

## ANALYSES OF FRENCH ACCENT.

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A series of French sentences, composed by the present contributor and spoken by three French subjects, has been analysed at the Institute. The vowels in cue words were measured with regard to spectral composition, duration, intensity, and fundamental frequency. This material is to supplement the data published in an earlier article on French accent (1). The vowels occurring in the original material were both stressed and unstressed and both short and long. The short vowels mostly appeared in open syllables, and when occurring finally these were very difficult to measure since it could not be determined how much of the final phase recorded by the instruments is actually perceived by the human ear. The supplementary material is composed in the same way, but now all the short vowels occur in closed syllables, so that they can be delimited. Furthermore, the unstressed syllables of the new material are distributed in such a way that the subjects have been prevented from pronouncing them stressed by mistake, as it sometimes happened in the original material.

- A series of spectrograms (wide, narrow, and cross-sections) of a selection of sentences from the gramophone records belonging to Mme Léon's French Pronunciation Exercises (2) has been taken at the Institute. This material is intended as verification of the points of view advanced in a recent article (3) in the tome II, fasc. 1, of the Revue Romane (Copenhagen, 1967). In this article it is claimed that, contrary to the traditional view, the accent of French is a word accent which is not bound to the final syllable. This implies that the so-called mute e should be regarded as a neutralisation of all the other vowels in the unaccented position. This view is tenable only if the appearance of mute e in accented syllables is excluded. However, some phoneticians count with a mute e even in this position as something different from /ø/ and /œ/. We hope to show on the basis of the material under analysis that only /ø/ and /œ/ are found in the stressed position.

References:

- (1) Børge Spang-Thomsen, "L'accent en français moderne", Orbis Litterarum, Supplementum 3 (1963), pp. 181-208.
- (2) Monique Léon, Exercices systématiques de prononciation française (Paris, 1964). (Reviewed by BST in Moderna Språk (1966), pp. 116-129.)
- (3) B. Spang-Thomsen, "Accent fixe en français", Revue Romane II,1 (1967), pp. 69-80.