

The Complex Vowel Segment. A New Name: Tetraphtongs. Contextual Achievements

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Abstract

Throughout its dynamic evolution on the Romanian phonological territory, the vowel segment has suffered a series of expansions, from simple to complex, generating the current diphthongs and triphthongs. Historical phonetics does not mention all these phenomena, being prone to capitalize on the Latin heritage and not on the phonological loans. The current paradigm of the Romanian vowel system cannot neglect any neological loans, recorded in the latest Romanian dictionaries and considered as belonging, by extension, to Romanian language (the most self-evident example being DOOM2). Between theoretical and functional phonetics, as well as between the historical and the descriptive ones, there are a series of discrepancies, which the researchers adjust by omission, in order to avoid any disputes. Moreover, if it were to complete the paradigm of diphthongs and triphthongs, the Romanian phonetics does not take into account the tetraphthong, which is a group consisting of a vowel and three semivowels. This paper aims to achieve a complete picture, in which the description and contextualization of the complex vowel segment would be probative.

Keywords: *complex vowel segment , diphthongs, triphthongs, tetraphthongs*