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Reviews *Comptes rendus*

Randall Gess, Chantal Lyche, and Trudel Meisenburg (eds.). 2012. *Phonological Variation in French: Illustrations from three continents*. In the series *Studies in language variation*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins. Pp. vii + 397. US\$158.00 (hardcover).

Reviewed by Samantha Cornelius, *University of Texas at Arlington*

Due to the global nature of French, it is impossible to talk about a single unified French language. French has spread from Europe to North America, Africa, and Asia, and has produced a number of geographically bound phonological variations. In order to best capture this variation, the *Phonologie du Français Contemporain* (PFC) project was started in 2000, the goal of which is to “build a reference corpus for French spoken throughout the world” (p. 10). The point of reference for this variation in the PFC project is “français de référence” (FR), or the language as it is taught to foreign language learners. The data collected, therefore, can be measured against FR, or other varieties of French, to demonstrate the considerable diversity of French phonology, as well as to get a better picture of the global diachronic changes, such as phoneme mergers and behaviors of schwa in all positions.

The PFC protocol calls for speakers to read a set word list and a short text. In addition to the reading tasks, speakers are also recorded in formal and informal conversational contexts with interlocutors who speak the same variety. The variation in consonant and vowel inventories, in the behaviors of schwa and liaison, and in the prosody, are of interest to researchers of phonology in French. With this in mind, the PFC materials are designed to highlight phonemic contrasts (e.g., *beauté* vs. *botté*), characterize phonetic distribution, and create environments that demonstrate the presence or absence of schwa and liaison.

This volume consists of fourteen chapters, the first being an introduction to the text and the PFC project, and the last being a discussion of general trends seen in the data. The intervening twelve chapters are divided into three parts: Africa, Europe, and North America. The introductory chapter lays out the phonology of FR: the consonant and vowel inventories, and the expected behaviors of schwa and liaison. In this section, the editors also discuss the factors which affect French prosodic variation, such as vowel length and pitch. The PFC project is also introduced in this chapter, including its history and methodology. Finally, the editors provide a brief overview of the book’s structure.

Each chapter of the book, excluding the introduction and the conclusion, has approximately the same internal format. First, the status and history of French in a particular area is discussed. Relevant factors to each variety (e.g., language status, language contact, and age of speakers) and their potential effect on the variety are discussed. Then, the speaker information (age, sex, education, other language(s) spoken) and data collection process is given. The final portion of each chapter, and the bulk of the material, is dedicated to a description of the variety's consonant and vowel inventories, behaviors of schwa and liaison, and prosody.

The first part, "Africa", contains three chapters. Each chapter in this section looks at the impact of African languages on French, which is an official language of many African countries, but is not predominantly spoken at home. The first chapter looks at French spoken in the Central African Republic (CAR) with multilingual speakers. Bordal notes that, since French is the language of instruction in the CAR, it was necessary to limit the pool of speakers to just those who "most often in everyday communication" spoke Sango, an Adamawa-Ubangi language and official language of CAR (p. 27). In the second chapter, Boutin, Gess and Guève tackle the variety of French spoken by Wolof speakers in Senegal. The third chapter discusses French spoken in Bamako, Mali, using speakers of five typologically distinct African languages: Bambara, Fulfulde, and Syenara from the Niger-Congo family, Songhay from the Nilo-Saharan family, and Tamachek from the Afroasian family. In this chapter, Lyche and Skattum focus on the ways Bamako French differs based on speakers' different L1s.

All three chapters show the effects of African languages on French. Since French is in contact with many languages in Africa, exactly how these effects manifest differs from one variety to another. Speakers of Bamako French, for example, replace the uvular rhotic of FR with the alveolar trill (a segment present in the contact languages), while in Senegal, French gains an ATR distinction from Wolof. These chapters also look at changes in phonotactics and syllabification due to very different constraints on syllable shapes in the contact languages. Like with segmental variation, which strategy is employed to remedy illicit syllable structure depends on the L1 of the speaker: speakers of Wolof use epenthetic vowels, Malian speakers use consonant deletion, and Bangui speakers use both strategies. Chapter 3, which discusses five different contact languages from three language families in Mali, is best able to speak to L1 affects overall. Since it deals with a French variety spoken in a single city, it can highlight the direct relationship between a speaker's L1 and Bamako French in a way that comparing geographically distinct varieties cannot.

The second part, "Europe", has four chapters. The first chapter in this part looks at what Coquillon and Turcsan call "Southern French" as it is spoken in Marseille. The second chapter by Hambye and Simon focuses on the markedness of Belgian French, proposing that prosody is the defining and unifying feature of the French spoken throughout Belgium. This chapter suffers from a very limited pool of informants. Hambye and Simon attempt to characterize the speech of the whole country by using speakers from three geographically distinct regions of Belgium, but all of their speakers are male and from one age group (30 to 55 years of age). The third chapter examines the French of young Parisians. Hansen uses nine 18 to 26 year old

speakers who were born and raised in Paris proper or the Parisian suburbs. She argues that the data presented in this chapter could be characteristic of the FR of the future, because the speakers of this variety “live in the capital that has been associated with the pronunciation norm” (p. 169). The final chapter in this part describes the variety of Swiss French spoken in the Neuchâtel canton. Racine and Andreassen compare the Neuchâtel variety to both FR and PFC data from the city of Nyon in the nearby canton of Vaud. Like the first part, this chapter looks at language contact in the Swiss French variety, due to its proximity to Swiss German.

The third part, “North America”, has five chapters. As in the first part, “Africa”, language contact appears to be an important factor in phonological variation in North America; since this part looks at varieties of French in Canada and the United States, the contact language is English.

The first chapter in this part deals with Acadian French in New Brunswick. Chichoki makes sure to distinguish this variety from Laurentian French, or the French associated primarily with Québec. Chichoki shows that this New Brunswick variety of French, called Tracadie French, has several borrowings from English (/tʃ, dʒ, ɪ/), and shares certain vocalic processes with Québec French, such as high vowel laxing and devoicing, and assibilation. The next chapter describes Laurentian French; Côté carried out her survey in Trois-Rivières, Québec, though the variety is spoken throughout Québec and Canada (as discussed in the fourth chapter in this part). Her survey “offers preliminary documentation and analysis of certain underdescribed or previously unnoticed aspects of Laurentian phonology”, such as schwa avoidance (p. 268). In the third chapter, Klingler and Lyche discuss Cajun French and the relationship between this variety and English, as well as other historical French varieties in the Louisiana region; lexical variation is also taken into account in this variety, and the PFC protocol was modified to highlight phonemic distinctions, using words that exist in Cajun French. The fourth chapter also looks at Laurentian French, though Tennant’s study was done outside of Québec, in Ontario. Tennant focuses on prosody, using this data to see the influence of English on the rhythmic structure of Laurentian French. The final chapter in this part describes the French spoken in Alberta; Walker especially focuses on the Anglophone context of French spoken in this province. Much attention is paid to ways Albertan French conforms with phonology of Laurentian French, though assimilated and unassimilated loan words are common.

The organization of this third part is not the most intuitive; there are two Canadian French chapters, followed by the Cajun French chapter and then two more Canadian French chapters. With this organization, the varieties are organized by their geography from east to west, but the two Laurentian French chapters end up on either side of the Cajun French chapter. If the reader is interested in individual chapters, this organization is irrelevant, but when reading the whole part with the chapters in this order, it is strange to have the two Laurentian French sections broken up.

The introduction points out that this book is “the first book-length, English-language presentation of results stemming from” the PFC project (p. 1). The data collection and presentation of the twelve varieties of French in the book benefit from the shared methodology and focus of the PFC project. Due to this shared methodology and similar formatting of chapters, it is easy to compare the attested phonological

variation between one variety and another in this volume. This book is necessary reading for anyone interested in carrying out their own PFC survey, as well as for those interested in the phonology of specific varieties of French. More information about the PFC project can be found at www.projet-pfc.net.

Liliane Rodriguez et André Lapierre (dir.). 2013. *D'est en ouest : La variation du français au Canada*. Winnipeg : Presses universitaires de Saint-Boniface. Pp. xi + 368. 42,00 \$ (broché).

Compte rendu par Carmen L. LeBlanc, *Carleton University*

Cet ouvrage contient les actes du neuvième colloque « Français de France — Français du Canada » qui s'est tenu à Winnipeg (pour la première fois hors-Québec). En plus de la présentation et la conclusion, on trouve dix-sept contributions regroupées sous six thèmes, auxquels ont été ajoutés quatre textes issus des activités tenues en marge du colloque. À l'instar des travaux entrepris en dialectologie, les traits de prononciation et de vocabulaire sont des sujets particulièrement saillants.

1. LA VARIATION GÉOLINGUISTIQUE

Dans son article, « Variation géolinguistique : Influence de l'italien sur le français et l'anglais dans la gastronomie au Canada : le cas de la cucina povera », Béatrice Bagola, traite de l'interculturalité. Après une brève histoire de la cuisine, de l'émigration et de l'implantation italiennes au pays, elle aborde l'organisation des quartiers, avec leurs bouchers, boulangers et autres épiciers, signes de l'importance accordée à la cuisine. Enfin, le vocabulaire propre aux pâtes illustre comment la gastronomie italienne a enrichi la langue autant que la culture.

Dans sa contribution, « La perception de la variation géolinguistique chez les Acadiens de la Côte-Nord (Québec) », Anika Falkert analyse l'attitude des non-spécialistes envers les autres variétés de français et leur capacité à identifier ces variétés. La région ciblée comprend une population autochtone, québécoise et acadienne. Au final, les liens historiques et linguistiques entre les participants et le parler des Îles de la Madeleine ressortent et leur attitude envers les différentes variétés est généralement positive ou neutre.

Hans-Josef Niederehe fait un historique du colloque depuis ses débuts en 1987 intitulé, « Les études de la variation géolinguistique du français au Canada : Aspects historiques et méthodologiques ». Chaque volet est illustré par des citations tirées de communications effectuées au cours des éditions. Les problématiques traitées sont les sources et la distribution spatio-temporelle de la variation dans une perspective comparative France-Canada, souvent à l'aide d'atlas linguistiques. L'auteur propose de s'inspirer du travail de Gerhard Rohlfs sur les langues romanes pour aborder les particularités et défis de la recherche géolinguistique au Canada.

2. AUTOUR DE L'Atlas linguistique de l'est du Canada (ALEC)

Comme l'indique son titre, Patrice Brasseur étudie « La place de l'étymologie populaire dans les dénominations québécoises du sizerin flammé ». Outre *sizerin*, attesté