

Abstract

This doctoral thesis deals with the codification of standard Czech pronunciation. It focuses on how the phonetic level of the language is studied and described and, more generally, on orthoepic codification, its criteria, sources, relationship to orthography, etc. A historical overview of Czech orthoepic research, in particular of the first attempts at codification, work carried out for the orthoepic manuals *Výslovnost spisovné češtiny I* (ed. B. Hála; 1955, 1967) and *Výslovnost spisovné češtiny II* (ed. M. Romportl; 1978) is presented. In addition, research into standard Czech pronunciation from the 1980s to the present day is summarised from a new perspective. The primary focus of the thesis is a critical analysis of the principal Czech orthoepic manuals: not only *Výslovnost spisovné češtiny I* and *II* but also some older and newer works. Special attention is given to features (1) whose evaluation has changed over time (e.g. the pronunciation of *mě* and *sh*, the use of the glottal stop, simplification of certain consonant clusters, or voice assimilation before sonorants) and (2) which are problematic from the point of view of the contemporary pronunciation norm. This thesis is closely connected with the recently created Monolog corpus, which comprises recordings and orthographic transcriptions of official speeches of professional speakers on Czech Radio and is one of the few available sources that linguists may use for investigating the contemporary pronunciation norm. The corpus data enabled the author to carry out an analysis of the selected segmental features, which confirmed that some amendments should be made to certain orthoepic rules in future; they have also revealed some limitations of the available corpus tools. Part of the dissertation is devoted to methods for presenting pronunciation in Czech monolingual dictionaries as well as to speakers' inquiries about pronunciation that have been addressed to the Language Consulting Centre of the Institute of the Czech Language of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. A description of salient and frequent deviations from the standard pronunciation is based on the analysis of recordings of various types of speeches of dramatic arts students. The parts of the dissertation devoted to variation in vocalic quantity and voicing of consonants in loanwords and proper names in Czech are based on the results of extensive research into loanword pronunciation carried out in 2014. All the conclusions presented in this thesis are seminal to the further publications relating to contemporary standard Czech pronunciation or even to monolingual lexicographic works.