

Preface

The focus of the present study is a comparison of English and Czech intonation. Intonation studies in the two languages are based on different approaches to prosodic systems and different traditions in prosodic transcription. This book, presenting a corpus-based analysis of English and Czech, draws on the traditions of both languages with a certain preference for English prosodic transcription systems. A simplified version of one of the English systems has been applied for the analysis of both English and Czech texts.

The work is a modified version of the author's doctoral dissertation. The scope of the study is limited by the possibilities and abilities of one author working without recourse to a team of trained phoneticians and computer experts; therefore, it undoubtedly leaves open many questions concerning the correlation between English and Czech intonation. Perhaps the study can provide the basis for a more comprehensive future comparison of the two, and possibly additional, languages.