

Abstract

Danish is characterized by its rich vowel inventory. So how do Czech students manage to produce Danish vowels, if the Czech vowel inventory consists of only 13 vowel phonemes? In this thesis, I capture the main tendencies that occurred within the pronunciation of Czech learners of Danish. The motivation for writing the thesis was the desire to deepen my knowledge of Danish phonetics and phonology and issues related to foreign language acquisition. An important part of the thesis was the research of the pronunciation of Danish vowels by Czech students of Danish. Nine Czech female students of the Faculty of Arts of Charles University participated in the recording of Danish sentences containing words with target Danish vowels. Subsequently, the recordings were processed, and the output was evaluated and compared with some formant values of native Danish speakers. In the performance of Czech learners of Danish, the most obvious phenomenon is a lower level of labialization concerning a certain group of Danish vowels, then the greater openness and diphthongization. However, there are many other ways to approach this topic; perhaps by including native Danish speakers in the research or by focusing more on the perceptual aspects of learning Danish as a foreign language.

Keywords: foreign language acquisition, Danish, Czech, vowels, pronunciation, formants