



Institute of Phonetics

## A Review of a Final Thesis

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

**Name and titles of the reviewer:** doc. Mgr. Radek Skarnitzl, Ph.D.

**Reviewed as:**  a supervisor  an opponent

**Author of the thesis:** Barbora Bocková

**Title of the thesis:** *Phonetic realization of coda /t/ in current Southern British English pronunciation*

**Year of submission:** 2022

**Submitted as:**  a bachelor's thesis  a master's thesis

**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):

Barbora Bocková's BA thesis examines the phonetic realization of one of the most variable sounds in current English, /t/ in the syllabic coda, in Standard British English. What is novel about this investigation is the focus on middle-aged speakers (politicians) in highly spontaneous productions (political discussions on Radio 4). In the first theoretical chapter, the author describes stops as a manner of articulation in great detail, discussing also various laryngeal states and airstream mechanisms. A separate chapter is dedicated to previous studies on /t/ in different varieties of English and realizations such as aspirated, glottalized, fricated, or flapped. The empirical part of the thesis starts with the formulation of research questions and goes on to describe the speech material and methods of its analysis. Results are presented using both absolute and relative bar charts and thoroughly discussed.

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

***Strong points of the thesis:***

I find the writing in Barbora Bocková's thesis to be of exceptionally high quality: it is concise, with excellent style. The thesis is based on an unusually large number of resources, especially in the chapter concerning stops in English. However, I was most impressed by the systematic presentation and thorough discussion of the results, as well as by the honest and conscientious approach to explaining the patterns found in the data.

***Weak points of the thesis:***

The general description of stops as a class (sections 2.1 to 2.5) is perhaps too extensive and not always directly relevant to the topic of the thesis, especially given that it largely relies on one source, Ladefoged and Maddieson (1996) and occasionally on work of similar authors (Henton et al., 1992 etc.).

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

Can any recommendations be drawn from the thesis concerning English (pronunciation) teaching in the Czech context? Would such recommendations differ for primary/secondary schools and for university (English studies) level?

***Other comments:***

**Proposed grade:**

excellent  very good  good  fail

Place, date and signature of the reviewer:

*Prague, May 25, 2022*