Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to show the historical development of silent letters and their role in contemporary English. In the theoretical part a definition of a silent letter is provided and the reasons for its emergence are outlined. Moreover, we will concentrate on individual silent letters and describe in which positions they normally occur. In the practical part the ability of Czech learners of English to pronounce selected words with silent letters is assessed. The research includes a comparison of recordings obtained from students of the first and the fourth year of upper-secondary education.