias Ansgar Lykke Lund and Peter Katballe-Kristensen examine online descriptions of players in the American National Football League. Through an analysis of online draft profiles of quarterbacks, they find linguistic differences in the characterization of black and white football players, respectively. In short they show that Afro-American quarterbacks are typically described in terms of their physical abilities while white quarterbacks are more commonly praised for their intelligence. The authors suggest that their data supports the "Black brawn-White brain" myth: a racially biased assumption that attributes the success of black athletes primarily to their physical abilities.

Speech sounds assimilate to each other in connected speech, and the way a sound (phoneme) is articulated depends on its phonetic context. In the second article Rasmus Hayes Andersen studies /r/-lowering, which is an example of systematic alternations of pronunciation due to coarticulation. Some vowels are known to be lowered (i.e., articulated more openly, due to the lowering of the jaw) when preceded by the prevocalic Danish /r/, and Hayes Andersen examines if this phenomenon may also be observed for the high vowels /i, y, u/. He finds that younger Danish speakers recruited for the current study were quite likely to lower post-rhotic vowels in their own production, while they were less likely to perceive of the same vowels as lowered in a perceptual rhyming task.

In the last article Freja Hovgaard Knudsen describes the syntactical structure of interrogative clauses in Present Day English and in Early Modern English. Applying a generative framework, she discusses the syntax of the phrase "how come", which does not comply with the standard assumptions about verb movement in modern English questions. Knudsen argues that the phrase is an idiomatic expression adhering to a verb structure in earlier stages of English.

Your article in the next issue?

Do you have a good idea or a project that could interest others? As a student, you may have an essay that could be turned into an article. As a teacher, you may have supervised or assessed an essay that you think could become a good article. Or perhaps you have participated in a conference, workshop, seminar, or course that could be the basis for a thematic section/special issue of Language Works? We are looking for articles of quality, but what you submit does not have to be perfect. We promise

that we as editors will help you improve your article if you send it to us. All articles will get a review from an expert with suggestions for changes and improvements. So, it takes work to publish, but this is also a good way of improving your communication competences. We prefer that you write your article in English or Danish/Norwegian/Swedish, but should you wish to write in another language, talk to us about it. Contact us if you have a draft, or just an idea, for an article. Contact information and information about content and format of articles as well as deadlines can be found on this page.