

Abstract

The topic of this diploma thesis belongs to the field of language acquisition and language learning. It aims to explore Czech as a second and foreign language of speakers whose mother tongue is German, namely concerning the pronunciation of the *r*-sound and its perceptual acceptability for Czech native speakers.

The theoretical part summarizes the area of pronunciation learning and acquisition in a second and foreign language and outlines various pronunciation difficulties German speakers tend to have in Czech. It deals with the rhotics in general and subsequently focuses on the *r*-sound, both in Czech and in German, as well as in mutual comparison. In the last chapter, the combinatorial qualities of the *r*-sound which are used as a basis for the practical part are discussed.

The practical part describes the conducted research. Five recordings of German students were collected. The students were staying in Prague for one semester with the Erasmus programme exchange and were learning Czech for the first time. For the recordings a written text was constructed which the students read individually. The text emphasized words including the *r*-sound. From the recordings, various key words were cut off and a perceptual test was compiled and given to Czech native speakers to evaluate the pronunciation of the *r*-sound in the key words. The results have, aside from other things, shown statistically significant differences between the evaluation of the *r*-sound and its combinatorial neighbourhood.

Key words

pronunciation, L2, *r*-sound, Germans, Czech, perceptual acceptability