

Abstract

We propose, in this article, a short view of the status of the French «E-muet». This vowel, which characteristic feature is instability, requires special attention. The instability of the «E-muet» emerges on different levels. On the one hand, the questions of the acoustic nature of this vowel and its place in the French phonological system are not definitely resolved. On the other hand, the segment [ə] can be either pronounced or omitted in the same unit of speech depending on various factors. Addressing the issues of distribution of the «E-muet» and its phonetic features is important for the purpose of more effective second language teaching.