

Tribute to Dr. John Esling

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People say that first impressions are the most lasting. In Eastern Europe we tend to judge people not only by the way they look, but also by the way they talk. Correct pronunciation is vital both while using our native tongue – the Russian language spoken in a bilingual Belarus is Belarusian accented (the so-called ‘trasianka’ tongue) – and while acquiring a foreign language in order to eliminate a distinct local accent.

Thoughts and ideas of Dr. John Esling devoted to the nature of accents, voice quality, phonetics in the classroom, and multimedia approach to learning verbal communication skills and phonetic transcription played a significant part in shaping my pronunciation pedagogies. Moreover, the latest version of the Cambridge English Pronouncing Dictionary co-edited by Dr. Esling is a bedside book for many of my colleagues in Belarus.

We have never met with Dr. John Esling. However, his works have greatly influenced foreign language teachers and their students. Long live Dr. Esling and continue to be inventive, innovative and initiative!