ABSTRACT

This bachelor thesis explores differences between English and German language on the level of Phonetics and Phonology and defines German sounds causing the biggest difficulties to English speakers. Firstly, specialized literature sources are consulted, in which English and German sound systems are outlined, and after comparing these two systems, a hypothetical list of crucial problematic sounds is created. In the practical part it is intended to confirm or disprove the problematic character of these selected sounds based on the analysis of authentic recordings of English native speakers. The aim of the thesis is to compile a theoretically and practically verified list of the most problematic German sounds for learners with English as a mother tongue, or as an already acquired foreign language, so that the list can be used by the students themselves as well as the teachers of German as a Foreign/Second Language.

Keywords: English Phonetics and Phonology, German Phonetics and Phonology, Contrastive Phonetics, Comparative Phonetics, German as a Second Language, German as a Foreign Language