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Special Issue *Current Approaches to Romanian and Spanish Intonation**

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This volume—*Current Approaches to Romanian and Spanish Intonation*—contains articles that deal with larger corpora recorded in different projects: AMPER (*L'Atlas Multimédia Prosodique de l'Espace Roman*), AMPROM (*The Romanian Multimedia Prosodic Atlas*), SoRoEs (*Sociolinguistics Approach of Romanian and Spanish Intonation*), projects of geo-prosody that combine acoustics and geo-linguistics and uses digital methods and computer programs. This volume represents a step forward in the development of the domain of intonation, and makes a real contribution to the recent research of Romanian and Spanish intonation in international academic world.

The authors of the first paper, Wendy Elvira-García, Adrian Turculeț, Anca-Diana Bibiri, Annie Baker Campbell, Ramon Cerdà Massó, Ana M.^a Fernández Planas, Paolo Roseano, approach the distribution and classification of 6 Romance dialects within the European Romance varieties. The data is part of the *Multimedia Atlas of the Romance Prosody*—AMPER—, and it uses the ProDis tool. Specifically, it uses more than 17,000 sentences produced by 48 informants of 26 survey points from 15 varieties of 6 Romance languages (Catalan, Spanish, Italian, Sardinian and Friulian, Romanian). The results show that the two main dialectal areas from Romania, the Transylvanian part and Moldavian part, remain separated when they are seen along with data from other Romance languages; considering questions and statements separately, it can be seen that questions are more distinctive than statements, which is in agreement with previous results. The correlation among the computed acoustic distances with the distances perceived by human listeners shows the reliability of the approach.

The second paper, authored by Josefa Dorta Luis and Carolina Jorge Trujillo from the University of La Laguna (Spain), examines the behaviour of the initial high peak in the declaratives and interrogatives in the four varieties of Spanish language: Canarian, Cuban, Venezuelan and Texan Spanish. This initial peak presents two approaches: coincide with the lexical stress or align with the syntagmatic boundaries, and in case of the latter, a specific phenomenon known as tonal displacement or overshooting occurs. This study investigates such displacement from a double-sided point of view: confronts a formal speech corpus and a semi-spontaneous one in order to determine the diaphasic variation's influence on this phenomenon; and compare different diatopic varieties, in order to understand how this high peak works as a differentiating index between them or, on the contrary, if it links them further.

The authors Miguel Cuevas Alonso, Cristina Bleorțu and Alina-Viorela Prelipcean discuss the diphthongs /ea/ and /oa/ as one of the most relevant features of Romanian phonetics and phonology, in contrast with the Spanish hiatus /e.a/ and /o.a/. The outcomes of the study show

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that, in unstressed position, Romanian speakers' realizations of the hiatuses /e.a/ and /o.a/ tend towards diphthongization, with shorter duration of the first vowel and offering a longer transition between vowels than in tonic syllable. In addition, the duration is longer, in the first case, and shorter, in the second, when the tonicity falls on the vowel capable of being a satellite /e/ and /o/ than when it falls on the second vowel /a/. The results represent a first contribution of a long series of phenomena that we intend to study in detail, both in Romanian learners of Spanish and in Romanian residents in Spain who learn Spanish in an immersion situation.

The research conducted by Anca-Diana Bibiri and Mihaela Mocanu focuses on an analysis of the intonation patterns of different types of vocatives in Romanian language. The paper presents the main characteristics of the tonal patterns observed in the vocative constructions instances of isolated vocatives and contexts in which vocatives occur in different positions: initial, middle, and final. The results of the paper show that Romanian vocatives display the same patterns as other Romance languages, especially with Portuguese, and some varieties of Spanish, and differ from the intonation patterns of French and Occitan.

In the research “A dialectometric approach to Romanian intonation”, conducted by Paolo Roseano, Adrian Turculeț, Anca-Diana Bibiri, Ana M.^a Fernández Planas, Wendy Elvira-García, Ramon Cerdà Massó, is presented the first dialectometric analysis of intonation variation of Romanian spoken literary language. The data analysed were gathered within the AMPROM (*The Romanian Multimedia Prosodic Atlas*) project and the statistical analysis has been carried out with the recent program—ProDis—developed at the Phonetics Laboratory of the University of Barcelona. The results of statistical dialectometric analysis are consistent with the geolinguistic descriptions of Romanian varieties.

In the sixth paper, Cristina Bleorțu depicts a case study of intonation patterns in Pola de Siero taking into account a sociolinguistic perspective. The results presented here look at six women of different ages and high level of education, and at the ways in which these shape and influence intonation. The results of this study reflect the fact that there are more or less similar trends with the other areas of Asturias; for example, the WH-questions are characterized by a descending final tone, corresponding to the patterns in Gijón; while vocatives present a distinct nuclear configuration than it is in Oviedo and Gijón.

In the next paper, Doina Jitcă deals with prosodic phrases as contrast units (CU) or hierarchies of CUs which structure prosodic phrases (IPs, ips) at the information structure (IS) level. CU at any level of the utterance tree has two functional complementary constituents. Each of constituents has functions at the two IS levels: ‘topic’-‘focus’, and ‘theme’-‘rheme’, labelled CU_Predicate-CU-Argument. CUs link utterance elements into a logical hierarchy where prosodic phrases are CUs having as constituents lower level CUs or simple prosodic words.

The last paper, authored by Xulio Viejo Fernández, analyses a series of phenomena in speech syllabic lengthening of the south central area of Asturias: vowel harmonization and the vowel

duration both on stressed and unstressed syllables. The study area converges, on one hand, with a phenomenon of vowel harmonization (characterized by an alteration of timbre of the vowel correlative tonic intensive joints syllable) and, on the other hand, with phenomena as duration both on stressed syllables and unstressed syllables, linked to different pragmatic functions. In certain discursive environments, prosodic facts considered are consistent with other relevant phenomena at the segmental level as consonantal reduplications or alteration of vowel timbres, so that could be related to vowel harmonisations that characterise the local speech and other Romance areas as it happened with other phonological processes.

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In memory of

Ana María Fernández Planas

(University of Barcelona)

and

Adrian Turculeț

(“Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași)