

Příloha k protokolu o SZZ č.

Diplomant: **Eva Kovářová**

Vysoká škola: PF JU České Budějovice

Katedra: anglického jazyka

Aprobace: AJ-NJ

Datum odevzdání posudku: 9.1.2011

Vedoucí diplomové práce

Anna Regina Helal, M.A.

Oponent:

Vladislav Smolka, PhD

POSUDEK DIPLOMOVÉ PRÁCE

Identifying Specific Pronunciation Errors Produced by Czech Learners of English as a Foreign Language

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Summary

The author set out to do a practical research study into two super-segmental aspects of pronunciation: word stress and weak forms. As her research sample, she had 33 randomly selected first-year university students of English whose oral production she recorded and analyzed. Further, she conducted a survey so as to ascertain the students' past experience with pronunciation learning and the age of starting to learn English. In the theoretical part of her thesis, she dealt with history of pronunciation teaching and the various variables which can influence the acquisition of native-like pronunciation. The author stated she would concentrate on two: the age of starting and the type of prior Instruction.

1. The goals

The goals of this thesis were clearly stated and largely fulfilled, but there were some missed opportunities. The author, for instance, did not link the data gathered from the questionnaire, such as the starting age of learning, to the recorded oral production to find out if indeed there was a positive correlation (starting to learn early had a positive impact). In the same way, she could have linked the students' assessment of their teachers' corrective methods (or lack of) to their current standards of pronunciation.

2. Structure

The thesis runs into more than 70 pages and the topic is dealt with comprehensibly. There is a logical progression according to a clearly formulated plan. The theoretical and practical parts reasonably complement each other.

3. Literature

In the theoretical part, both English and Czech sources were used and Eva frequently voiced her own critical thinking. However, she found the number of Czech sources to be rather scarce, a factor which had somewhat impeded her progress.

4. Presentation and interpretation of data

Eva deals with most of the gathered data coherently and professionally. As already mentioned, however, she had missed out on the opportunity to link the results of the survey to the analysis of the students' oral production.

5. Presentation

The presentation of this thesis work is disturbed by occasional irregular spacing between paragraphs. The graphs and pie charts are visually attractive, clearly labeled, and sourced.

6. Language

There are a few odd errors in grammar or syntax, but in general the level of English is high and the text can be read at a fast speed.

7. Level of difficulty

I would estimate the level of difficulty to be high. The author had to make many hard choices among a vast array of issues that must have been coming up.

8. Contribution

This is a very important topic whose various aspects should be handled more frequently. Eva has outlined a number of the challenges facing us.

The opponent's final assessment:

Overall, this work fulfills the requirements laid down for this type of academic work, and I recommend that it be presented to the oral defense. Suggested grade: 2

Questions:

1. In the course of your research, what did you find most challenging?
2. What would you advise to newly qualified teachers (in the field of pronunciation teaching)?

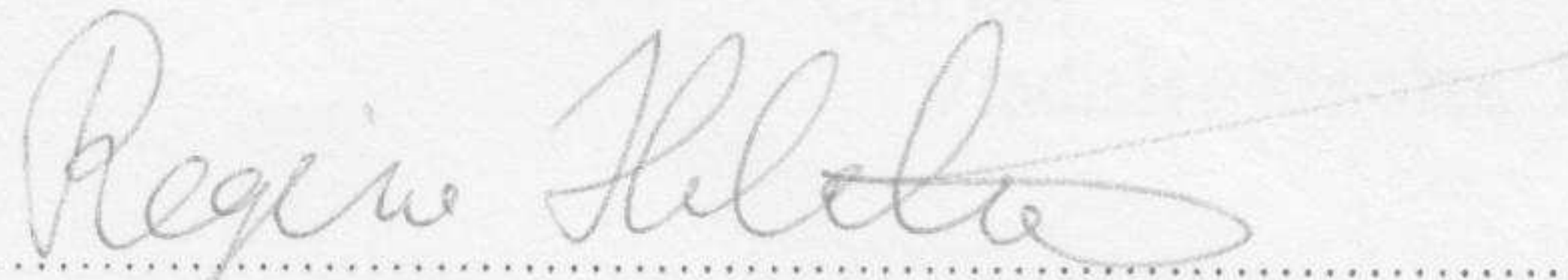
The signature of the supervisor:

Anna Regina Helal, M.A.

Date: January 9, 2011

velmi dobře

Návrh na klasifikaci diplomové práce:


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podpis vedoucího/recenzenta diplomové práce