

## Language Works 10(1)

Dear reader. Welcome to the Journal of Language Works. For ten years now we have helped ambitious students at Danish universities publish linguistic articles, and we are pleased to see that the interest for this national cooperation persists. Perhaps you are already off on your summer break, or perhaps you are reading this just upon returning to your studies? In this issue you will find four new articles from linguistics students from Aarhus University and the University of Copenhagen. They touch upon themes such as dialects, accents, language attitudes, digital communication, language change and corpus linguistics. We hope you will find them both interesting and inspiring.

The Language Works Editorial team wishes you a lovely summer and a pleasant read.

### THE ARTICLES IN THIS ISSUE

In the first article by *Malene Brix Ley* you can read about the use of different accents in the game Dungeons & Dragons. The voice actor Matt Mercer is a skilled Dungeon Master, who guides the game in the web series Critical Role. The article describes how he modifies his pronunciation during the game as he portrays different NPCs (non-playable characters). The study focuses on which accents are typically associated with good (allies) and evil (antagonists) building on Lippi-Greens seminal work on language attitudes and particularly how linguistic stereotypes can be reproduced and repeated on TV and in the media.

You can then move on to *Monica Aznar Jensen* and *Samuel Bartholdy Bruun*, who have gotten access to private group chats on social media where they investigate friend groups' written communication. In their study, they analyse the communicative function of the use of emojis and emoticons as well as non-standard orthography and the written rendition of laughter. Using interviews with the senders, the authors illuminate the many nuances conveyed by digital written language in these specific contexts.

The Danish "stød" is an important element of Danish phonology and phonetics, which distinguishes words such as "bønner"(beans) and "bønder"(peasants). In the third article, *William Alexander Rasmussen* seeks to describe the phonetic realisation of "stød" in Jutlandic dialect. To do so, he uses a series of recordings designed to make informants pronounce different words containing "stød" (e.g. "bønder", peasants). In his analysis, Rasmussen shows the acoustic realisation of "stød" which can be characterised as a glottal stop, creaky voice or a falling tone. The tonal realisation of East Jutlandic "stød" has previously been described for the dialect from Aarhus (Kyst 2008) and in this study Rasmussen demonstrates that it is also produced by speakers from other areas of Jutland.

In the last article, *Anna-Merete Thinggaard* dives into the strengths and weaknesses of corpus analysis. Using the BNC (British National Corpus) English language corpus, she analyses the assigned case of personal pronouns in English comparative sentences. Focusing on the comparison

particles “than” and “as”, she specifically examines variations of comparison constructions such as “she is taller than *me*” or “she is taller than *I*”. She notes that although the English pronouns in comparison phrases often have the oblique case, certain conditions tend to promote a relatively more frequent occurrence of nominative case (e.g. “I”, “he”, “she”). Thinggaard points to the specific comparison construction, the text’s genre and the personal pronoun as factors that contribute to the use of nominative rather than oblique case in English comparative phrases.

## YOUR ARTICLE IN THE NEXT ISSUE?

Do you also have a good idea for an article? Are you a student with a recent exam paper that could be rewritten into an article? Or have you recently supervised or graded a paper that you believe could be turned into an article? Or maybe you have organised or participated in a course, seminar or workshop which could become the basis for a thematic issue? Language Works is looking for high quality papers, and our contributors will unanimously agree that the process of improving an article before publication requires considerable work. At the same time, we wish for Language Works to be a good journal for first time contributors. We are aware that students are not acquainted with the academic publication process. If you have a good idea and are willing to put in the necessary work to properly convey it, we want to help you write your article. We prefer to receive contributions in English, Danish, Norwegian and Swedish, but do reach out to us, if you wish to publish in another language. Please contact us if you have an idea or a draft for an article. Our contact information and guidelines for article scope and content are available on our website.