ABSTRACT

This study investigates the prevalence of the alveolar flap, a key feature in the General American accent, among Czech high school students and explores factors possibly influencing its production. The theoretical part first introduces American English and its features. It then focuses on the voiceless alveolar plosive /t/ and its realizations, particularly the alveolar flap, before exploring accent attitudes and language exposure as a whole. In the practical part, 20 students from a high school in Prague were recorded reading a list of sentences, each containing a flappable /t/ sound in various positions. Afterward, each student was sent an online questionnaire on various factors that might influence their pronunciation. The findings revealed that students with teachers using the GA accent, students who are more exposed to English-language media and students who have a preference for American English in terms of accent produce the alveolar flap more frequently. Contrary to expectations, interaction with native speakers did not impact the flap rate.

KEYWORDS

alveolar flap, General American, pronunciation, Czech students