



FACULTY OF ARTS
Charles University

Department of English and ELT Methodology

A Review of a Bachelor's Thesis

submitted to the Department of English and ELT Methodology,
Faculty of Arts, Charles University

Name and titles of the reviewer:

supervisor opponent

Author of the thesis: Jana Rumlová

Title of the thesis: *Phonetic features of strong Czech accent in English*

Year of submission: 2018

Level of expertise:

excellent very good average below average inadequate

Factual errors:

almost none appropriate to the scope of the thesis frequent less serious serious

Chosen methodology:

original and appropriate appropriate barely adequate inadequate

Results:

original original and derivative non-trivial compilation cited from sources copied

Scope of the thesis:

too large appropriate to the topic adequate inadequate

Bibliography (number and selection of titles):

above average (scope or rigor) average below average inadequate

Typographical and formal level:

excellent very good average below average inadequate

Language:

excellent very good average below average inadequate

Typos:

almost none appropriate to the scope of the thesis numerous

Overall evaluation of the thesis:

excellent very good average below average inadequate



Brief description of the thesis (by the supervisor, ca. 100-200 words):

The thesis introduces the topic of foreign-accentedness, reasons which have been proposed for the existence of a foreign accent, its perceptual dimensions, segmental and prosodic components, as well as socio-psychological consequences of speaking with a foreign accent. A separate chapter is dedicated to the sound patterns which have hitherto been examined in the English of Czech speakers. In the empirical part of her thesis, Jana Rumlová analyzed read speech of ten speakers who had previously been judged as having a strong Czech accent in their English. She focused on twelve features regarded as typical of Czech English, mostly of segmental nature, and studied the prevalence of different variants (such as the realization of the underlying /ǝ/ as [ǝ, d, t]) in different linguistic contexts. The final chapter presents a summary in which the author comments on the general or speaker-specific occurrence of the analyzed features.

Review, comments and notes (ca. 100-200 words)

Strong points of the thesis:

The empirical findings concerning the prevalence of Czech-accented variants of the examined features are very valuable. While the global results are not entirely surprising, the more detailed analyses constitute the first empirical confirmation of what the Czech English accent really is. The research that Jana Rumlová conducted as part of her thesis required demanding and time-consuming auditory analyses of the target phenomena. In addition, especially the first theoretical chapter presents a wide range of topics related to foreign-accentedness (but see the following point).

Weak points of the thesis:

From my perspective, the weakest point is the language of the thesis, especially in the theoretical chapters. The natural flow of the text is sometimes disrupted by sentences which, upon closer examination, are not clear; to give but one example, "*Talent for music, however, is a very individual phenomenon as well as its influence on SLA and it cannot be applied as a rule.*" (p. 13).

Questions to answer during the Defence and suggested points of discussion:

1. In the General discussion (p. 53), the author seems to suggest a link between voicing assimilation on the one hand and linking and glottalization on the other hand. Could you explain the argument?
2. Please discuss the pedagogical implications of your findings.

Other comments:

I hereby

recommend do not recommend to accept the bachelor's thesis.

And I propose the following grade:

excellent very good good fail

Place, date and signature of the reviewer:

Prague, August 29, 2018