

Re: History of French

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2004-09/2812.html>

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Date: 09/18/04

Date: Sat, 18 Sep 2004 07:09:04 +0200

Jacques Guy writes:

> *By pictures I suppose.*

Yes. I have some little diagrams prepared for this, and I may also draw pictures or illustrate visually on the spot.

The biggest problems I see are that students don't know how to produce the sound, and that they feel "funny" producing a sound they've never produced before. They don't actually have trouble articulating it, though, once it is carefully explained to them. We all have voluntary control over our tongues, lips, vocal folds, and so on, so when a student is told which part of the vocal tract to place in which configuration, it's pretty straightforward for him to do it.

The challenge is in getting him to practice this enough to make it automatic, so he doesn't have to think about it each time he does it.

> *Or by seeing it demonstrated, as a New-Hebridean native once demonstrated to me the difference between the two s's in his language, although he had no words for "grooved", "lamino-alveolar", "apico-alveolar", "unvoiced", and "tense".*

No special vocabulary is needed. You can show it with your hands. "Put your tongue like this" works very well.

> *As for "retroflex" that is an abominable term for "cacuminal".*

Why? At least it sounds more like what it means.

> *But alas, it has become the norm. BTW, I knew someone who could manage a retroflexed apico-nasal stop (my mother). See what I mean? <u>I</u> can only manage a retroflexed lamino-antidental one (and I am sure anybody can). Can you guess what it is?*

You can lick your lips, and she could touch her nose with her tongue, or something like that. I don't know if any languages actually use these articulations, though (?). (Nothing would surprise me, however.)

sci.lang: Re: History of French

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Transpose hotmail and mxsmanic in my e-mail address to reach me directly.