

Abstract

The article deals with articulatory, acoustic, and perceptual aspects of the phenomenon of flapping / tapping in American and British spontaneous and quasi-spontaneous speech. The results of acoustic study demonstrate that both mechanisms – super-short plosive and super-short gliding instead of canonical intervocalic /t/ – are realized in the speech flow in AE and BE. The first type is acoustically expressed by the presence of occlusion and impulse phases, the second one – by the absence of those and the presence of formant structure. Unlike in AE, in BE the number of word-internal intervocalic flaps considerably increased compared to word-external intervocalic positions where taps prevailed. Unlike in AE, there were no word-initial flaps or taps in BE. Acoustic and perceptual features of flaps and taps enable to interpret them as the allophones of the phoneme /d/ and to speak about /t-/d/ alternation in corresponding morphemes and words. In BE this issue is still under consideration. In AE flaps and taps occurred in 90,1% of corresponding positions, in BE – in 34–47% word-internally and 41–51% word-externally. In BE in word-external intervocalic position glottalized allophone occurred in 30–32% of all the allophones found in this position. In AE this phenomenon rarely occurred.