



FACULTY OF ARTS
Charles University

Department of English and ELT Methodology

A Review of a Final Thesis
submitted to the Department of English and ELT Methodology,
Faculty of Arts, Charles University

Name and titles of the reviewer: Mgr. Pavel Šturm, Ph.D.

Reviewed as: a supervisor an opponent

Author of the thesis: Aneta Formanová

Title of the thesis: *Glottalization patterns in the L2 speech of Czech and Slovak speakers of English*

Year of submission: 2023

Submitted as: a bachelor's thesis a master's thesis

Level of expertise:

excellent very good average below average inadequate

Factual errors:

almost none appropriate to the scope of the thesis frequent less serious serious

Chosen methodology:

original and appropriate appropriate barely adequate inadequate

Results:

original original and derivative non-trivial compilation cited from sources copied

Scope of the thesis:

too large appropriate to the topic adequate inadequate

Bibliography (number and selection of titles):

above average (scope or rigor) average below average inadequate

Typographical and formal level:

excellent very good average below average inadequate

Language:

excellent very good average below average inadequate

Typos:

almost none appropriate to the scope of the thesis numerous

Overall evaluation of the thesis:

excellent very good average below average inadequate



Strong points of the thesis:

- logically organized text, focused sections, explicit and numbered examples
- a variety of cited works
- enough methodological detail allowing for a replication of the study
- good use of figures, clear presentation of results
- short but fairly rich discussion linking the empirical results to the questionnaire data and identifying several factors that contributed to the outcome

Weak points of the thesis:

- formal aspects
 - o *page numbers starting from 5 are missing*
 - o *fragments of Czech text (author's notes to herself) + several sentences highlighted in colour*
 - o *very small font size in figures*
 - o *example numbering sometimes mismatches the text*
- references and citing
 - o *4 items missing in references (Ježek, 2006; Gross, 1998; Šturm, 2011; Beckmand & Ayers 1994)*
 - o *other items have incomplete or incorrect information (Bortlík 2009; Redi and Shattuck-Hufnagel, 2001; Skarnitzl et al., 2004; Skarnitzl et al 2021; Volín 2012; Cruttenden, 2008/2014?)*
- language
 - o *superfluous commas (a systematic problem); missing determiners*
 - o *stylistic issues, especially repeated or too similar constructions, overuse of "also"*
 - o *substituting "frequent" with "often"*
- the table in Fig. 4 has discrepancies ($43+141 \neq 162$)
- the hypothesis is only hinted at in the final sentence of Section 2, it is not emphasised sufficiently nor explicitly labelled as such; it is first mentioned as late as in the discussion; moreover, the hypothesis, with its grounding and implications for the study, is not explored fully

Questions to answer during the Defence and suggested points of discussion:

- "Slovak speakers often use voicing assimilation, which means that they connect words together instead of inserting glottal stops before vowel-initial words" → How so? What is voicing assimilation? You described linking here.
- In the introduction, you suggested that the final consonant in a linking context becomes the onset of the first syllable of the following word. Is this true? What can you say based on e.g. "the jeep entered"? How should it be pronounced if the /p/ is truly a syllable onset of the word "entered"?
- "creaky voice can be defined as something between full voice and whispering" (p. 16) → Incorrect, and the vocal folds are not loosened, as you also claim. What is creak / creaky voice? And what state of the glottis (or what type of voice) is indeed "between full voice and whispering"?

Proposed grade:

excellent very good good fail

Place, date and signature of the reviewer:

Prague, 23.01.2024

Pavel Šturm