Two parallel tests containing the same language material and differing solely in the noise levels used were run using a fairly large number of listeners. The results obtained from speech segments listened to under noise-test conditions reveal an analysis of the data in the same general direction, differing mainly in terms of quantity. The results acquired on the basis of the overall data with the relative frequencies for Czech /w/ revealed statistically significant agreement, as did comparison of the frequency of phoneme pairs across the subsets (their rank correlation).

The stability of the test proved dependant on the number of syllables: the longer the word, the higher the percentage of wrong answers. The highest percentage of errors is within monosyllables. The number of syllables proved to be a relatively stable attribute of a word. Errors of syllable number amount to only 15% of responses in test A and 25% in test B. The dependence of errors in syllable numbers on word-length does not share the tendency noted in (c). Results for individual groups of words according to the number of syllables are fairly evenly balanced, the least stable words being disyllables (see in particular test B).

f) Failure of testees to respond at all ("no-judgments") is also not directly dependent on word-length; at higher noise levels the testees resorted to this solution more often than with monosyllables and trisyllables than with monosyllables.

The link between a word's stability and its length comes out most strongly in the section, giving the number of syllables remaining the same.

The set of errors where at least the number of syllables was preserved in both test A and test B was submitted to further analysis in terms of their phoneme composition.

Results obtained from analysis of vowel switches

a) Under test conditions vowels remain fairly stable. Of the mis-heard words (with the right number of syllables) less than half have the error in a vowel. In test A~2 the figure is 36%. The higher percentage in test A~2 is due to the single figure of the higher number of errors in the third syllable of trisyllabic words; in test A~2 this tendency does not reappear. The causes would appear to do with something other than sound; it concerns just one word in each column: presvona - prasovnik, horlivost - horlivice.

b) Errors in quantity are less frequent than changes in the quality of a
The vowel in monosyllables is comparatively stable.

d) It may be similarly assumed that the stability of polysyllables will have its vowel better preserved than those in the other syllables. This tendency is indeed strong in trisyllables. In disyllables in test A-2 the ratio of errors in the two syllables is fairly evenly balanced. The reason is the high number of errors in the first syllable of the word in column 13 of the test. Once more the result is based on confusion in two words only, but this time there can be no denying the influence of sound factors. The cases are confusions of díká — práce (26 out of 83 errors) and píval — prácel (29 out of 61 errors). Insofar as there is a tendency for greater instability in the first syllable of disyllables, it is not so strong as to outweigh other phonetic properties of the word.

Mutual substitutions of vowels separately

a) The direction of substitution seems not to be arbitrary since there are some discernible tendencies. However, in interpreting the results consideration has to be given to those cases where there is a high conditioned substitution if in one word and where the motivation may be other than phonetic (such as conditioned by morphological factors). These are the cases of the above-mentioned substitution if the pravna — prácevnik (46 instances of g — g) or horlivost — horlivec (45 instances of g — g)

In column 13 of the test.

results obtained by analysis of mis-heard consonants

The analysis of mistakes affecting consonants and consonantal clusters was also carried out on the basis of the set of words where the number of syllables was preserved. Consonants have not yet been specifically referred to, individually. The overall picture of substitutions having been worked out with respect to certain pre-stated types of errors.

b) Basic types of change were distinguished.

$X_1$ - simplification of consonantal clusters by the loss of one or more consonants (e.g. for díká — práce (the second syllable) for díká — práce). $X_2$ - loss of a consonant or consonantal cluster on the right hand side of the cluster in the given position altogether (e.g. for díká = praktick). $X_3$ - addition of a consonant or consonantal cluster on the left hand side of the cluster in the given position (e.g. for díká = praktick).

To the first syllable. In the

In test A-2, i.e. approximately two errors per word on average affect consonants.

b) By contrast with the foregoing, the character of the syllable as closed or open proves a highly stable property. The frequency of accented syllables is lower than the frequency of wrong vowels. The result of the above tests are very evenly balanced, whether the ratio of wrong and right identifications (A-1: 0.14, A-2: 0.13) or the relation to the number of wrong words (A-1: 20.6%, A-2: 18.6%) is used as a characteristic.

The analyses show further the need to distinguish the position of the syllable in the word. Of particular stability are consonants which immediately precede the vowel, that consonant which immediately follows the vowel, the first members of consonantal clusters following a consonant, that consonant which immediately precedes the vowel in monosyllables.

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