

Abstract

This thesis addresses the pronunciation of proper names in simultaneous interpreting from French into Czech. It consists of 2 parts: the 1st, theoretical part discusses the definitions, categorization and functions of proper names as described in the relevant literature. The work then focuses on adoption of loanwords in Czech and on the specific situation of proper names in simultaneous interpreting.

The empirical part analyses 600 personal names from speeches interpreted at plenary sessions of the European Parliament. The aim of the research is to describe the adaptation principles in pronunciation of proper names interpreted into Czech; the intelligibility of the used equivalents; and the frequency of use of female forms of surnames in the European Parliament.

The results show that the prevailing adaptation principle is phonological approximation, which corresponds to the rules set by the codified pronunciation standard. Other common principles are retention of the original pronunciation and spelling pronunciation. Original pronunciation is more frequent in names of French origin, whereas spelling pronunciation is found mostly in English and German names. Most of the used translation equivalents are comprehensible: the number of incomprehensible equivalents amounts to 7-11%. Surprisingly, most of the distorted renditions are found in the corpora of names from major European languages (French, German, and English) than among the names of other origin. As for the female forms of surnames, there is a strong tendency not to add the female suffix and to pronounce the surname in its basic form.