

Abstract

The phoneme /t/ is known for featuring a wide variety of realizations in speech throughout the English-speaking world. Its realization is conditioned both by linguistic factors, such as phonetic environment or stress, and by social factors, such as region, sex, or socioeconomic background. The present bachelor thesis aims to explore and analyse the manifestations of coda /t/ in current Southern British English pronunciation. The theoretical section includes a general description of stops in world languages and an overview of various realizations of /t/ in varieties of English and recent pronunciation developments in standard British English. In the empirical part, recordings of 16 speakers of Southern British English from political radio debates were collected and processed. An auditory analysis of the phonetic realization of the target consonants was conducted and subsequently, the occurrence of individual variants was evaluated in terms of segmental, prosodic as well as semantic context. The results confirm that stress, the word's position within a phrase, its segmental environment and semantic status, and the speaker's sex all have an influence on the realization of /t/ in speech. Furthermore, the thesis documents the recent development of the sociolinguistic status of glottalling, which has also proven to be the most frequent realization of /t/ in terms of this research.

Key words: phoneme /t/, British English, allophone, coda /t/, Southern British English pronunciation, glottalling, alveolar flap