

Re: French verb conjugation: "je harcele"? or "je harcelle"?

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Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2008-03/msg01137.html>

- *From:* mb <azythos2@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 29 Mar 2008 22:23:29 -0700 (PDT)
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On Mar 29, 2:49 pm, "Brian M. Scott" <b.sc...@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Sat, 29 Mar 2008 14:35:08 -0700 (PDT), mb
<azyth...@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote in
<news:ab6fc7f1-bca5-4579-91f2-7cf5dbffc84f@xx>
in sci.lang:

On Mar 28, 3:41 pm, "Brian M. Scott" <b.sc...@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Fri, 28 Mar 2008 15:24:53 -0700 (PDT), mb
<azyth...@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote in
<news:4b4bd937-0dc3-4a40-a22c-6cbf157b77af@xx>
in sci.lang:

On Mar 27, 2:36 pm, "Brian M. Scott"
<b.sc...@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

[...]

The author of the 'French'
section of the Handbook of
the
IPA describes it as a central
vowel with some rounding
and
places it squarely at the
schwa point of the
quadrilateral.
It's been a while since I last
heard much French, but that
or something just a little
further forward sounds
about

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right to me, and unstressed
[ø] definitely sounds wrong.
It's possible that barred-ø
(X-SAMPA [8]) would be
slightly
more accurate, but in the
absence of any other vowel
in that
range the more familiar [@]
doesn't seem unreasonable.

Attempts at detailed description of effective
pronunciations (by a foreign ear, who hears
what it was
trained to...) are irrelevant. What counts is
the phoneme
range and how it is defined (eme range) in
the source
language.

Dismissals made in ignorance of the facts are irrelevant.
At least one of the two authors of that section is French.

Right. And my mother tongue is Chinese, and I am just
babbling without any idea of any facts while Mr Ross has
perfect command of all or them.

The authors of the article in question are Cécile Fougeron,
of the Institut de Phonétique of the Univ. of Paris, and
Caroline L. Smith. This 'Mr Ross' appears to be a figment
of your imagination.

So what?

Quoting from above:

"Attempts at detailed description of effective pronunciations (by a
foreign ear, who hears what it was trained to...) are irrelevant."

That was about the foreign ear of Mr. Scott (not Ross, sorry).

" What counts is the phoneme range and how it is defined (eme range)
in the
source language. It could sometimes be heard within the range of the
phoneme "e muet", /
oe-or-zero/ "

Meaning, no one is saying that it does not occur.

"but that is certainly not central, and /@/ does not

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represent anything in the source language. It still remains highly unreasonable to force your own concepts on another language, where there is no correspondence. "

Now, if a certain Cécile and a Ms Smith chose to explain it in an English book in these highly inadequate terms it's their problem, You just read something you're unfamiliar with and you are trying to palm off the way it is presented there (no doubt for better understanding by mono English speakers) as dogma under the pretext that one of the authors is French. You are not even equipped to read it critically yourself except if you spent many years in French-speaking areas and are thoroughly familiar with all possible forms of the phoneme (in fact, I was suggesting that you are trained to hear different). Look at it again, I think I used the word "jerk" advisedly.

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