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The /r/ sound in language –
Introduction to the Special Issue

This special issue of *Lublin Studies in Modern Languages and Literature* entitled "The /r/ sound in language" is a collection of papers tied together not only by their shared theme, but also by the fact that their authors were the participants of the conference on the /r/ sound in language, held on May 27th, 2017 at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland. The conference was organized by the Division of Applied Linguistics MCSU and included a wide variety of presentations not only from the fields of phonetics and phonology, but also from other areas such as speech-language pathology or philosophy of language. The conference featured keynote addresses delivered by distinguished guests: Anna Bloch-Rozmej, Bożydar Kaczmarek, Jolanta Szpyra-Kozłowska and Tomasz Woźniak. It was a truly interdisciplinary meeting which brought closer together not only scholars but also languages that were discussed: English, Polish, Spanish, German, French, Russian, Arabic, Hebrew, Irish and Danish.

May we take this opportunity to thank all the participants of the conference, the MCSU authorities, the contributors of this special

issue and all the reviewers who have kindly devoted their valuable time to reviewing the submitted papers.

The first article in this issue is **Krzysztof Jaskuła's** "The /r/ which dies hard – a diachronic look at the developments of the rhotic sound in selected Celtic, Germanic and Romance languages", in which selected developments of the /r/ sound from different languages are described and exemplified. The author approaches the issue from a diachronic perspective. **Weronika Markowska's** "Фонодидактика русских [p] и [p'] в контексте холистического мультимодального подхода" discusses the Russian [r] and [rʲ] and the problems that these sounds may cause for the learner. Drawing from the works of Jolanta Szpyra-Kozłowska, Markowska offers phonodidactic solutions on how to deal with the problems. **Bartosz Pietrzak's** paper entitled "Rhotic   phonemes   in   Semitic   languages – the case of Classical Arabic and Biblical Hebrew" investigates rhotic phonemes /r/ and /ġ/ in Classical Arabic and Biblical Hebrew. The phonemes under discussion do not appear to have shared the same fate in the history of the phonologies of Semitic languages in general. In   his   contribution   entitled   "Can   phonemes   be   considered troublemakers? The case of the Danish /r/" **Mikołaj Sobkowiak** deals with the contribution of the /r/ sound to the overall complexity of the Danish   sound   system.   The   author   presents   various   phonetic phenomena in which the Danish /r/ appears (e.g. r-colouring, fusion of /r/ with adjacent vowels, interaction between /r/ and /ə/) and discusses the difficult relations between Danish orthography and pronunciation. In **Piotr Sorbet's** "Consideraciones acerca de las consonantes róticas" we find a discussion on the subject of Spanish rhotic consonants as well as the methodological and descriptive problems associated with them. **Jolanta Szpyra-Kozłowska** in her "The rhotic in fake and authentic Polish-accented English" explores the realizations of the /r/ sound as found in artificial and genuine deliveries of Polish-accented English of several foreign actors and actresses from the film *The Zookeeper's Wife*, and in authentic speech samples obtained from 25 Polish learners of English. **Zygmunt Tęcza's** primary aim in his "Die /r/-Allophone in der modernen deutschen Phonolexikographie" is to

look at the ways in which the main consonantal and vocalic realizations of /r/ of contemporary German are treated in four modern German pronunciation dictionaries. Finally, **Artur Tworek's** paper "Artikulatorische Vielfalt des /r/-Phonems im heutigen Standarddeutschen" draws attention to the complex articulatory realisations of the /r/ sound in present-day German.

We wish you good reading!

Editors