

Abstract

Research into listeners' attitudes towards speakers with foreign accents and speech impediments has been in the spotlight for many years. This diploma thesis aims to contribute to the group of these researches in the Czech environment. Its topic is to compare the influence of foreign accent and speech impediment on the perceived credibility of the speaker. Specifically, the influence of French accent and rhotacism, i.e. articulation disorder when an individual is unable to pronounce the sound /r/ as required by the norm of his native language, was examined. As recorded material, a total of 55 sentences containing the sound /r/ in various contexts and positions and 14 sentences without this sound were compiled. From these stimuli, four versions of the perceptual test were created, always so that all four speakers appeared, in foreign accent and speech impediment conditions only once, in standard Czech twice – one speaker in sentences containing /r/, the other speaker in sentences not containing /r/. The first hypothesis was that the occurrence of rhotacism and French accent would negatively affect the perceived credibility of the speaker compared to a speaker without a French accent and without a speech impediment. The second hypothesis was that speakers with French accents would be rated as less trustworthy compared to speakers with rhotacism. Null hypotheses were also set for these hypotheses. Each test was completed by 15 respondents, a total of 60 respondents took part in the testing and the entire test was conducted in the online software *Psytoolkit*. A generalized linear mixed models were used to analyze the results. A statistically significant difference was found between the accent plus speech impediment condition and the native speech condition. On the other hand, there was no statistically significant difference between the accent and speech impediment conditions themselves. Thus, listeners perceive speakers with foreign accent and speech impediment as less trustworthy than speakers without these features. The limits of research, the possibilities of further expansion and the application of research into practice are included in the discussion of the thesis.

Key words: foreign accent, social biases towards speaker, speech perception, speech impediment, rhotacism, french accent, credibility rating