

PhD Thesis

In my PhD research I study the acquisition of English vowels by Greek learners of English via the use of two different methods of pronunciation teaching within an EFL context. In particular, I test the efficacy of explicit and/or implicit pronunciation teaching on the acquisition of English vowels. Greek monolingual learners of English of two different age groups (9 years old /fourth grade of elementary school and 15 years old /third grade of junior high school) are examined so as to determine whether there is an optimal age for the acquisition of FL pronunciation. Students' progress is measured at two stages - before and after pronunciation tuition – in order to assess the effectiveness of pronunciation teaching. Students are recorded (twice) reading a list of sentences containing words with the English vowels. All vowels are analysed acoustically (using the PRAAT programme) measuring their F1 and F2 formant frequencies as well as their duration.