

Report on: participation in the *Rencontre 2013 du Réseau français de Phonologie* in Nantes, 1-3 July 2013, by Roland Noske

The annual meeting of the RFP) is an important event for French phonologists, because it is the only occasion to meet each other in France in a specifically phonological colloquium, This time there were no less than 6 invited speakers and 28 regular papers, divided over three days, with parallel session during the first two days. I found it frankly refreshing to see that in France, phonology is alive and kicking.

I found the contributions by Sophie Wauquier and Didier Demolin particularly interesting. Sophie Wauquier confronted the theory-driven assumptions of how infants acquire their language during the 1970's, 80's 90's with the development of developmental psycholinguistics during the same period. In developmental psycholinguistics, it became clear that there exist important typological variations between the language acquisition infant and that the child has extremely sophisticated multi-modal early cognitive capacities. This is a variance with the picture of acquisition suggested by linguistic theoreticians.

Didier Demolin (invited speaker) discussed nasal harmony processes in Guaraní and other South-American languages, showing that in a nasal vowel + stop sequence, there is a late velum closure, only in the final part of a stop, unlike what one witnesses in European languages. The late velum closure triggers a strong peak of nasalization at the end of the vowel as all the airflow goes through the nose at this time. Strong nasal vowels also appear before the alveolar tap. In nasal spans and words, the velum makes opening gestures to produce nasal consonants. In this case, the amount of nasal airflow is between the weak and strong pattern observed for vowels. A suggested possible explanation for these phenomena is that phonetic implementation is governed by certain constraints which limit the range of possible realizations; within this range, the speaker may control the minimization.

My own contribution on Kluge's Law met with considerable interest from Gabriel Bergiounoux, Andrew Nevins and Tobias Scheer. In all the reactions show that it is clear that the last word on the Germanic sounds shift has still not been said. Nevins questioned the plausibility of Kluge's Law (i.e. the total assimilation of *n* to a stop of a hetero-morphemic stop+*n* cluster.) As the change is well attested, I could not but tell this.