

The aim of this diploma thesis is to investigate the accent realizations of the initial consonant in wh-words in Welsh English. The theoretical background of this study deals with the development of Welsh language and its interactions with the British standard variety. Together with the previously mentioned the phonological inventories of Welsh, RP, and Welsh English are described in the first part. We further analyzed the development of the <hw> element in the British Isles in general. The research part of this study is concerned with the analysis of the data from 20 speakers of Welsh English. Three speech styles were used for the final analysis: spontaneous speech (informal style), isolated words (formal style) and reading of Cinderella (formal style). Signal-to-noise ratio and voicing of the <hw> segments were measured in order to discover the occurrence and the nature of the <hw> element. The lowest levels of harmonicity were measured in segments that were obtained from the formal reading style. The highest levels were measured in the spontaneous speech tokens. Younger speakers showed higher levels of harmonicity than older speakers. The results of the male and the female participants were different in each type. In the spontaneous speech style the male speakers tended to have lower levels of harmonicity. The female speakers showed lower levels of harmonicity in the isolated words tokens.