

Abstract

The purpose of the present thesis is to analyze Slovak English from the perspective of speech rhythm in relation to its native (Slovak) and target (English) language. The first part contains theoretical background for the study of language rhythm, history of its research, and describes rhythmically relevant features of English and Slovak phonetic systems. It is concluded by summary of rhythmical differences between the two languages and hypotheses are proposed. The experimental part uses rhythm metrics for determination of phonetic properties of rhythm in Slovak English. It is based on recordings of one English and two Slovak representative radio reporters along with six recordings of Slovak students of English studies. The rhythm metrics results for Slovak English closely approximate the results for native English but due to inconsistency of the results the question of applicability of rhythm metrics to L1, let alone L2, remains open.

Keywords: Slovak English, speech rhythm, rhythm metrics, prosody, second language acquisition