

ABSTRACT

This thesis deals with the issue of hesitation sounds in spoken Czech. The theoretical and the descriptive part focuses primarily on the description of hesitation sounds as one of the relatively common features of a spontaneous speech, their typology, mapping possible pragmatic functions they may have in different communication situations, and the tendency of their positioning in a discourse. By using a perception test, the aim of the practical part is to discover how the perceptual intrusiveness of hesitation sounds in the form of filled pauses is perceived by a listener, compared to silent pauses. The hypothesis behind this experiment is based on the assumption that silent pauses will be perceived as more intrusive than filled pauses. The statistically supported results confirm this hypothesis; however, due to a relatively narrow range and a low number of respondents and the specific choice of test items, such conclusion cannot be generalized beyond the frame of the given material.

Key words: hesitation sound, level of intrusiveness, perception test