

Annotation

The goal of this thesis was to test the ability of speech imitation in terms of temporal accuracy in two age groups of children. The first age group comprised 8 girls and 8 boys at the age of 10 to 11 years; the second group consisted of 8 girls and 8 boys at the age of 12 to 13 years. For the purpose of the experiment a perception-production test was created – it consisted of six, nine and twelve syllabic declarative sentences which contained two, three and four trisyllabic stress-groups. The task of the participating children was to repeat the sentences in three manners: in exactly the same words as they had heard them, and then by using the syllable /na/ and /ba/. Even though the children were able to meet the task, in some cases deviations occurred, such as deformations of the sentences in a certain way. Accuracy of imitation was investigated through average deviations from the model sentences. Based on the obtained values we identified the factors of length and composition of the task items and also the manner and order of imitation. We were also interested whether age and gender of respondents affect the accuracy of imitation.

Key words

speech rhythm, tempo, duration, stress-group, average deviation, imitation, children