

Abstract:

This thesis examines the relationship between linguistic and cultural preferences of Czech students in the 8th and 9th grades of elementary schools. Its hypothesis claims that today's students are still strongly influenced by the Czech education system that places great emphasis on the instruction of British English, and therefore students prefer British lexical forms. However, it is also assumed that, due to the strong cultural influence of the United States, the students will be more familiar with American cultural phenomena and they will prefer them over British culture. As a part of the research for this thesis, an online questionnaire was administered to 215 students. This questionnaire contained questions related to both linguistic and cultural topics and its results confirmed the hypothesis. Most of the students tend to use British vocabulary even though they proved to have a deeper knowledge of American culture, preferring it over the British one. Some differences were recorded between genders; females are more inclined to prefer British English and culture than males. Simultaneously, those students who evaluated themselves as good at English and also have a better relationship with this language seem to prefer American forms and culture. The vast majority of this thesis aligns with the material that has already been published, while it also introduces new phenomena that have not yet been explored as much.

Key words: British and American English, preferences of Czech students, cultural categorization, Czech elementary schools, influence of culture on language, instruction of English in the Czech Republic, Americanization