

ABSTRACT

The thesis is concerned with Czech accent in English in the intonation domain, specifically the differences between nuclear melodic patterns in read speech of Czech speakers with a heavy accent and native British speakers. It is aiming to contribute to the study of “Czech” English with a later possibility of using the results in language teaching.

The first part focuses on foreign accent in general together with its connection to comprehensibility and the influence of the first language. We then go through some theoretical concepts in studying intonation and their application in Czech and English intonology. In the experimental part we compare the melodic patterns of Czech and British speakers using cluster analysis.

The main differences are evident in non-final utterances, where Czech speakers use mostly rising contours while British speakers more often use falling contours.