Abstract

This thesis deals with rhythmic differences between Vietnamese English and the British Standard. As all the recorded speakers were originally from Northern Vietnam or lived there for an extensive period of time, it should be noted that the subject of analysis was in fact North Vietnamese English.

The theoretical part describes the concept of rhythm in general and modern approaches to its analysing and measuring. Furthermore, the theoretical chapter describes the basics of phonetic characteristics of the Vietnamese language and the British standard of English.

The last chapter of the theoretical part constitutes a bridge between theory and analysis as it explains selected features of Vietnamese English concerning mainly the realization of vowels and consonants.

The next part is dedicated to methodology and it informs the reader about the criteria for selection of speakers and the means of gathering and processing material. At the end, a number of hypotheses regarding Vietnamese English are presented.

In the analysis, values for rhythm metrics for Vietnamese English (%V, ∆V, ∆C, varcoV, varcoC, rPVI-V, rPVI-C, nPVI-V, nPVI-C) are calculated, compared to the rhythm metrics for British English and further evaluated in relation to gender, speakers and prosodic compactness.

The results of the analysis show that vocalic measurements of Vietnamese English are slightly lower than in the case of British English. Consonantal measurements, on the other hand, are markedly higher. Gender does not seem to be an influential factor in the rhythm of Vietnamese English. The analysis of prosodic compactness suggests that the more compact the speaker is, the more his/her speech resembles the British standard.

Keywords: rhythm; British English, RP, Vietnamese English, phonetics