This thesis deals with the voicing contrast in Vietnamese accented English. The theoretical part introduces the generally accepted phenomena of voicing contrast, and several theories aiming at generalizing the main tendencies in acquiring a second language. The final part of the theoretical background is devoted to Vietnamese and Vietnamese English where we addressed the initial consonants. The methodological section provides information about the informants, recording, and data processing prior to the analysis itself.

Furthermore, graphs and tables illustrate the statistical calculations using ANOVA and Tukey’s post-hoc tests that identify the aggregate and concrete relations among the measured units. The results of the analysis show that Vietnamese-accented English maintains comparable voicing contrast in its initial stressed plosives as a native English accent does. The average Voice Onset Times values of the lenis stops without prevoicing shows to be slightly higher, while the average values of voiced initial stops prove to be similar or close to similar those produced by American English (AmE) speakers, which we assign to the fact that pre-voicing in Vietnamese exhibits strikingly similar values. The values for fortis initial plosives showed to be higher due to such quality typical for Vietnamese language, where the onset of voicing takes longer.

The thesis analyses how Vietnamese speakers of English have developed the notion of voicing contrast, as their mother tongue employs richer means of voice contrasting than English requires. The results we achieved prove that Vietnamese speakers of English do not struggle maintaining the voicing contrast employed in native English production.