

## **Abstract**

Pauses are an unavoidable phenomenon of spontaneous speech. Being the most frequent characteristic feature of it filled pauses still remain the least studied phenomenon as far as acoustic properties of fillers. There has been no cross-language study of non lexical fillers of hesitation pauses. Therefore, the current pilot study was carried out. A total of twenty three minutes and twenty eight seconds of spontaneous speech was collected from the six male subjects where the total of 639 pauses were used. The acoustic study of all pauses used by the subjects enabled to single out two major strategies of using pauses – the prevalence of silent pauses and the prevalence of filled ones. The results of acoustic measurements of F1 and F2 demonstrate that there are universal and language-specific ways filled pauses can be vocalized. The universal fillers were [a]-like and [am]-like ones, [m]-like fillers were found with Chinese and Russian speakers but not with American ones, [o]- and [ɤ]-like fillers were typical only for Chinese speakers. Further study of non-lexical fillers will add more details to the tendencies currently revealed.