

The occurrence of word-initial glottalization in Slovak English

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Abstract

The features of prosodic structure were shown to influence the occurrence of word-initial glottalization in English. The aim of the present thesis is to analyze the occurrence of glottalization in word-initial vowels in Slovak English in relation to prosodic structure, specifically to word stress and position in the intonational phrase. The semantic status of words (lexical vs. grammatical) is also considered. The first part provides a brief overview of key concepts in second language acquisition with focus on acquisition of second language phonology. In addition, a summary of previous research on glottalization is given. The empirical part of this thesis is based on the recordings of 15 Slovak speakers of English. The results suggest that Slovak speakers use glottalization extensively in their production of English. This should be taken into consideration when looking for better methods for teaching English pronunciation.

Keywords: glottalization, prosodic structure, Slovak, English, foreign accent