

Tatiana V. Shuiskaya
Amur State University
Blagoveshchensk, Russian Federation
e-mail: T.Shuiskaya@mail.ru

Svetlana V. Androsova
Amur State University,
Blagoveshchensk, Russian Federation
e-mail: androsova_s@mail.ru

ACOUSTIC FEATURES OF CHILD SPEECH SOUNDS: CONSONANTS

Abstract

The third year of life is characterized by considerable increase in child speech activity. At this time period many Russian children attend preschool institutions and that fact, unlike in earlier time period, determines greater diversity of their communicative environment that in its turn results in growing instability of the native language phonetic pattern acquisition. The current paper describes the results of an acoustic study of consonants in the speech of a three-year-old girl. Consonant elisions and their substitutes were the focus of the present study. There were examples of single-consonant elision of /r/, /l/, as well as consonant clusters simplification of /sk/, /st/, /sp/, /sl/, /kl/, /ʃl/, /pl/, /zl/. The following substitutes and pronunciation variants were identified: /r/–/j/ only before the back vowel /o/; /ʒ/–/v/, /ʒ/–/zi/; /h/–/f/; /ʃ/–/s/, /ʃ/–/f/, as well as palatalized (soft) consonant substitutes for non-palatalized (hard) ones. Variation of consonant substitutions was noted.

Keywords: consonant, elision, substitute, palatalization, variation, child speech, acoustic features.

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