



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: Nina Laketić

Title of the thesis: *Effect of Rhythmic Structure on the Comprehensibility of Czech English*

Year of submission: 2019

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 contributes to the research into the effect of various pronunciation features on the perception of the speaker. Specifically, it examines the effect of temporal manipulations on speakers' accentedness and comprehensibility (i.e., subjective ease of understanding). The author manipulated recordings by Czech speakers of English to resemble a more English-like and an even more Czech-like temporal structure. The resulting phrases were then assessed in a pairwise comparison paradigm by 40 listeners: 20 students of Anglophone Studies and 20 other (non-expert) listeners. The results, while not completely supporting the original hypothesis, represent a valuable addition to recent experiments and highlight the extremely sensitive nature of speech perception experiments and their methodological setup.

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

Strong points of the thesis:

The theoretical background represents a very good introduction into the topic, with a clear structure. I would like to highlight the extremely time-consuming nature of the temporal manipulations. One of the strongest aspects of the thesis is the thorough and illustrative description of these manipulations. I also appreciate the insightful interpretation of the observed order effect, though unfortunate (but difficult to predict on such a scale).

Weak points of the thesis:

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

Pedagogical implications of the findings are slightly hinted at in the general discussion. Could you elaborate on that and be more specific in terms of actual applications in EFL lessons?

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 26, 2019