

## **Abstract**

This thesis deals with the perception of English vowels by Czech listeners with special focus on the mid-central vowel schwa. The theoretical part presents the current research findings in the area of cross-language speech perception as well as it explores the differences between Czech and English vocalic systems. Further, it focuses on the negative transfer from the mother tongue. The aim of the practical part is to examine the impact of the Czech sound system on the discrimination of the neutral vowel schwa in different positions using a perception test devised specifically for the purposes of this research. The results indicate that the students' perception is influenced quite strongly by their native language as successful schwa identification occurred in approximately fifty per cent of all examined cases.