

Abstract

The aim of this dissertation is to describe the perceptual and pronunciation problems of Czech learners of Korean at the segmental level. Mastering the sound plan of the target language both in terms of perception and production is one of the basic prerequisites for smooth communication. Therefore, from the beginning of the study, it is necessary to focus on the phonemic ear training and the formation of an articulation base for correct pronunciation in the target language. And since the mother tongue is one of the factors that influence foreign language acquisition in all areas, including phonetics, identifying pronunciation problems of students with a particular mother tongue can lead to more effective phonetics instruction.

The introductory theoretical part of the thesis is divided into two chapters. The first introduces the reader to phonetics and its importance in language teaching, while the second focuses on a comparison of Korean and Czech from a phonetic-phonological perspective. The subchapters describe and compare the vocalic and consonant systems, syllable structure, and phonological processes in both languages. On the basis of the comparison, potential perceptual and pronunciation problems are anticipated.

The experimental part of the thesis is based on the results of the comparative chapters of the theoretical part as well as on many years of teaching practice. It formulates eight hypotheses concerning the pronunciation of Czech learners of Korean. The hypotheses were tested in perceptual and production testing in which 49 and 32 students participated. The perceptual and production diagnostic test was richly structured and its methodological procedure and results are described in detail in the paper.

In the final didactic part, the mediation of phonetics teaching in selected Korean textbooks used in the Czech Republic is observed and evaluated, and some didactic recommendations based on the results of the experimental part are given.

Keywords: Korean, Czech, mother tongue, phonetics, phonemic hearing, articulatory base, phonemic inventory, vowel, consonant, syllable, phonological process, perception, pronunciation