Abstract

The thesis is an overview of current approaches to the issue of listeners attitudes towards speakers based on the characteristics of their speech, with regard to the methodology and to the types of monitored attributes of speech. The existing research results and methodological approaches are evaluated with specific attention given to speech defects in Czech language. A review of survey data was conducted that addressed the attitudes of Czech listeners towards Czech speakers with speech defects, specifically with sigmatism. For this purpose, records of 8 speakers with sigmatism selected from the Prague Phonetic Corpus were used. These records were modified in a manner that corresponds to the methods of Matched guise technique. Afterwards a perception test and a questionnaire were compiled in order to investigate the real attitudes of the Czech listeners toward selected Czech speakers, respectively their speech impairments. The test was presented to homogeneous group of 42 respondents. The results suggest a significant link between sigmatism and the negative attitudes of listeners towards speakers, especially the perception of their social status. The overall result of this thesis is the description of the target area (see the title of the paper) the has led to the formulation of hypotheses for further research.

Key Words

Sociophonetics, speech impairment, sigmatism, attitude, matched guise technique, questionnaire, bipolar adjectives, evaluation