

## **Abstract**

The recipient in communication is influenced by many complex phenomena through which he or she subconsciously evaluates some personality traits of the speaker. In the current study we are dealing with the question of whether phonetic features also enter into this personal evaluation and how much they can influence perception. As research material we used recordings of 20 speakers 11–15 years old, from which 80 audio items were selected. The items varied by their length (two-syllables vs. four-syllables), existence in the lexicon of the Czech language (real words vs. non-words) and also in the number of speech problems that occurred in them (reduction, assimilation, non-continuous speech etc.). These problematic moments were identified before the creation of the perceptual test and scored by the author of the study and by another student of phonetics. These score points served as the basis for an objective phonetic evaluation, which was later related to the assessment from the respondents. The perceptual test (with versions A and B) was made up of 40 items and was divided into 5 parts according to questions which were concerned with different angles such as the personality traits of diligence and acceptability. These features are part of the Five-Factor Model of Personality and can be included under the factors of conscientiousness and agreeableness. Overall responses from 32 respondents showed a certain trend, for example in the evaluation of female and male speakers or in the evaluation of particular types of items (real words and non-words), but the correlation between phonetic analysis of items and subjective assessment from respondents was not found. A more detailed analysis is focused on the results of individual types of items, questions and speakers.

**Keywords:** articulation, phone reduction, diligence, acceptability, perceptual impression