

**BOOK REVIEW,
LIZICA MIHUȚ, *FONETICS AND FONOLGY*,**

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Abstract: *In this article I would like to underline the importance of the book *Phonetics and Phonology*, for our students. While preserving the general structure of Romanian grammar, the author has substantially expanded its scope to introduce several topics that is very important to know in order to use a correct language, and to take account of new developments in linguistic rules over the past decade. The resulting work is an invaluable guide to the subject, offering clarifications of its specialized terms and explaining its relationship to formal and contemporary grammar. With its clear and accessible style it will appeal to a wide student readership.*

Keywords: *Phonetics and Phonology, Romanian grammar, contemporary grammar.*

In the context of current Romanian linguistic research, the book *Phonetics and Phonology*, published by University "Aurel Vlaicu" of Arad, responds to an increasingly acute requirement for Phonetics works, appeared in the horizon of expectations, both of linguists and of general public, too.

Based on an extensive current bibliography, the book is divided into six chapters that describe the defining aspects of Romanian Phonetics, in an outstanding synthesis including: language as a system of signs, general aspects of sound and phoneme, the vocalic and consonantal Romanian language system, and, also, spelling key issues that regard the recent changes occurring into Romanian language as a result of new trends, of new rules imposed by *Dicționarul ortografic, ortoepic și morfologic al limbii române* (2005), and, of course, due to the English influence.

The first chapter, *Language as a system of signs*, focuses the whole approach in Saussure's theory of language vision, operating with classic dichotomies like *langue/ parole, conceptual image/acoustic image, synchronic/diachronic, sound/phoneme*.

However, communication is seen as complex semiotic process in which Phonetics and Phonology represent the first level of language study, the presemantic one.

The different types of Phonetics (generic, descriptive, synchronic, diachronic and experimental) are treated distinctively, but among these, functional Phonetics or Phonology owns a special place. The theoretical approach continues with the analysis of sound, the vocal tract operation in producing speech sounds and with the mechanism of perception of sounds. All these issues bring into discussion important theoretical aspects which the author is taking into account, finding enlightening explanations that are necessary, both for philologist and for philology student who cannot find such specifications in similar works of synthesis.

The presentation of the Romanian language phonological system opens with a deep insight into human speech sounds research, indicating significant stages in research process, from the nineteenth century P. J. Rousselot's experiments to the golden age of Phonology when

Saussure's disciples founded language schools. The author highlights the synchronization of Romanian language studies in the twentieth century with those from abroad, taking into account the importance and the modernity of Sextil Pușcariu or Al. Rosetti contributions.

The matter of accent in Romanian language and of its shifts as a result of borrowings from Romance languages, but also from Turkish or Slavic languages represents another exciting chapter of the book.

Spelling and its changes that are in an organic relation with Phonetics occupies an important space in the paper, the author highlights the essence of current trends related to the new rules contained in the second edition of *Dicționarul ortografic, ortoepic și morfologic al limbii române*. The section focused on orthography is comprehensive, covering issues related to the development of Romanian literary norms with reference to the dynamics of the twentieth century.

Orthographic issues are dealt with from the perspective of changes caused by the emergence of newly adapted neologisms according to *Dicționarul ortografic, ortoepic și morfologic al limbii române*. The overall vision is a constant of each issue treated that is why the author places these orthographic issues in the framework of the main directions of Romanian spelling from the beginning to the present days. Meanwhile, the issues covered make this chapter to be a section of language cultivation, the author noticing deviations from the norm and some errors made in the current language.

The basic principles of Romanian spelling and the types of orthographic systems that have marked the evolution of writing in Romanian language are presented with nuanced explanations that establish bridges between synchronic and diachronic aspects of Romanian language development. The spelling and punctuation marks are presented with detailed explanations that are supported with examples from Romanian classical writer's works.

Fonetică și fonologie by Lizica Mișuț is a work of high scientific rigor, a single appearance in the series of contemporary Romanian linguistics works that proves a special utility.

The high scientific altitude and the philological accuracy characterizing the work are doubled by the practical dimension of the paper that consists in a set of tests and exercises, which transforms the book into a useful contribution not only for linguists but also for teachers and students.