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**[Gimson, A.C. An introduction to the pronunciation of English]**

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<sup>3</sup> Srv. S. Ivančev, *Nabljudenija vărču upotrebata na člena v bälgarski ezik. Bälg. ezik VII, kn. 6, s. 499—524*, a jiné práce téhož autora; S. Stojanov, *Upotreba i značenie na opredelitel'nija člen v sävremennija bälgarski knižoven ezik, Godišnik na Sofijskija univ., fil. fak. LIII, 2, 3—128 aj.*

<sup>4</sup> Např. L. Miletič, *Udvojovane na objekta v bälgarskija ezik ne e balkanizäm, Spisanie na BAN 56, s. 1—20*, a mnoho jiných.

<sup>5</sup> Např. K. Kärđziev, *Stročë v bälgarskata reč, Izvestija na Instituta za bälgarski ezik V, 61—132, tamtéž VII, 95—136*; S. Szober, *Edin osnoven princip na nareždane na dumite v bälgarskoto izrečenie, Sbornik v čest na prof. L. Miletič, Sofia 1933, s. 77n.*

<sup>6</sup> Srv. E. Češko, *K izučeníju bezpredložnych sočetańij v sovremennom bälgarskom literaturnom zyke, jazyke, Sbornik v čest na akad. A. Teodorov—Balan, 1955, s. 425—436 aj.*

<sup>7</sup> Srv. M. Rožnovskaja, *Bezličnyje predložennija v sovremennom bälgarskom literaturnom ja-voprosy grammatiki bälgarskogo literaturnogo jazyka, Moskva 1959, s. 379—432.*

<sup>8</sup> Srv. M. Moskov, *Käm väprosa za obstojatelstvenite izrečennija v bälgarskija ezik, Bälgarski ezik IX, kn. 3, s. 246—251*; Čolakova, *Käm väprosa za dopälnitel'nite izrečennija v sävremennija bälgarski knižoven ezik, Bälg. ezik X, kn. 5, s. 402—409.*

<sup>9</sup> Např. *Za säglasuvaneto po čislo v njakoji slučaji. Bälg. ezik I, kn. 3—4, 228—229*; *Za njakoji po-osobeni slučaji na sintaktičnoto säglasuvane na skazuemoto s podloga, Bälgarski ezik i literatura 1960, kn. 1, s. 9—19 aj.*

<sup>10</sup> O tom v. J. Bauer, *Několik poznámek o pojmech slovní spojení, včetně dvojice, syntagma. Sborník prací fil. fak. brněnské university ř. A, I, s. 26—57.*

<sup>11</sup> Rozbor této otázky je ve stati L. Miletič, *Sintaktični väprosi, Učilišten pregled IV; 1899, s. 800n.*, zčásti i I. Atanasov, *Kritičen pregled na literatura i učebnicite po bälgarski sintaksis, Izvestija na slavjanskija seminar v Sofia IV, 316—376.*

<sup>12</sup> Např. v mluvnicku L. Andrejčoin, *Osnovna bälgarska gramatika, Sofia 1944*; Andrejčoin—Ivanov—Popov, *Bälgarska gramatika, Sofia 1957 aj.*

<sup>13</sup> Např. *Sovremennij russkij jazyk — sintaksis, Moskva 1958*; A. Gvozdev, *Sovremennij russkij literaturnij jazyk*,<sup>2</sup> Moskva 1961 aj. V češtině podle F. Trávníčka jiná slovesa než *byti* se dnes obyčejně za spony vůbec neuznávají.

<sup>14</sup> *Mluvnice spisovné češtiny II, 1951, s. 687—696.*

Vladimír Šaur

A. C. Gimson: *An Introduction to the Pronunciation of English*, Edward Arnold (Publishers), London 1962, XV + 294 pp., 30 s.

After an introductory word on communication (Chapter 1), the First Part of Mr. Gimson's book deals with the sounds of speech, first from the physiological aspect (Ch. 2), then from the acoustic and auditory aspects (Ch. 3), offering in addition to a purely phonetic classification of the sounds (Ch. 4) an account of their linguistic (phonemic) application in language (Ch. 5). Part Two opens with a historical survey of the phonetic studies in England and with notes on the historical development of English (Ch. 6); it contains the two longest and perhaps most important chapters of the book (Ch's 7 and 8), respectively devoted to present-day English vowels and consonants. Part Three treats of the phonetic and the phonemic make-up of the word (Ch. 9) and of the phenomena called forth by connected speech (Ch's 10 and 11).

Mr. G.'s work is a valuable addition to the series of the well-known books on the phonetics of British English written by Prof. D. Jones (*An Outline of English Phonetics*, 8th ed., 1956) and the members of his group (I. C. Ward, *The Phonetics of English*, 4th ed., 1948; P.A.D. MacCarthy, *English Pronunciation*, 4th ed. 1952). Mr. G., too, belongs to this group of phoneticians and has for a long time been on the staff of the Phonetics Department, University College, London (formerly headed by Prof. D. Jones, now by Prof. D. B. Fry). His book is to be warmly recommended for several reasons.

Mr. G. rightly claims that it 'sets out to place the phonetics of British English in a larger framework than has been customary' (p. v). One of the features contributing towards such a larger framework is Mr. G.'s constant regard to the results of research achieved in the field of acoustic phonetics by means of spectrographic (or rather, sonographic) analysis. This is in keeping with the importance of the acoustic aspect of speech; it is indeed the sounds — 'the spoken medium' (ibid.) — that are to be regarded as primary conveyers of communication (cf. J. Vachek, *Dvě významné fonologické publikace za hranicemi, Slovo a slovesnost 19/1958, p. 55*).

Another such feature of the book is its consistent attention to the phonemic interpretation of the discussed present-day English sounds. Although an adherent of the Prague

Linguistic Group may not subscribe to the author's liberal justification of the possible diversity of phonemic solutions (e. g., pp. 45—46), he will appreciate that the temptation has been resisted 'to apply to British English a logical, elegant, and economical phonemic analysis such as is now commonplace in the United States, involving a very much simplified phonemic notation' (p. v). He will appreciate it all the more so as the author's phonemic interpretations are based on a thorough inquiry into the phonetic reality. In fact, this procedure, for instance, induces the author to prefer for his own purposes the monophonematic interpretation of the present-day English *I-* and *U-*diphthongs to the biphonematic one, due regard being paid by him to the importance of the glidal character of these diphthongs for phonemic interpretation. Although phonemics is not the primary concern of the author, consistent and well-founded attention to phonemic interpretation enhances the value of his book considerably.

[The same preference for monophonematic interpretation is shown in regard to the centring diphthongs, though the question may be raised whether they should not be interpreted as biphonematic. As J. Vachek has shown—in his monograph *Über die phonologische Interpretation der Diphthonge mit besonderer Berücksichtigung des Englischen*, Prague Studies in English 4, Facultas philosophica univ. Carolinae Pragensis, Prague 1933, p. 128 ff. and quite recently in his paper *The Phonematic Status of Modern English Long Vowels and Diphthongs*, *Philologica Pragensia* 6/1963, p. 65—the centring diphthongs differ from the *I-* and *U-*diphthongs in that they display relatively small oscillation of their beginning and ending points, [ə] being moreover clearly recognized as their second component. It is not without interest to note that this relatively small oscillation of the two points is borne out by the diagrams that Mr. G. adduces in illustration of the phonetic realizations of the diphthongs. While it is the relatively low degree of such oscillation that makes it possible to use with convenience only one diagram for all the three centring diphthongs (p. 136), the relatively high degree of oscillation characteristic of the non-centring diphthongs makes it necessary to employ one diagram for each diphthong of this kind (pp. 122—131).]

Another item of the larger framework are the notes on the historical background of the present-day English sound system. Even here—at least in the chapter dealing with the history of English sounds in general—due regard is paid to phonemics (cf. pp. 69—71), emphasis being laid on the important part played by the relationships of phonemes in the course of historical development. (The wording, however, that 'by 1600 [ME—J.F.] /i:/ had diphthongized and the remaining vowels [i. e. /i:, e:, ə:, a:—J.F.] closed up' (p. 70) obscures the fact that the diphthongization is certainly of a much earlier date, probably dating back to the 14th century. See on this point B. Trnka's paper *A Phonemic Aspect of the Great Vowel-Shift* in *Mélanges de linguistique et de philologie de Fernand Mossé* in *Memoriam*, Paris 1959, pp. 440—443, giving a new account of their phonetic and phonemic causes of the Great Vowel Shift, an account that a future edition of the *Introduction* might find well worth adopting.—In fact Mr. G. himself holds that the ME pure vowel [i:] showed diphthongization in late ME (p. 126).) The notes the book passes on the historical background cannot obviously go into detail, but their very presence is welcome. They remind the reader of the necessity to look upon language as a dynamic, not a static phenomenon.

But it is not only these diachronic passages that assist the reader in viewing the described spoken form of English, the so-called Received Pronunciation, in proper perspective. Synchronically speaking, the same purpose is served in that the author takes account of non-RP counterparts of the described sounds, not to speak of the variants, including the conservative and advanced ones, within RP itself. All this helps to set up the mentioned larger framework of the book, making new trends within RP stand out all the more clearly and heightening the practical usefulness of the book to a large extent.

It should be added that part of the larger framework is also the author's able account of the phonetic studies in England. It would not perhaps have been out of place if a note had been appended on the work done in English phonetics outside England, and some brief information added on the work done in phonemics.

Both the research worker and the language learner will appreciate the wealth of information on RP and the lucid and accurate way in which it is presented. Let us at least mention at random the very instructive treatment of the lenis—fortis opposition (duly stressing the importance of this opposition both from the theoretical and from the practical point of view), the competent account of the instability of English alveolar

articulations, the interesting remarks on the interplay of pitch, stress, quality and quantity in bringing about prominence. Of special interest are the innovations in R.P. (The quality of /ɔ:/ is getting closer; short /ɔ/, transcribed as *v*, is nearing to /a:/; so is the beginning of the diphthong (au), transcribed as *av*; the beginning of the diphthong (ou), transcribed as *əv*, has assumed a centralized quality; etc.) It would not have been a bad idea to issue one or two gramophone records illustrating at least some of the variants and some other important phenomena dealt with by the book.

To sum up, Mr. A. C. Gimson's *Introduction to the Pronunciation of English* is a highly valuable contribution to the study of both English phonetics and English phonemics.

Jan Firbas

**Geoffrey Chaucer: Ausgewählte Canterbury Erzählungen englisch und deutsch.** Mit Einleitung und Erklärungen herausgegeben von Prof. Dr. Martin Lehnert. Halle (Saale), VEB Verlag Sprache und Literatur, 1962. Pp. XVI + 192 + \*189.

German students of English cannot complain of insufficient supply of handbooks and textbooks published by their own scholars. Prof. M. Lehnert, of the Humboldt University of Berlin, has devoted much time and energy to providing such handbooks. After his well-known anthology of Old English prose and poetry, his small but very efficient grammar of Old English, and his little *Beowulf* reader,<sup>1)</sup> Prof. Lehnert is now producing a volume which will be just as welcome as the above-enumerated handbooks but at the same time outsteps the limits of a mere students' manual. His anthology of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* contains the General Prologue and eight of the tales, most illustrative for the social relations and general atmosphere of Chaucer's period: *The Miller's Tale*, *the Reeve's Tale*, *The Cook's Tale*, *The Wife of Bath's Tale*, *The Friar's Tale*, *the Summoner's Tale*, *the Pardoner's Tale*, and *the Shipman's Tale*.

The text is given in two parallel versions, in Middle English and in Modern German: as the two versions are regularly placed on the opposite pages, the corresponding passages can be comfortably compared. Numerous footnotes explain both less known lexical items and such contextual passages as are difficult to grasp for the present-day reader. The German version of the text was modelled on W. Hertzberg's translation of as early as 1866, but also later translations were consulted, (such as A. v. Düring 1886, and J. Koch 1925), and in some instances—which, unfortunately, have not been identified in the text—Prof. Lehnert's own modern translation was attempted. The editor also provided the Preface containing not only valuable information about the literary aspects of the book but also an apt outline of the social context in which Chaucer's heroes lived and acted. A selected bibliographical list of post-1945 books and papers concerned with Chaucerian problems increases the usefulness of the volume.

Josef Vachek

<sup>1)</sup> The last-mentioned two manuals were published in the well-known Göschen collection and reviewed by the present reviewer in the *Časopis pro moderní filologii* 42, 1960, pp. 49—50.