

## **Abstract**

The subject of the present thesis is an acoustic analysis of the typical features of the Russian accent in English speech. The thesis examines the acoustic qualities of English front vowels /i:/, /ɪ/, /e/ and /æ/ produced by native Russian learners of English. It provides a brief overview of the necessary theoretical background such as the concept of foreign accent and vowels. It describes in detail the vocalic systems of Russian and English and highlights their differences, similarities and possible influences of the native Russian system on the English speech production. The study will analyse the formant frequencies of the vowels in question in the recordings of 10 native Russian speakers of English and compare those values to the mean formant values of Standard Southern British vowels. The zero hypothesis states that there should be no difference in the vowel production of the two accents. The alternative hypothesis based on personal experience, comparison of the Russian and English phonological systems and other similar studies on the topic proclaims that Russian speakers have trouble expressing the phonetic difference between /i:/ – /ɪ/ and /e/ – /æ/, usually confusing /i:/ and /ɪ/ phonemes, and substituting the English phoneme /æ/ with /e/. As there is little comparative research on Russian-accented vowels, I believe this thesis will be a useful contribution to the academic phonetic discourse and will prove beneficial for future studies on the matter.

**Key words:** vowels, foreign accent, Russian, English, acoustic analysis, vocalic formants, interference