

## Language Works 8(2)

Summer is finally here, but before we leave the office, it is now time for yet another issue of the student journal, Language Works. And what an issue we have for you with, loaded with emojis and emotions, and a bit of phonetics to start out with! On behalf of the editorial team: Happy summer and happy reading.

### The articles in the current issue

We begin the current issue with a review paper by Ida Marie Thomsen Krarup summarizing the literature on multimodal second language (L2) phonetic training. In addition to auditive stimuli, phonetic training may include additional sensory modalities, which can potentially aid learners' ability to obtain new L2 speech categories. Examples of multi-sensory training in L2 speech typically examine audio-visual training, but Krarup is also interested in the potential benefits of tactile stimuli. With reference to phonetic training studies, Krarup argues that non-native speech perception is aided by multi-sensory input in some cases.

Our second article also examines the acquisition of L2 speech sounds, but Andreas F. K. Østergaard addresses the topic empirically when investigating how Danish learners of Spanish produce the Spanish unvoiced stop consonants /p, t, k/ and the voiced stop consonants /b, d, g/. He records Danish students of Spanish producing sentence initial Spanish stop consonants and obtains acoustic measurements of their productions, which he then compares to those of a native speaker. Østergaard finds that most of the Danish students fail to produce voiced Spanish stops with a negative voice onset time (i.e., the time between start of vocal fold vibration and the release of the stop consonant), but rather, their productions of Spanish /b, d, g/ are likely influenced by phonetic transfer from the L1 Danish /b, d, g/ categories.

And now we venture on to something completely different! Our third article examines whether emojis are an independent mechanism of hate speech or if they serve as an auxiliary device. In a corpus study of Russian online social media sites, Sofii Lazareva finds that emojis are not in and of themselves used to convey hateful messages, but they are rather used to clarify the intended message by an online user. Lazareva reports that the use of emojis can serve a number of (potentially) hateful purposes such as asserting dominance over others or marking dehumanizing humor. The study highlights that the usage of emojis is context-dependent, and Lazareva supports her claim with culture specific examples of insensitive messages about the Russian-Ukrainian war.

Make love, not war...! In the next article, Katrine Bragh Andersen examines how interlocutors may discursively construct their narrative when engaging in difficult and honest conversations about romantic relationships. In the study, Andersen does so by analyzing excerpts from an episode of a popular podcast series, "Hjerteflimmer for voksne", in which topics about love, relationships, and everything in between are discussed openly and honestly by two guests, a host, and a professional

therapist. Through a conversational analytic approach, Andersen demonstrates that speakers who verbalize sentiments that may be considered taboo often pre-announce a moral stance toward their own “problem story”, and that the interlocutors show their support to the problem teller in the way they actively participate in the conversation.

Our final contribution to the current issue also involves love and war, albeit in a metaphorical sense. Lea Elias Isen examines the discourse used on German online pickup forums – websites on which men share tips on how to seduce women. Isen classifies the most frequent metaphors and finds that the male so-called pickup-artists employ language that is otherwise common in the domains of *military action*, *financial transactions*, and *gambling* when communicating about ways to engage with women. Isen suggests that these source domains, which typically involve winners and losers, are not limited to online data, but rather are extensions of tendencies in discourse on heterosexual relations at large.

### **Your article in the next issue?**

Do you have a good idea or a project that could interest others? As a student, you may have an essay that could be turned into an article. As a teacher, you may have supervised or assessed an essay that you think could become a good article. Or perhaps you have participated in a conference, workshop, seminar, or course that could be the basis for a thematic section/special issue of Language Works? We are looking for articles of quality, but what you submit does not have to be perfect. We promise that we as editors will help you improve your article if you send it to us. All articles will get a review from an expert with suggestions for changes and improvements. So, it takes work to publish, but this is also a good way of improving your communication competences. We prefer that you write your article in English or Danish/Norwegian/Swedish, but should you wish to write in another language, talk to us about it. Contact us if you have a draft, or just an idea, for an article. Contact information and information about content and format of articles as well as deadlines can be found on this page.