

Abstract and Key Words

This study investigates the occurrence of connected speech processes with an emphasis on linking in the French-accented pronunciation of English. In the theoretical section, a description of connected speech processes and the various sociolinguistic, linguistic, phonetic, and phonological factors influencing them will be provided. Furthermore, the reader will be presented with a brief examination of the relation between L2/L3 acquisition and connected speech. The empirical part of this study includes an analysis of recordings of 14 native French speakers of English. Each recording consists of two parts: the reading of a prepared text and a spontaneous unprepared conversation. The results of this research, which concentrate on general and individual tendencies indicate that French speakers are generally more likely to link than to glottalize words during connected speech. On the other hand, the occurrence of other connected speech processes (elision, assimilation) is much more varied. Different aspects of speech production have been considered in the span of this analysis, such as semantic word class, degree of word stress and final sounds distribution.

Key words: French, English, connected speech, linking, liaison, elision, assimilation, L2/L3 acquisition, rhythm, fluency.