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[An introduction to the pronunciation of English]

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Nachkriegsdeutsch“) registriert das sprachlich Neue von der „Entnazifizierung“ über „Getsch“ (abgekürzt gg = Maschenzahl an modernen neuzeitlichen Damenstrümpfen) zum „Swingheini“, also die Wortschatz „mäßige“ Entwicklung vom deutschen Zusammenbruch über den Wiederaufbau bis zur Weltgeltung — schon diese Wörter weisen darauf hin, daß es sich um Sprachbetrachtungen aus westdeutscher Sicht handelt — und leider wird nur westdeutsches Sprachgut behandelt. Die Schlagwörter von „Koexistenz“ über „Ebene“ bis zum wiederaufgekommenen „Nullacht-fünfzehn“ sind jedoch allgemeindeutsch, dagegen hilft keine Hallsteindoktrin, ebenso wie die allermeisten der zwei Dutzend auserwählten Modewörter, z. B. durchführen, auslasten, abstellen, gleichsam, Profil beispielhaft. Das zweite Kapitel ist den „anregungsreichen Wortverbindungen“ der Werbesprache gewidmet, die „die worterzeugende Kraft“ (S. 52) älterer Sprachperioden „auf bürokratischem Wege“ durch die heutigen Analogiebildungen vermehrt. Sind diese Neuschöpfungen (vgl. beispielsweise *hüpfgesundes Futter* für Wellensittiche; *körperfreundliche Unterwäsche*; *darlehensjunge Familie*) „Massenerzeugung in der Sprache“ (S. 54)? Oder entsprechen sie vielmehr den Notwendigkeiten des heutigen Lebens? Stave hält die „Freiheit der Wortbildung im Deutschen“ ... für so groß, daß „man geradezu von Narrenfreiheit sprechen“ könnte (S. 56).

Beide nachfolgenden Kapitel belehren uns über die Wortgeschichte einiger weniger Neuwörter und vieler Neuprägungen (in bezug auf diese Terminologie halten wir uns an die Gliederung des „Wörterbuches der deutschen Gegenwartssprache“, wonach das neue Wortgut aus Neuwörtern, Neubedeutungen und Neuprägungen besteht); wir erfahren, daß manche davon — z. B. Schnulze, Kontakt(e), makaber, Halbstarker, Jazz — keine Neubildungen im echten Sinne sind.

Im Kapitel Jugend und Sprache lassen wir uns belehren, daß die sog. Teenagersprache (vgl. das berüchtigte „Steiler Zahn und Zickendraht. Wörterbuch der Teenager- und Twonsprache“, Stuttgart 1960), gar keine existierende Sprache (oder besser Jargon) wiedergibt und eine Erfindung der Werbefachleute war. Die beiden letzten Kapitel, „Presse und Sprache“ und „Bücher und Sprache“ bringen außer der fortgeführten Kritik an Sprachneologismen und Modewörtern auch Beurteilungen der „Sprache in der verwalteten Welt“ von Korn, D. Riesmans „Die einsame Masse“ sowie der sprachlichen Seite des „Jahrbuchs der Filmkritik“ und des „Wörterbuches des Unmenschens“.

Angeschlossen ist dem Buche ein etwas mehr als tausend Wörter enthaltendes Wortregister — freilich ist besonders das neologistische Wortgut für uns von Bedeutung.

Wenn man Staves und Korns Bücher durchblättert, erinnert man sich auch an G. Möllers umstrittenes, doch von der Fachkritik letzten Endes begrüßtes „Deutsch von heute“ (Leipzig² 1962): denn auch wenn man nicht immer mit streng wissenschaftlich untermauerten Werken zu tun hat, lassen wir uns dennoch gerne auf eine angenehme Art und Weise über die neueste Entwicklung im deutschen Wortschatz (in der Syntax weniger) belehren: leben wir doch im „feuilletonistischen Zeitalter“ (H. Hesse).

Rudolf Mertu

An Introduction to the Pronunciation of English, 2nd impression. By A. C. Gimson. Reader in Phonetics, University College, London. Pp. XV, 294, London, Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd. 1964.

There are a number of different ways in which native speakers of English pronounce their mother tongue. Besides the accents of the native speakers of England there are others spoken by native English speakers of New Zealand, Australia, America, Ireland, etc. The author of this work wants to give a detailed description of British English, claiming that he has placed the phonetics of British English in a larger framework than customary, and that he has emphasized the communicative function of the spoken medium.

Gimson does not explain quite clearly what he understands under British English, however, and we are afraid that the references to Australian and American types of English found among variants of British English might lead a less experienced foreign learner to think that Australian and American English are mere variants of „RP“ spoken by the English from a particular social background (see p. 105).

The author describes in detail the general RP phonemes and their allophones to be heard among RP speakers and in some regions of Great Britain. With the foreign learner in view, we should have welcomed a few explanatory notes on which of the RP variants are still accepted within what is officially recognized as RP, and more references to the regions in which these variants are found.

The book is divided into three parts. Part I — Speech and Language — deals with theory and shows the methods of describing and classifying the sounds on physiological and acoustic basis as well as on the abstract linguistic level of analysis of any utterance. This part is interesting for its references to sound spectrography (the chapter of vowel formants being particularly comprehensive and clear), as well as to electromyographic work.¹ We believe that by these references the author has succeeded in giving the learner a good incentive to consult more specialized works on this subject.

Part II — The Sounds of English — in my opinion is by far the most useful and interesting. After a comprehensive historical survey of phonetic studies in England and important sound changes since the OE period the author presents the essential phonetic and phonemic features of English sounds with their possible spellings in traditional orthography and enlightening glimpses into the chief historical sources. What we find especially interesting are his remarks in the distribution of English sounds, the new evaluations of phonetic characteristics of English phonemes and his practical advice to foreigners. The quality of RP vowels often differs from that indicated in the „Outline“ by Daniel Jones (comp. e.g. vowels /ɔ:/, /ʌ/, /æ/, /ɑ:/, /aɪə/, /aʊə/). His notes on the varying significance which is attached to vowel quantity (see p. 109, /ɔ:/) are very valuable. Gimson attempts to give a complete survey of the linguistic implications and acoustic nature of general RP phonemes. For the most part he investigates the phonemes on the traditional phonetic method (i.e. on the articulatory basis) with cardinal vowels acting as his reference points in case of vowels. The articulatory description of sounds which are very accurate and clear, are illustrated on the vowel quadrilaterals and on the cross-sectional diagrams. We especially appreciate the vowel charts which we miss in Daniel Jones's „Outline“.

Part III — The Word and Connected Speech — deals with the position of accent both in words and in connected speech. He pays considerable attention to the relationship of pitch, stress, quality and quantity in English words and to the part these factors play in locating accent, i.e. in rendering a sound or syllable prominent. He introduces higher unit, „prominence“, and when examining the accent pattern of a word, he speaks of the degree of prominence associated with its parts regarding pitch as the most effective means in conveying prominence, and stress the least.

Just at the beginning of the book (pp. VII.—IX.), we find a list of phonetic symbols and signs (30 symbols and 21 signs more than in Daniel Jones's „Outline“), in which even the allophones are given their own symbolic representation. Besides symbols and signs indicating differences in quality (/swm/ = „swan“ and /swɔn/ = „sworn“), Gimson uses diacritics to show the difference in vowel quantity (/swm/ and /swɔ:u/). When he has already indicated the difference on the qualitative level, it would seem to be redundant to reinforce this with the length marks (although of course this allophonic distinction would be required in a narrow transcription).

Gimson's book is a very interesting and comprehensive work on the pronunciation of British English in modern terms, in many respects developing the work of his teacher Daniel Jones. It provides an excellent incentive to further study of the subject. It is easily understood and will help to clarify a number of problems. It could serve not only as a good introduction to the subject, but also as a reference book for students of phonetics requiring more detailed information. It is especially valuable for reflecting new tendencies in Present RP English, for the new evaluations of the phonetic features of English sounds, and for the notes on chief sources under each phoneme. It represents the most complete work on British English at the present moment, and we are sure that both native and foreign learners will find it exceedingly useful.

Drahomíra Fialová

R. A. Haaßma et J. Nuchelmans: **Précis de latin vulgaire** (Groningen, J. B. Wolters 1963, 137 p.)

Ce manuel pratique est destiné surtout aux étudiants des langues romanes, mais aussi aux latinistes. C'est un ouvrage solide, basée sur l'étude des inscriptions et des textes ainsi que sur les remarques des anciens grammairiens romains. Les auteurs ont évidemment utilisé aussi plusieurs publications antérieures traitant du latin vulgaire. Ils les citent dans la petite „Bibliographie sélective“ aux pages 128—129.

¹ On this point see „Syllable and Stress“ by P. Ladefoged, M. Draper and D. Whitteridge, *Miscellanea Phonetica* III. 1958.