Phonetics and phonology in the last 50 years. Peter Ladefoged, Dept. Linguistics, UCLA, Los Angeles, USA. [Full Paper Available on CD]

In the last 50 years there have been steady gains in phonetic knowledge and punctuated equilibrium in phonological theories. Phonetics and phonology meet most obviously in the definition of the set of features used to describe phonological processes. The Jakobsonian statement of distinctive feature theory in the 1952 caused a paradigm shift in the relations between phonetics and phonology. Changes occurred again with the introduction of a mentalist view of phonological features in the 1968 publication of *The Sound Pattern of English*. In 1972 Stevens’ introduced Quantal theory and the hunt for acoustic invariance for phonological features was on. Autosegmental phonology and notions of a feature hierarchy brought further demands on phonetic knowledge. Now Optimality theory has proposed a new way of relating phonological contrasts and phonetic data, and Articulatory phonology has spurred great phonetic progress that is just beginning to have a direct impact on phonology.