

From the Editors

We proudly present volume 2 of number 4 of *Gradus – Brazilian Journal of Laboratory Phonology*.

In this issue we have three articles: the first of them, written by Marcus Vinicius Moreira Martins and Waldemar Ferreira Netto, is entitled “Retomada do tom médio após intervalos de sonoridade” (“Resumption of Mean Pitch after sound intervals”).¹ In this article, the authors rely on the acoustic analysis of Mean Pitch – or the global mean of F_0 in utterances – to verify whether it is possible to use such a parameter in applications other than the one in which it is usually employed, namely the evaluation of emotions.

¹ Cf. p. 11.

Therefore, Martins and Ferreira Netto extract the Mean Pitch and the moving Mean Pitch measurements from the productions of grouped subjects, obtained through a narrative read-aloud task. The authors compared the recovered values of F_0 with the values of the Mean Pitch and the moving Mean Pitch in situations following moments of speech interruption. The obtained results show that after interruptions of loudness, the speakers tend to recover the values of the Mean Pitch of the utterance that had taken place before such an interruption. This finding leads the authors to state that the Mean Pitch is a safe reference measure for the evaluation of F_0 variations.

In the second article, “Estudo acústico sobre a dupla marcação de plural em adjetivos derivados em -oso(s) no Português Brasileiro” (“Acoustic study of the double marking of plural in adjectives derived from -oso (s) in Brazilian Portuguese”),² by Mariane Garin Belando, Izabel Christine Seara and Ana Livia Agostinho, we have an acoustic study that aims to verify possible metaphonic effects caused by the posttonic vowel on the tonic vowel in four test conditions: two with -oso adjectives introduced in object noun phrases and two with adjectives inserted in subject noun phrases. The data – collected from four female participants – reveal that there is a greater tendency for metaphony to occur in the data in which the adjectives derived in -oso are inserted in object noun phrases. The authors conduct the analysis of the results based on Usage-Based Phonology and on Exemplar Theory and note that the double plural marking – with both -s and alteration in vowel quality – was produced in most of the data, with metaphony present in 8.86% of the productions. In addition, the authors report the occurrence of vowels with an intermediate quality between open and closed.

² Cf. p. 32.

The third article, “Análise acústica do *schwa* na produção oral

de aprendizes brasileiros de francês língua estrangeira em diferentes níveis de aprendizagem” (“Acoustic analysis of *schwa* in the oral production of Brazilian learners of French as a Foreign Language at different levels of learning”),³ by Felipe Sousa Sampaio and Ronaldo Manguiera Lima Jr., brings an acoustic analysis of *schwa* in the production of Brazilian learners of French as a Foreign Language (FFL) at different proficiency levels, in a cross-sectional data collection. In this sense, it sheds light on FFL pronunciation teaching practices for native speakers of Brazilian Portuguese. In order to verify how Brazilian learners of French produce the *schwa*, the authors compared the frequency values of the participants’ *schwa* formants with those of the vowels [ø œ and ε o ɔ]. This was done because, according to the authors, these vowels are commonly produced by Brazilian learners when they are replacing the *schwa*. The authors also measured the relative duration of *schwa* to see if it decreases as the proficiency level increases, and if it is shorter than the duration of the neighboring vowels. Another fact investigated was the possible elision of *schwa* and its relation with the proficiency level of the participants. The results allow the authors to state that the *schwa* overlaps in the acoustic space of its neighboring mid vowels, regardless of the proficiency level of the participants. In addition, there was no reduction in the relative duration of the *schwa* as the proficiency level increased, unlike the authors’ expectations. The participants generally produced the *schwa* with a relative duration shorter than [ø], [œ] and [ɔ] only. As for *schwa* elision, the authors report that there was no statistical significance among the groups.

³ Cf. p. 59.

Finally, we inform that the journal will soon migrate to the UFPR Digital Journal Database, where it will be hosted. This change, however, in no way alters *Gradus*’ purpose of free access to published content.

We hope the reading of this issue of *Gradus* will be enjoyable and profitable.

Adelaide H. P. Silva

Ubiratã Kickhöfel Alves

Editors