

## REFERENCES

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W e ł n a, J e r z y. *A critical survey of a historical phonology of English vowels (with special reference to Karl Luick's "Historische Grammatik der englischen Sprache")*. Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, 1987.

Professor Jerzy Wełna of Warsaw University is the author of currently widely known works on diachronic and synchronic English phonology [Wełna, 1978; 1982]. This time he has produced a book specially devoted to a critical analysis of Karl Luick's "Historische Grammatik der englischen Sprache" and his contribution to English historical phonetics. For decades, Karl Luick's historical grammar has been a mine of information for students of the history of English, a most important source of both concrete material and innovative ideas. Yet only in Professor Wełna's book do we receive a full critical account of Luick's views on the evolution of English vowels, comparing his theories of sound change in general, and English vowel changes in particular, with those of his predecessors, contemporaries and, especially, with modern investigators of English historical phonology. Jerzy Wełna's approach is far from being purely descriptive, as many original interpretations for selected controversial problems of English vowel change have been suggested in this book.

In addition to the "Historische Grammatik", Jerzy Wełna makes references to Luick's other monographs and articles as well.

Jerzy Wełna's study consists of four chapters: Chapter 1. *Introduction: Karl Luick and His Work* (p. 15-35), and the following three chapters, which deal respectively with Old English, Middle English, and Modern English vocalism - Chapter 2. *The Development of Vowels until the 11th Century* (p. 37-81); Chapter 3. *The Development of Vowels from the 11th Century until the 15th Century* (p. 83-122); Chapter 4. *The Development of Vowels from the 15th Century On* (p. 123-177). To these, short "Concluding Remarks" (p. 179-181) and extensive "References" (p. 183-203), which begin with Luick's works on English phonetics, are added.

The introduction is quite welcome since it provides us with information otherwise not so easily available about Luick's life, academic career and his works. It is worth reproducing at least some of these facts in the present review.

Karl Luick was born on January 27, 1865, in Floridsdorf, now part of Vienna. In 1884 he enrolled at Vienna University, where he began his studies of the German language (as a result, he published a few articles on the German language, and the monograph "Deutsche Lautlehre" in 1904). However, very soon his interests shifted towards English philology. His main interest was English metrics and its history, and his Habilitation dissertation was

"Der mittlenglische Stabreimvers des XIV. Jahrhunderts in seinem Verhältnis zum Altenglischen", still one of the principle works on Middle English prosody.

On graduation, Luick obtained a post at the University of Graz, where in 1893 he became Professor Extraordinarius, and in 1898 was promoted to Professor Ordinarius. Beginning with that period, English historical phonetics became the main sphere of his linguistic interests. The result of his diachronic studies was the publication of a series of articles, the most important of which were the instalments of his cycle "Beiträge zur englischen Grammatik" (I. *Anglia* 14, 1892, 268-302; II. *Anglia* 16, 1894, 451-511; III. *Anglia* 20, 1898, 335-362), and the two major works before "Historische Grammatik"; the monographs "Untersuchungen zur englischen Lautgeschichte" (1896) and "Studien zur englischen Lautgeschichte" (1903).

In 1908 Luick returned to Vienna University where he was offered a chair as Professor of English. Meanwhile he began working on his historical grammar of English, the first instalment of which was published in 1914.

In 1925 Luick assumed the office of Rector of Vienna University.

Karl Luick died on September 20, 1935, leaving his "Historische Grammatik" unfinished.

Just like biographical data, equally informative is the editorial history of "Historische Grammatik". Luick must have conceived of writing a comprehensive historical grammar of English already before the Vienna period (1908). According to his initial intention, the historical grammar was to comprise phonetics, morphology, and syntax. In the course of time, however, Luick had to confine himself to phonetics. From the very beginning he realized the importance of both formulating the rules of sound change and disclosing their causes, much as it is emphasized in modern historical phonology.

"Historische Grammatik" began to appear in 1914 when the first two instalments, containing an introduction and the development of Old English vowels, were published. Seven years later three consecutive instalments describing the development of Middle English vowels were added. The final instalments on vocalism discussing Modern English vowel changes were published in 1929. In 1940 Luick's pupils Friedrich Wild and Herbert Koziol edited the part describing the development of consonants. The full version of the "Historische Grammatik" was reprinted in 1964 simultaneously in Oxford, Stuttgart and Cambridge, Mass. This reprint was supplemented with an index compiled by R. E. S. Hamer which replaced Wiessner's earlier register of words in the first nine instalments of the grammar.

In his "Introduction" (p. 23-34) Professor Wefna touches upon the question of the possible theoretical principles of Luick's approach to sound change and his contribution to the development of the science of sound change. First of all, Jerzy Wefna recapitulates what has been said of Karl Luick's theories by earlier investigators. However, he himself is not willing to go as far as to present Luick's approach as structuralist.

Within the limits of the present review it is possible to touch upon only a highly restricted number of the problems which are dealt with in the main parts of Wefna's book.

In Chapter 2 Professor Wefna concentrates mainly on Luick's account of Proto-Old English and Old English vowel changes. As Wefna duly points out, Luick's description of Indo-European and Proto-Germanic vowel systems is not particularly innovative. Therefore, only the West Germanic development of /eɪ:/ is treated at length. According to Luick's hypothesis, the Germanic

/e<sub>1</sub>:/ was lowered to /a:/ in the whole of West Germanic, just as it was lowered in Northern Germanic, subsequently to be raised to /æ:/ in West Saxon and further to /e:/ in Anglian and Kentish; before a nasal, this vowel was rounded to /o:/ [Wefna, 1987. P. 38]. Jerzy Wefna gives due attention to alternative treatments of the development of the Germanic /e<sub>1</sub>:/ as well, though he himself prefers Luick's hypothesis. Without going into details we would like, however, to adduce some additional evidence in favour of the front character of the main reflexes of /e<sub>1</sub>/, at least in definite periods of its development [see Steponavičius, 1987. § 137]. Firstly, in the earlier system of Proto-Germanic, before the rise of /e<sub>2</sub>/, the phoneme /e<sub>1</sub>:/ could be nothing but a front vowel:

i:	u:
e <sub>1</sub> :	ǣ: (<IE a: o:)

Secondly, in the later system of Proto-Old English its reflex (/æ<sub>1</sub>:/) must have been the condition of the change of /ai/ to the back /a:/, and thus had to be a front vowel [see Krupatkin, 1970].

On the other hand, Luick's hypothesis of the "brightening" of the Proto-Old English nonnasal /a/ seems to be well-founded from a structural point of view. Thus, as was stated above, in the later system of Proto-Old English, /æ<sub>1</sub>:/ caused the change of /ai/ to /a:/ with which it established an opposition as *front vs. back*:

i:
e <sub>2</sub> :
æ <sub>1</sub> :

It may be inferred from this that in the interim system of early Proto-Old English the reflex of /e<sub>1</sub>:/ was also *front*:

i:
e <sub>2</sub> :
e <sub>1</sub> :

Because of the front phonetic manifestation of the reflex of the long /e<sub>1</sub>:/ in Proto-Old English, the corresponding short vowel, the low nonnasal /a/, could also change its phonetic manifestation from /a/ to /æ/ and join the series of the front vowels:

i
e
æ

Thus Luick [1964, §115–118] must have been right in his hypothesis of the universal "brightening" of the Proto-Old English /a/, which only later on, under the paradigmatic pressure of the newly-established opposition /æ<sub>1</sub>:/–/a:/, developed the front and back allophones [æ]–[a], which finally were phonemized into the opposition /æ/–/a/ [Krupatkin, 1970].

Luick's explanation of the Proto-Old English development of the Germanic diphthongs /au/, /eu/, /iu/, and /ai/ is far from structuralist. Thus, he fails

to connect the development of /au/ to a diphthong with a front first element with the development of /eu/ and /iu/, in which gliding began at front vowels and continued in the direction of /u/ and whose pattern of phonetic manifestation had certainly caused the change of [au] to [æu] [cf. Steponavičius, 1987, § 136]. It is equally important to connect the development of /ai/ with the development of /e<sub>1</sub>/ (/æ<sub>1</sub>/). On the other hand, Luick was wrong to assume a causal link between these Proto-Old English restructurings of the Germanic diphthongs and the "brightening", which was a later change.

Luick's account of the "second brightening" is not satisfactory in that he fails to recognize the difference between the results of the changes of /a/, /æ/ (and /a<sup>n</sup>/) in West Mercian, on the one hand, and Kentish, on the other [cf. Steponavičius, 1987, § 145, 147-152]. In addition, he argues that the "second brightening" dates back to the period before i-umlaut, which is doubtful.

In Chapter 3 Jerzy Wefna reviews Luick's treatment of Old and Middle English vowel shortenings, transformations of Old English diphthongs, changes of the low vowels /æ(:)/ and /a(:)/, the rise and further restructuring of diphthongs in /-i/ and /-u/, rounding and unrounding of vowels, lengthening in open syllables and some minor syntagmatic vocalic changes. As Wefna [1987, P. 179] remarks, "Luick's theories of Middle English vowel changes, although least innovative, constitute the most reliable part of the grammar".

Chapter 4 is devoted to Luick's account of the Early and Late New English vowel changes, which are generalized by Luick under the headings of the Great Vowel Shift, the "Second Vowel Shift", and the "Third Vowel Shift", the two latter covering sets of processes in the short and long vowels /u/, /o/, /a(:)/, and /æ(:)/. Wefna appreciates the originality of this part of Luick's grammar, especially his excellent presentation of the Great Vowel Shift and such changes as the fronting of /a/, the lengthening of /a/ before fricatives, the rise of diphthongs before /l/ and the simplification of /ɔu/. Yet here, just like in the analysis of the previous parts of the grammar, Jerzy Wefna is far from "modernizing" Luick (he calls Luick's theories quasi-structural). He is especially critical of such theories as Luick's statement of the development of the Middle English /ū/ during the Great Vowel Shift, the shifts [u] > [ɔ] and [o] > [a], fragments of the hypothetical "Second Vowel Shift", as well as Luick's "Third Vowel Shift". However, this in no way belittles Luick's contribution to the development of English historical phonetics. Karl Luick remains one of the most eminent representatives of neo-grammarians linguistics and one of the most authoritative investigators of the history of English.

I must confess that I am most grateful to Professor Wefna for making ample references to my own works and to those of my colleagues, Olimpija Armalytė and Laima Zabulienė.

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