

Jihočeská univerzita v Českých Budějovicích

Pedagogická fakulta

Katedra anglistiky

BAKALÁŘSKÁ PRÁCE

The Pronunciation of Latin and Greek words in Present-Day English

Výslovnost slov latinského a řeckého původu
v současné angličtině

Vypracovala: Alžběta Šmahová, 3. ročník, AJ-NJ

Vedoucí práce: PhDr. Vladislav Smolka, Ph.D.

2015

Prohlášení

Prohlašuji, že jsem bakalářskou práci na téma *Výslovnost slov latinského a řeckého původu v současné angličtině* vypracovala samostatně s použitím pramenů a literatury uvedených v bibliografii.

Prohlašuji, že v souladu s § 47b zákona č. 111/1998 Sb. v platném znění souhlasím se zveřejněním své bakalářské práce, a to v nezkrácené podobě fakultou elektronickou cestou ve veřejně přístupné části databáze STAG provozované Jihočeskou univerzitou v Českých Budějovicích na jejích internetových stránkách, a to se zachováním mého autorského práva k odevzdanému textu této kvalifikační práce. Souhlasím dále s tím, aby toutéž elektronickou cestou byly v souladu s uvedeným ustanovením zákona č. 111/1998 Sb. zveřejněny posudky školitele a oponentů práce i záznam o průběhu a výsledku obhajoby kvalifikační práce. Rovněž souhlasím s porovnáním textu mé kvalifikační práce s databází kvalifikačních prací Theses.cz provozovanou Národním registrem vysokoškolských kvalifikačních prací a systémem na odhalování plagiátů.

České Budějovice, 28.4.2015

.....

podpis

Poděkování

Touto cestou bych chtěla v první řadě poděkovat svým rodičům za všechnu podporu, kterou mi během studia poskytli a v neposlední řadě pak patří mé vřelé díky skvělému vedoucímu, panu PhDr. Vladislavu Smolkovi, Ph.D., který nade mnou držel po celou dobu mého psaní profesionální dohled.

Anotace

Tato práce se zabývá rozkolísanou výslovností slov latinského a řeckého původu v současné angličtině. Začátek práce bude věnovaný historii, tj. kdy a jak tato slova do angličtiny pronikala. Zbytek bude pojednávat o slovech latinského a řeckého původu, která se v angličtině etablovala, jejich zvláštnosti v tvorbě množného čísla, především ale jejich výslovností. Součástí práce je pak abecední seznam nejpoužívanějších a výslovnostně nejzajímavějších slov přejatých z latiny a řečtiny, stejně tak abecední seznam jmen tohoto původu či znamení horoskopu.

Abstract

This thesis deals with varying pronunciation of words of Latin and Greek origin in present-day English. At the beginning, this thesis outlines the historical background, i.e. when and how these words penetrated into the English language. The rest of this work will explore Latin and Greek loans that became settled in English, their idiosyncrasies in plural formation and their Germanic equivalents. The thesis also includes an alphabetical list of the most frequent Latin and Greek loans occurring in English that are interesting with respect to their pronunciation.

Contents

1. Introduction.....	1
2. Historical background.....	2
2.1 Latin loans in Old English.....	3
2.1.1 Early Latin loans.....	4
2.1.2 Later Latin loans.....	4
2.1.3 Other Latin loans.....	5
2.2 The role of Latin in Middle English period.....	5
2.2.1 Latin loans based on domain ac. to D. Crystal.....	5
2.2.2 Great Vowel Shift.....	6
2.3 Early Modern English period.....	7
2.3.1 Renaissance Latin and Greek loans.....	7
2.3.2 Latin via French.....	8
2.4 Modern English period.....	8
3. Multiple variants of Latin words only found in English.....	9
4. Latin words that acquire a new, additional meaning in English.....	10
5. Latin and Greek plurals.....	11
6. Common Latin roots.....	12
7. Common Greek roots.....	14
8. Common Latin and Greek affixes.....	15
8.1 Prefixes.....	15
8.2 Suffixes.....	16
9. Comment on pronunciation of Latin and Greek words.....	17
10. Practical Part.....	18
11. Conclusion.....	19
12. Resumé.....	20
13. Bibliography.....	21
Appendices:	
• A 1: A list of Latin and Greek loans in present-day English.....	23
• A 2: A list of Latin and Greek proper names in the present-day English.....	27
• A 3: Signs of the Zodiac.....	33
• A 4: Phonetic symbols, explanatory notes.....	35

1. Introduction

The English language is sometimes called as a „*vacuuming language*“, because much of its vocabulary is taken from other language, says David Crystal in his Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English language. (Articles.latimes.com:2000)

I found it very interesting to explore this topic. I focused on Latin and Greek loans occurring in present-day English. Until I started my research, I had never realised that the two languages were represented to such a degree in English. It is certainly true that the Latin influence is stronger than Greek. But these two languages could seem very similar from the point of view of an average English speaker.

Firstly, in the theoretical part, I will be dealing with words of Latin and Greek origin, their influence and the process of their spreading into English from the early beginnings till the modern period.

Secondly, for one thing, the practical part will include a list of the most frequently used words of Latin and Greek origin and, for another, a list of Latin and Greek names in English: names used in everyday life and names of ancient philosophers or characters. All of these words will be transcribed in all their pronunciation variations found in British as well as American English, as represented in dictionaries.

The main aim of this work will be the fluctuating pronunciation found in adopted words. These words, especially those from those Latin and Greek, are usually employed in more sophisticated types of communication and native speakers can perceive them as foreign words. It follows that their pronunciation varies in a number of ways and my task will be to give a survey of the possibilities.

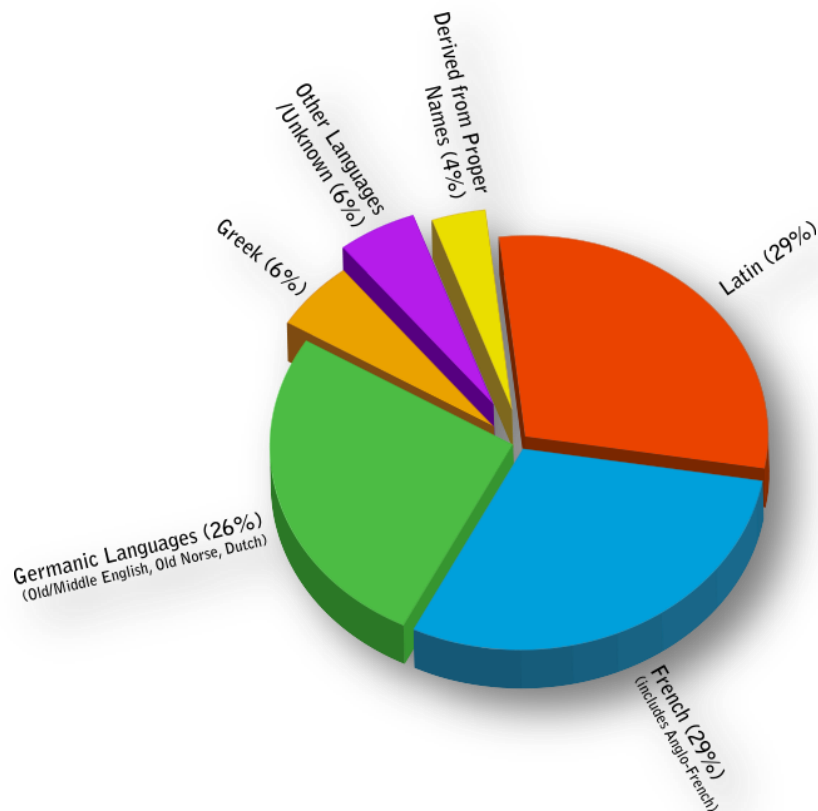
The topic of my thesis was something new for me, but I hope that I rose to this challenge as best I could.

2. Historical background

English is a Germanic analytic language (together with German, Norwegian, Danish, Dutch, Scottish, Afrikaans, Yiddish, e.g.), belonging to the Indo-European family of languages. It is regarded as the third most widely used language. With its lexicon of about 300 000 entries, and numerous scientific and technical terms, it has become for an international means of communication.

English lexicon was influenced by many languages:

English has borrowed many words from other languages, listing about 120 languages as sources of its present-day vocabulary.

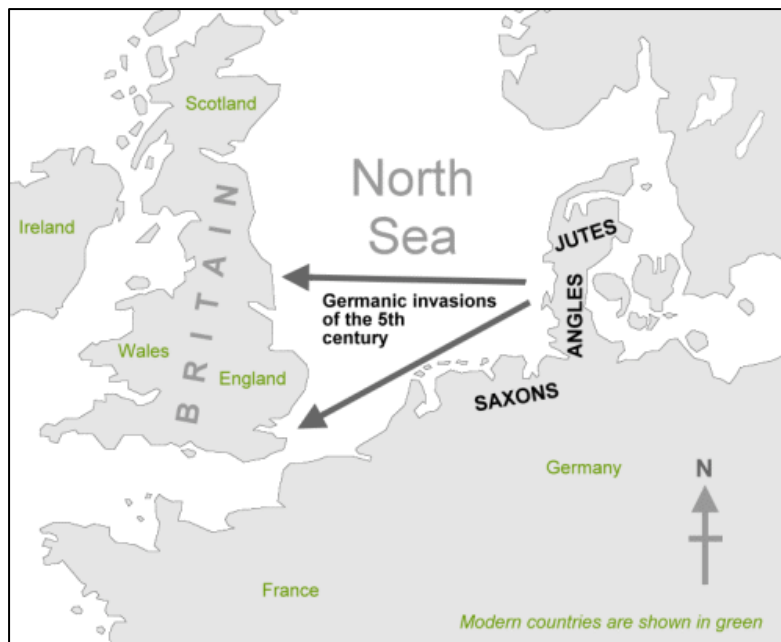


Picture 1: Chart of languages that were sources for English lexicon

(En.wikipedia.org:2014)

According to Vachek (1975:7), the history of the English language started when three Germanic tribes (the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes) invaded Britain in the 5th

century AD and started to settle there, as can be seen in the picture bellow. From the Angles came the name Englalund (land of the Angles), which later became England.



Picture 2: Germanic invasion in Britain's coasts in the 5th century

(Englishclub.com:2015)

Before the Anglo-Saxon invasion, Britain was held by Romans and profited from the achievements of their civilization. This period saw a growing influence of Latin, although it did not replace the Celtic language primarily that was spoken in Britain. Latin was used in towns and by upper classes. At the very beginning of the Anglo-Saxon period, the number of Latin words in English was not large - less than 200. (Crystal 1995:12)

The end of Anglo-Saxons' power was caused by the Battle of Hastings in 1066, when Duke William of Normandy defeated King Harold and conquered England.

2.1 Latin loans in Old English

Towards the end of the 6th century, the Germanic tribes accepted Christianity from Romans missionaries. This meant the beginning of the literary age, as the rapid growth of monastic centres led to large numbers of Latin words like *altar*, *candle*,

priest making their way into English, and manuscripts being produced, especially copies of the Bible and other religious texts. (Crystal 1995:14)

The first texts dating to around AD 700 were glossaries of Latin words translated into Old English. Latin and Greek words in this period indicated the new products and concepts acquired from contact with a higher civilization, for example *straet* (lat. *via strata*, “paved road”, later street in modern English, *ciese* (cheese), *win* (wine), *cuppe* (cup) or *pund* (pound).

These Latin words were borrowed into Old English often without a change in their vowel (lat. *castellum*- castel), whereas other words did change. (Crystal 1995:23)

2.1.1 Early Latin loans (before 1000) according to David Crystal

altar> alter	<i>altar</i>
apostolus> apostol	<i>apostle</i>
calendae> calend	<i>month</i>
planta> plant	<i>plant</i>
praedicare> predician	<i>preach</i>
rosa> rose	<i>rose</i>
scola> scol	<i>school</i>

2.1.2 Later Latin loans (after 1000)

chrisma> crisma	<i>chrism</i>
clericus> cleric	<i>clerk</i>
daemon> demon	<i>demon</i>
delphinus> delfin	<i>dolphin</i>
hymnus> ymen	<i>hymn</i>
paradisus> paradis	<i>paradise</i>

prior > prior

prior

2.1.3 Some more Latin loans

Abbot, accent, anchor, angel, candle, chest, cucumber, elephant, fever, giant, ginger, history, master, nocturn, noon, oyster, paper, place, plaster, pope, priest, prime, prophet, psalm, purple, rule, scorpion, synagogue, temple, tiger, title,...

2.2 The role of Latin in Middle English period

Crystal tells us (1995:34), that this period was strongly influenced by Norman French, introduced to England by the invader. French was the language of government, law, administration, literature and the Church, with Latin also used in administration, school and worship.

According to Crystal (1995:52), during the 14th and 15th century several thousand words came to English directly from Latin. Most of them were technical terms, covering fields like religion, medicine, law and literature. Vachek (1975:102) says, that Latin-Greek influence is the most noticeable in science books and the language of educated people. This influence is therefore reflected more strongly in literary language than the Scandinavian and French influence.

The simultaneous borrowing of French and Latin terms led to highly distinctive features (in meaning or style) of Modern English vocabulary.

2.2.1 Latin loans in Middle English based on domain according to David Crystal

Administration and law: arbitrator, client, conspiracy, gratis, homicide, legal, prosecute, summary, testify, testimony,...

Science and learning: allegory, contradiction, desk, discuss, essence, formal, genius, history, index, inferior, intellect, item, library, major, mechanical, minor, prosody, recipe, solar,...

Religion: immortal, incarnate, infinite, requiem, tract,...

General: admit, adjacent, collision, combine, conclude, depression, expedition, gesture, include, incredible, individual, interest, interrupt, lucrative, moderate, necessary, nervous, picture, popular, private, quiet, reject, substitute, tolerance,...

(Crystal 1995:58)

2.2.2 Great Vowel Shift

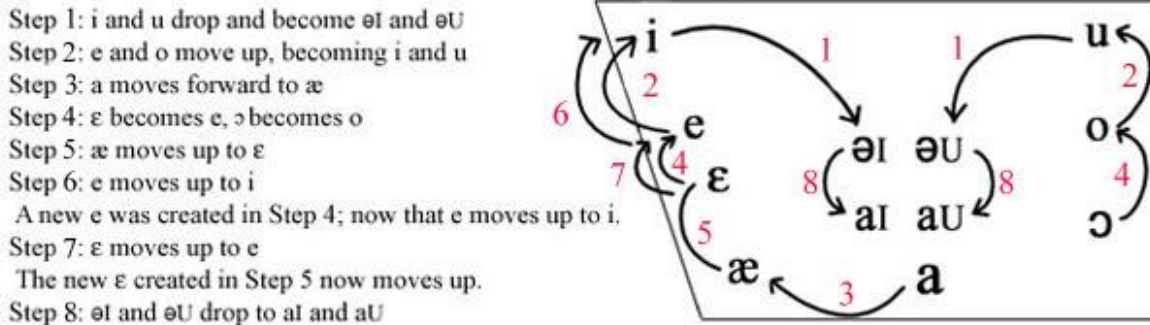
The Great Vowel Shift was a significant process in the English pronunciation. It strongly changed the whole vowel system of the English language. It lasted from about 12th to 18th century, peaking at the end of the Middle English period, in the 15th and 16th century. It was first studied by the Danish linguist Otto Jespersen during 19th century. Baugh (2002:234) tells us, "All the long vowels gradually came to be pronounced with a greater elevation of the tongue and closing of the mouth [...]".

Thank to this shift we now read English vowels as we do, and reduce of unstressed syllables to *schwa* [ə]. The next feature is that reduction of unstressed syllables in English loans does not apply strictly. Owing to this, these words are sometimes pronounced with the unstressed syllables reduced and sometimes unreduced. Reduction therefore suggests domestication of an originally foreign word.

This explains the difference between, for example, *chaos*, where the second syllable is unreduced, and the word *explain*, where the first unstressed syllable is reduced, because this word has already lost the sign of strangeness.

The Great Vowel Shift meant that the orthographic and vocal form of the language separated from each other. (Dictionary.com:2015)

The picture below illustrates how these changes occurred.



Picture 3: The Great Vowel Shift in the English language

(Facweb.furman.edu:2000)

2.3 Early Modern English period

A typical feature of this period is interest in intellectualism rather than in a military conquest, interest in sciences and Greek and Roman classics, rise of nationalism, invention of the printing press and the discovery of the New World.

Books are written in native languages rather than in Latin, which was a universal language of scholars in the Middle Ages.

2.3.1 Renaissance Latin loans

During the Renaissance period, additions from Greek and Latin entered English due to the revival of interest in the ancient classical period, as said above. As Crystal (1995:60) states, most of the words that entered the English language at that time were taken from Latin, with a good number from Greek, French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese. Many words came indirectly from Latin or Italian via French.

Almost the whole of terminology of natural sciences (chemistry, biology, physics) comes from Latin: *abdomen*, *acid*, *area*, *atom*, *bacteria*, *comet*, *fungi*,

hydrogen, larynx, mammals, nucleus, pancreas, parasite, pneumonia, proton, scheme, skeleton, species, virus, etc.

Other Latin and Greek loans: *absurdity, adapt, anonymous, atmosphere, autograph, benefit, chaos, climax, crisis, criterion, disrespect, emancipate, emphasis, encyclopedia, enthusiasm, excursion, expensive, explain, habitual, impersonal, monosyllable, pathetic, system, utopian, vacuum, etc.*

Interest in vocabulary is growing, technology is spreading and is necessary to use new special terms for inventions. According to Crystal (1995:60), there were many translations of classical works and translators tried to find appropriate English equivalents, but this effort was useless.

2.3.2 Latin via French

The Latin influence in this period was not limited to taking over whole words directly from Latin. There were words that had been taken over in the earlier periods from the Norman French and they were artificially adapted to their Latin prototypes they had originated from. (Vachek 1975:130)

2.4 Modern English period - present-day English

The 17th century was the start of a major colonial expansion, industrial revolution and also important phenomenon of immigration to America. During this period many words from all over the world were pouring into English. Specialists continued to borrow words from Latin and Greek and attempted to create new words consisting of Latin and Greek elements. This process grew in intensity with rising interest in technology. (Ruf.rice.edu:2013)

3. Multiple variants of Latin words only found in English according to Eupedia.com

Over time English language adopted two or three variants of words derived from Latin, while French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and other Romance languages have only kept one variation. Because of this process, many nuances between these terms arose. These nuances are not common in other languages. Some of the most popular of them are given below:

- acceptance, acceptation
- advantage, vantage
- adventure, venture
- barbarian, barbaric, barbarous
- capacity, capability
- capable, able, capacious
- company, companionship
- cure, curacy, curation
- dispute, disputation
- doubtful, dubious
- entrance, entry
- expectancy, expectation(s)
- exposition, exposure
- gracious, graceful
- hesitating, hesitant
- horrible, horrid, horrendous
- isolate, insulate
- joyous, joyful
- number, numerals
- pale, pallid
- poor, pauper
- print, imprint, stamp
- repair, reparation
- sensitivity, sensibility
- signification, significance
- triple, treble
- tyrannic(al), tyrannous
- vacancy, vacation
- vibrancy, vibration
- visit, visitation

(Eupedia.com:2014)

4. Latin words acquired a new, additional meaning in English

Many words in English are shared partially with other Romance languages. The particularity of the English language means its remarkable adaptability and creativity. The following examples show how English speakers coined new usages and meanings, or sometimes completely reappropriated Latin words. This is why, in spite of shared roots from Latin, these words have different meanings from their look-alike cousins in French, Italian or Spanish. (Eupedia.com:2014)

- **actual, actually** : the original meaning is 'present'; English added the meaning of 'existing as a fact'.
- **argue** : verb usage rare in Romance languages ; English coined the meaning of 'dispute' in addition to the original meaning of 'use arguments to convince'.
- **concern** : the original meaning is 'relate to', 'involve', 'be of interest to s.o.' ; English added the meaning of 'worry'
- **demonstrate, demonstration, demonstrator** : the original meaning is 'show or prove through reasoning'; English added the meaning of 'protest publicly'.
- **divert** : Romance languages only have the meaning of 'distract', while English added the senses of 'to turn aside', 'draw off a course', 'deflect' or 'route on a detour'.
- **gender**: from Latin *genus* meaning 'kind, type, species, race'. It retained this sense in other Romance languages, and came to mean "sex of a human being" in English only in the 20th century.
- **issue** : from Latin *exire* via French *issue* (exit); English added the meaning of 'sending out', 'put into circulation' 'publish', but also of 'problem', 'dispute' or 'matter', as well as 'offspring'.

(Eupedia.com:2014)

5. Latin and Greek plurals

Words of Latin and Greek origin are usually used in scientific or technical communication. Their plural form differs from common English nouns, where the suffix -s or -es is added at the end of the word. Some, though not all, of the words derived from Latin or Greek also have anglicized plurals. This is why the plural of *syllabus* can be encountered in two variants: *syllabi* and *sillabuses*. In case of uncertainty, it is better for speakers to use the traditional plural.

Singular endings		Plural endings
-a	→	-ae
-en	→	-ina
-ex	→	-ices
-is	→	-es
-itis	→	-itides
-ix	→	-ices
-on	→	-a
-um	→	-a
-us	→	-i

Table 1: Singular and plural endings of Latin and Greek origin

(Biomedicaleditor.com:2015)

Singular form	Plural form
alga	algae or algas
analysis	analyses
bacterium	bacteria
basis	bases
criterion	criteria or criteria
datum	data
focus	foci or focuses
foramen	foramina or foramens
formula	formulae or formulas
fungus	fungi or funguses

genus	genera ¹
hypothesis	hypotheses
index	indices (<i>math</i>) or indexes
larva	larvae or larvas
matrix	matrices or matrixes
medium	media
nephritis	nephritides
nucleus	nuclei or nucleuses
parenthesis	parentheses
phenomenon	phenomena
radius	radii or radiuses
stimulus	stimuli
stratum	strata
synthesis	syntheses
vertebra	vertebrae or vertebras

Table 2: Examples of Latin and Greek endings in English

(Biomedicaleditor.com:2015)

6. Common Latin Roots

Latin Root	Definition	Example
ambi	both	ambiguous, ambidextrous
aqua	water	aquarium, aquamarine
aud	to hear	audience, audition
bene	good	benefactor, benevolent
cent	one hundred	century, percent
circum	around	circumference, circumstance
contra/counter	against	contradict, encounter

¹ The plural ending for this word is an exception to the rule

dict	to say	dictation, dictator
duc/duct	to lead	conduct, induce
fac	to do; to make	factory, manufacture
form	shape	conform, reform
fort	strength	fortitude, fortress
fract	break	fracture, fraction
ject	throw	projection, rejection
jud	judge	judicial, prejudice
mal	bad	malevolent, malefactor
mater	mother	maternal, maternity
mit	to send	transmit, admit
mort	death	mortal, mortician
multi	many	multimedia, multiple
pater	father	paternal, paternity
port	to carry	portable, transportation
rupt	to break	bankrupt, disruption
scrib/script	to write	inscription, prescribe
sect/sec	to cut	bisect, section
sent	to feel; to send	consent, resent
spect	to look	inspection, spectator
struct	to build	destruction, restructure
vid/vis	to see	televise, video
voc	voice; to call	vocalize, advocate

Table 3: Common Latin roots in English

(Readingrockets.org:2015)

7. Common Greek Roots

Greek Root	Definition	Example
anthropo	man; human; humanity	anthropologist, philanthropy
auto	self	autobiography, automobile
bio	life	biology, biography
chron	time	chronological, chronic
dyna	power	dynamic, dynamite
dys	bad; hard; unlucky	dysfunctional, dyslexic
gram	thing written	epigram, telegram
graph	writing	graphic, phonograph
hetero	different	heteronym, heterogeneous
homo	Same	homonym, homogenous
hydr	water	hydration, dehydrate
hyper	over; above; beyond	hyperactive, hyperbole
hypo	below; beneath	hypothermia, hypothetical
logy	study of	biology, psychology
meter/metr	measure	thermometer, perimeter
micro	small	microbe, microscope
mis/miso	hate	misanthrope, misogyny
mono	one	monologue, monotonous
morph	form; shape	morphology, morphing
nym	name	antonym, synonym
phil	love	philanthropist, philosophy
phobia	fear	claustrophobia, phobic
photo/phos	light	photograph, phosphorous
pseudo	false	pseudonym, pseudoscience

psycho	soul; spirit	psychology, psychic
scope	viewing instrument	microscope, telescope
techno	art; science; skill	technique, technological
tele	far off	television, telephone
therm	heat	thermal, thermometer

Table 4: Common Greek roots in English

(Readingrockets.org:2015)

8. Common Latin and Greek affixes

8.1 Prefixes

Prefix	Definition	Example
anti-	against	Antiklimax
de-	opposite	Devalue
dis-	not; opposite of	Discover
en-, em-	cause to	enact, empower
fore-	before; front of	foreshadow, forearm
in-, im-	in	income, impulse
in-, im-, il-, ir-	not	indirect, immoral, illiterate, irreverent
inter-	between; among	Interrupt
mid-	middle	Midfield
mis-	wrongly	Misspell
non-	not	Nonviolent
over-	over; too much	Overeat
pre-	before	Preview
re-	again	Rewrite

semi-	half; partly; not fully	Semifinal
sub-	under	Subway
super-	above; beyond	Superhuman
trans-	across	Transmit
un-	not; opposite of	Unusual
under-	under; too little	Underestimate

Table 5: Common Latin and Greek prefixes in English

(Readingrockets.org:2015)

8.2 Suffixes

Suffix	Definition	Example
-able, -ible	is; can be	affordable, sensible
-al, -ial	having characteristics of	universal, facial
-ed	past tense verbs; adjectives	the dog walked, the walked dog
-en	made of	Golden
-er, -or	one who; person connected with	teacher, professor
-er	more	Taller
-est	the most	Tallest
-ful	full of	Helpful
-ic	having characteristics of	Poetic
-ing	verb forms; present participles	Sleeping
-ion, -tion, -ation, -ition	act; proces	submission, motion, relation, edition
-ity, -ty	state of	activity, society

-ive, -ative, -itive	adjective form of noun	active, comparative, sensitive
-less	without	Hopeless
-ly	how something is	Lovely
-ment	state of being; act of	Contentment
-ness	state of; condition of	Openness
-ous, -eous, -ious	having qualities of	riotous, courageous, gracious
-s, -es	more than one	trains, trenches
-y	characterized by	Gloomy

Table 6: Common Latin and Greek suffixes in English

(Readingrockets.org:2015)

9. Comments on pronunciation of Latin and Greek words

The different pronunciation of words that originated in Latin or Greek may be evident at first sight. In contrast to the original languages, clusters such as *ps-*, *pn-* or *gn-* are non-existent in English and had to be adapted to fit the usual principles of English pronunciation. One such strategy is known as *mute consonants*, i.e. leaving out one of the consonants, usually the firsts, in pronunciation, e.g. *psychology*, *pneumonia*, *gnostic*.

Another interesting feature is that initial *ch-* in Greek loans (*chaos*, *character*, *chronology*,...) is pronounced as *k* rather than *tʃ*, as it is in *church* [tʃɜ:rtʃ]. Some initial consonant sequences are substituted with others, such as the initial sequence *ks-* (written as *x-*) in words like *Xerxes*, *xylophone*, *Xantippe* or *Xenophanes*, where this group is pronounced as *z-*. All of that indicates the Greek origin.

Finally it can be mentioned that consecutive spelt vowels are pronounced separately as two syllables, e.g. *e+a* in *theatrical* θi 'ætrɪkl, compared to *feat* fi:t.

10. Practical part

The very first thing I made was to get to know with the *Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology* written by C. T. Onions. It was very important for me to get some basic orientation in it and, fortunately, I had some preceding experience.

First of all I had to check the origin of all the words I had mentioned in my thesis, i.e. to establish whether they have or have not been adopted from Latin and Greek. The etymological dictionary helped me in this rigorous work.

When I authenticated the Latin and Greek origin, I began to deal with the *Longman Pronunciation Dictionary* written by J. C. Wells. My task was to identify and transcribe the most frequent words of Latin and Greek origin whose pronunciation was fluctuating and unusual.

This exacting work tried my patience and required much precision. I spent many hours transcribing until, and at the very end, I was able to write all the phonetic symbols automatically.

Alphabetical lists of Latin and Greek loans with varying or unusual pronunciation are presented in Appendices at the end of this thesis. Their origin is not distinguished.

11. Conclusion

The Latin and Greek influence in present-day English is noticeable and every speaker has already met with it. However, many words of this origin have merged with original English vocabulary and they cannot be distinguished at first sight. The impact of Latin and Greek is mostly recognizable in technical terms, primarily regarding all natural sciences. In the process of integration into the system of English, many of the expressions underwent changes in pronunciation (and sometimes in spelling, too) and may therefore be found in alternative variants. For example the word *abdomen* can be pronounced as following ways: 'æbdəmən, -ɪn, -əməŋ; æb 'dɔʊm-; the first option is the recommended one.

This technical vocabulary of Latin and Greek origin applies to more sophisticated spheres and an ordinary speaker does not use it very much. In the course of time English created its own duplicates, so speakers can choose between more variants of one word (*to start, to begin and Lat. to commence*). But sometimes nuances in the meanings of these variants have survived to this day, making one or the other option suitable in different contexts.

Although many technical terms of Latin and Greek origin occurring in English can be theoretically interesting from the point of view of their fluctuating pronunciation, this is not the only aspect this thesis aims to explore. The main task was to deal with the fluctuating pronunciation of the most popular Latin and Greek loans in present-day English.

When a word of Latin or Greek origin is used in communication, the speaker is faced with the problem of pronouncing it. Whether the pronunciation is correct depends on the particular speakers and their education; the more educated, the better pronunciation.

I hope that this work will benefit all who study the English language and are interested in its history and origin. For those who are fond of its vocabulary and, most importantly, of the pronunciation of words adopted from Latin and Greek.

I will be pleased if this thesis helps to clarify gaps and obscurities in this field.

12. Resumé

Latinský a řecký vliv je ve slovní zásobě současné angličtiny dodnes patrný a neměl by být opomíjen. Většina slov přejatých z latiny či řečtiny jsou však spíše odborného charakteru. Některá slova zdomácněla natolik, že na první pohled není zřejmý jejich cizí původ.

Začátek práce se zabývá nástinem toho, kdy slova latinského a řeckého původu do angličtiny pronikala a o jaká slova se jednalo. Slova latinského a řeckého původu se vyznačují svojí rozkolísanou výslovností a většinou u nich nalezneme několik různých a mnohdy i lišících se možností výslovnosti.

Tato rozkolísanost pramení z toho, že rodilí mluvčí mohou tato slova považovat do určité míry za cizí. Angličtina se postupem času k takovýmto slovům vytvořila své duplicitní varianty, které se mohou i nemusí odlišovat ve významu či kontextu jejich použití.

Hlavním cílem práce je popsat výslovnost nejznámějších a nejpoužívanějších slov latinského a řeckého původu, která se vyskytují v současné angličtině a jejichž výslovnost je nějakým způsobem zajímavá.

Na konci práce je sestaven také abecední seznam slov přejatých právě z latiny či řečtiny, dále pak přehled jmen latinského a řeckého původu používaných v současné angličtině či znamení horoskopu. Důležitou součástí tvoří transkripce všech v seznamu uvedených slov. Původ slov je ověřen v etymologickém slovníku.

Doufám, že tato práce bude přínosná pro všechny, kteří se z nějakého důvodu zajímají o anglický jazyk a vývoj jeho slovní zásoby. Pevně věřím, že právě tato práce pomůže rozklíčovat a vysvětlit leckteré nejasnosti právě v komplikované výslovnosti slov přejatých z latiny či řečtiny.

13. Bibliography

1. Anthony, Ted. (2000) *The World's Linguistic Vacuum Cleaner Makes a Wall-to-Wall Sweep*. <http://articles.latimes.com/2000/apr/16/news/mn-20171>. DOA: 16.4.2000
2. Baugh, Cable. (2002) *A History of the English Language*. USA: Pearson Education
3. Crystal, David. (1995) *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of English Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
4. *English words with Latin roots that don't exist in other Romance languages*. http://www.eupedia.com/europe/words_with_latin_roots_unique_english.shtml. DOA: 15.12.2014
5. *Greek Baby Names*. <http://babynames.net/all/greek>. DOA: 23.2.2015
6. *Horoscope.com Daily*. <http://www.horoscope.com/>. DOA: 7.4.2015
7. Kemmer, Susanne. (2013) *Loanwords- Major Periods of Borrowing in the History of English*. <http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~kemmer/Words/loanwords.html>. DOA: 15.9.2013
8. *Latin Baby Names*. <http://babynames.net/all/latin?page=7>. DOA: 23.2.2015
9. *Latin influence in English*. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin_influence_in_English. DOA: 24.12.2014
10. McEwan, E. K. (2015) *Root Words, Roots and Affixes*. <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/root-words-roots-and-affixes>. DOA: 7.4.2015
11. Menzer, J. Melinda. (2000) *What is the Great Vowel Shift?* <http://facweb.furman.edu/~mmenzer/gvs/what.htm>, DOA: 16.4.2015
12. Onions, C.T. (1966) *The Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
13. *Online Etymology Dictionary*. <http://www.etymonline.com/index.php>. DOA: 8.4.2015
14. *Phonetics*. <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/help/phonetics.html#vowels>. DOA: 1.4.2015
15. *Spelling Tip: Latin and Greek Plurals*. <http://www.biomedicaleditor.com/spelling-tip-latin.html>. DOA: 7.4.2015

16. Vachek, Firbas. (1986) *Historický vývoj angličtiny*. Brno: Masarykova univerzita
17. Wells, J.C. (2008) *Longman Pronunciation Dictionary*. Pearson Longman
18. *What was the Great Vowel Shift?*
<http://dictionary.reference.com/help/faq/language/s23.html>. DOA: 16.4.2015

APPENDIX 1

A List of Latin and Greek loans in present-day English

(Wells, 2008)

A

absurdity	əb 'sɜ:dəti	ʃæb- -'zɜ:d- -ɪt-	-'sɜ:dəti	'zɜ:dəti
acid	'æsid	ʃ-əd		
admit	əd 'mɪt	æd- →əb-		
allegory	'æləgəri	ɪg- -əgɔ:ri	-gɔ:ri	
altar	'ɔ:ltə	'ɒltə 'ɔ:ltər	'ɑ:ltər	
anonymous	ə 'nɒnɪməs	-ə- ə 'nɑ:nɪməs		
apostle	ə 'pɒsəl ə 'pɑ:səl			
apposite	'æpəzɪt	-ət -əzeɪt		
arbitrator	'ɑ:bɪtreɪtə 'ɑ:rbətreɪtər			
atmosphere	'ætməsfɪə -fɪr			
autograph	'ɔ:təgrɑ:f	-græf 'ɔ:təgræf	'ɑ:t-	

B

benefit	'benfɪt	-ə- ʃ-fət		
---------	---------	-----------	--	--

C

chaos	'keɪs 'keɪɑ:s			
clerk	klɑ:k klɜ:k			
combine	'kɒmbaɪn 'kɑ:mbaɪn			
comet	'kɒmɪt	ʃ-ət 'kɑ:mɪt		
conclude	kən 'klu:d → kən-	ʃkɒn-		

contradiction ,kɒntɹə 'dɪkʃən || ,kɑ:ntɹ-

criterion kraɪ 'tɪəriən || -'tɪr-

D

deceptive di 'septɪv də-

delete di 'li:t də-

depression di 'preʃən də-

despicable di 'spɪkəbəl də-

discuss dɪ 'skʌs də- 'despɪk-

dolphin 'dɒlfɪn ʃ-ən || 'dɔ:lf- 'dɔ:lf-

E

encyclopedia ɪn ,saɪklə 'pi:diə en- ən-

enthusiasm ɪn 'θju:zi ,æzəm en- ən- -'θu:z- ʃ-əz- || -'θu:z-

excursion ɪk 'skɜ:ʃən ek- ək- -'skɜ:ʒ- || -'skɜ:ʒən

expedition ,ekspə 'dɪʃən -pɪ-

expensive ɪk 'spenʃɪv ek- ək-

explain ɪk 'spleɪn ek- ək-

F

fungi 'fʌŋgi: -gɑɪ 'fʌndʒɑɪ -i:

G

gesture 'dʒestʃə → 'dʒeʃ- || -tʃər

gratis 'grætɪs 'greɪt- 'grɑ:t- -əs || 'grætəs

H

habitual hə 'bɪtʃuəl hæ- -'bɪtʃu

homicide **'hɒmɪsɑd** -ə- || **'hɑ:m-** 'hɒm-

hydrogen **'haɪdrədʒən** -ɪdʒ- -ɪn

I

immortal **ɪ 'mɔ:təl** ə- ɪ- ,ɪm- || **ɪ 'mɔ:təl**

incarnate² (adj.) **ɪn 'kɑ:nət** → ɪŋ- -ɪt -eɪt || **-'kɑ:rn-**

incredible **ɪn 'kredəbəl** → ɪŋ- -ɪb-

inferior **ɪn 'fɪəriə** ,ɪn- || **-'fɪrɪər**

infinite³ **'ɪnfɪnət** -ɪt 'ɪnfənət (i) **'ɪnfɪnɪt** -fə- -faɪ-(ii)

intellect **'ɪntələkt** -ɪ- -ləkt || **'ɪntəlɪkt**

interest **'ɪntrəst** -ɪst -est 'ɪntərəst || 'ɪntərəst

item **'aɪtəm** -ɪm -em || **'aɪtəm**

L

larynx **'lærɪŋks** || 'lerɪŋks

library **'laɪbrəri** 'laɪbəri || **'laɪbreri** -rəri

lucrative **'lu:kreɪtɪv** 'ljʊ:k- || **-reɪtɪv**

M

mechanical **mɪ 'kæɪnɪkəl** mə 'kæɪnɪkəl

moderate⁴ **'mɒdərət** -ɪt || 'mɑ:d-

N

necessary⁵ **'nesəsəri** 'nesəsəri

² Adjective

³ *but in church music usually* (ii)

⁴ Adjective

⁵ British English: -səri 78%, -səri 22%

nucleus 'nju:kliəs §'nu:k- || 'nu:k- 'nju:k-

P

pancreas 'pæŋkriəs -æs || 'pænkri-

paradise 'pærədəis || 'per- -daiz

parasite 'pærəsait || 'per-

plant plɑ:nt §plænt || plænt

pneumonia nju 'məʊniə §nu- || nu 'mouniə

popular 'pɒpjələ -jəl- || 'pɑ:pjəl^ər

private 'praɪvət -ɪt

prosecute 'prɒsɪkjʊt -ə- || 'pra:s-

prosody 'prɒsədi 'prɒz- 'prəʊz- || 'pra:s-

proton 'prəʊtɒn || 'proutɑ:n

R

recipe 'resəpi -ɪp-

refund⁶ ri 'fʌnd rə- ,ri:- 'ri:fʌnd

reject ri 'dʒekt rə 'dʒekt

requiem 'rekwiəm -em

revolve ri 'vɒlv rə- §-'vəʊlv || -'va:lv

S

scholar 'skɒlə || 'skɑ:l^ər

skeleton 'skelɪtən -ət- || -^ən

⁶ Verb

species	'spi:ʃi:z	'spi:s-	-iz-
substitute	'sʌbstɪtʃu:t	-stə-	→-tʃu:t -tu:t -tju:t
system	'sɪstəm	-ɪm	

T

tolerance	'tɒlərənʰs	-rənʰs tɔ:l-
-----------	------------	-----------------

V

vacuum	'vækjuəm	'vækjʊm	'vækju:m
--------	----------	---------	----------

X

xylophone	'zɪləfəʊn	'zɪl-	'gzɔ:l- -fəʊn
-----------	-----------	-------	------------------

APPENDIX 2

A list of Latin and Greek proper names in present-day English

A

Aegina	i 'dʒɪnə	i 'gi:nə		
Aeneas	i 'ni:əs	i 'neɪəs	i 'neɪəs	
Aesop	'i:sɒp -a:p	-əp		
Alexander	æliŋ 'zɑ:ndə	-eg-	-ɪk-	-'zændə -'zændʰr
Anastasia	ænə 'steɪziə	ænə 'stɑ:ziə -'steɪzə	-'stɑ:zə	
Angela	'ændʒələ	'ændʒɪlə		
Apollo	ə 'pɒləʊ ə 'pɑ:ləʊ			
April	'eɪprəl	'eɪprɪl		
Aquila	'ækwɪlə	'ækwələ	ə 'kwɪlə	
Archimedes	ɑ:kɪ 'mi:di:z	ɑ:kɪ 'meɪdi:z		

Ariadne ,æri 'ædni || ,er- -'a:d-

Aristotle 'æristotə || -sta:təl 'er

Augustus ɔ: 'ɔstəs ə- || a:-

B

Barbara 'bɑ:brə 'bɑ:bərə || 'bɑ:rb-

Benedict⁷ 'benɪdɪkt -ə- 'benɪt

Benita be 'ni:tə bi 'ni:tə bə 'ni:tə || -'ni:tə

C

Cara 'kɑ:rə || 'kærə 'kerə

Cecilia sə 'si:liə si 'si:liə -sɪl- || -'si:ljə -sɪl-

Cicero 'sɪsərəʊ || -rou

Clara 'kleərə || 'klerə 'klærə 'kla:rə

Claudia 'klɔ:diə || 'kla:diə

Clementine 'kleməntain 'klemənti:n

Cleopatra kli:ə 'pætrə kli:ə 'pɑ:trə

Christian 'krɪstʃən 'krɪʃən 'krɪstɪən

D

December di 'sembə də 'sembə ʒ-'zem- || -b³r

Democritus di 'mɒkrɪtəs də- -rət- || -'mɑ:krətəs

⁷ 'benɪt = the former pronunciation

Diamond	'daɪəmənd	'daɪmənd 'daɪmənd
Diane	daɪ 'æn	di 'æn
Dionysus	daɪə 'naɪsəs	daɪə 'ni:səs
Dorian	'dɔ:riən 'dɔʊr-	
Doris	'dɔ:ris	'dɔrəs 'dɔ:r- 'dɑ:r- 'dɔʊr
E		
Eleanor	'eləneɪ	'elɪnə - ^ə r -ənɔ:r
Electra	i 'lektreɪ	ə 'lektreɪ
Empedocles	em 'pedəkli:z	ɪm 'pedəkli:z
Erasmus	ɪ 'ræzməs	e 'ræzməs ə 'ræzməs
Eunice	'ju:nɪs	'ju:nəs ju 'naɪsi
Eurydice	ju^ə 'rɪdɪsi	-əs- -i: juəri 'di:tʃi -eɪ juər-
Evangeline	i 'vændʒəli:n	i 'vændʒɪli:n -lɑm
F		
Felicia	fə 'lɪʃiə	fɪ 'lɪʃiə -'lɪʃ- 'lɪʃə -'li:ʃə
Felicity	fə 'lɪsəti	fɪ 'lɪsəti fe 'lɪsəti fə 'lɪsɪti -əti
Florence	'flɒrən'ts 'flɔ:r-	'flɑ:r
G		
Genesis	'dʒenəʃɪs	'dʒenɪsɪs 'dʒenəsɪz
Georgia	'dʒɔ:dʒə	'dʒɔ:dʒiə 'dʒɔ:rdʒə
Germaine	dʒə 'meɪn	dʒɜ: 'meɪn dʒ^ər-
Gloria	'glɔ:riə 'glɔʊriə	

H

Heraclitus **ˌhɛrə 'klaɪtəs** hɪər'klaɪtəs || **-'klaɪtəs**

Hercules **'hɜ:kjuli:z** 'hɜ:kjəli:z || **'hɜ:kjə-**

Hermione **'hɜ: 'maɪəni** 'hə 'maɪəni || **h'ɪr-**

Honor **'ɒnə** || **'ɑ:nər**

Horace **'hɒrəs** -ɪs || **'hɔ:r-** 'hɑ:r-

Hortensia **hɔ: 'tenʃiə** -'tenʃ- || **hɔ:r 'tenʃə**

I

Irene **'aɪərɪ:n** aɪər 'ri:ni || **aɪ 'ri:n** aɪ 'ri:ni

J

July **dʒu 'laɪ** dʒə 'laɪ dʒu: 'laɪ

Jupiter **'dʒu:pɪtə** -ət- || -ətər

L

Lauren **'lə:rən** 'lɒrən || **'lə:rən**

Lucretia **lu 'kri:ʃə** lju- -'kri:ʃiə

Luna **'lu:nə** 'lju:nə

M

Marcia **'mɑ:siə** 'mɑ:ʃə || **'mɑ:rʃə**

Margaret **'mɑ:grət** 'mɑ:grɪt 'mɑ:gərət 'mɑ:gərɪt || **'mɑ:rg-**

Miranda **mə 'rændə** mɪ 'rændə

N

Nero **'nɪərəʊ** || **'ni:rou** 'nɪrou

Nova **'nəʊvə** || **'nouvə**

O

Octavia **ɒk 'tɜrvɪə** ɒk 'tɑ:vɪə || **ɑ:k-**

Odysseus **ə 'dɪsju:s** ɒ 'dɪsju:s əʊ- -'dɪsɪəs || **ou 'dɪsɪəs** -'dɪʃ-
ə 'dɪsju:s

Olivia **ə 'lɪvɪə** ɒ 'lɪvɪə əʊ 'lɪvɪə || ou-

Olympia **ə 'lɪmpɪə** əʊ 'lɪmpɪə || ou-

Ora **'ɔ:rə** || 'ourə

Orpheus **'ɔ:fju:s** 'ɔ:fɪəs

Ovid **'ɒvɪd** || **'ɑ:vɪd**

P

Patricia **pə 'trɪʃə** pə 'trɪʃɪə || -'trɪ:ʃ-

Paula **'pɔ:lə** || 'pɑ:lə

Penelope **pə 'neləpi** pɪ 'neləpi

Perseus **'pɜ:sju:s** 'pɜ:sɪəs || **'pɜ:sɪəs**

Phaedra **'fi:drə** 'faɪdrə || **'fedrə**

Plato **'plɛɪtəʊ** || **'plɛɪtəʊ**

Poseidon **pə 'saɪdən** pə 'saɪdən || pou-

Prometheus **prəʊ 'mi:θju:s** prəʊ 'mi:θɪəs || **prə-**

Pythagoras **pai 'θæɡərəs** pai 'θæɡərəs || **pə-** pɪ-

R

Regina rɪ 'dʒaɪnə rə 'dʒaɪnə ʃri: 'dʒaɪnə

Romulus 'rɒmjʊlə || 'rɑ:mjələs

Ronald 'rɒnəld || 'rɑ:nəld

Rosemary 'rəʊzməri || 'rəʊz ,meri

S

Sabine 'sæbəm || 'serbəm

Sebastian sə 'bæstɪən sɪ 'bæstɪən || sə 'bæstʃən

Seneca 'senɪkə 'senəkə

September sep 'tembə sɪp 'tembə səp 'tembə

Serena sə 'ri:nə sɪ 'ri:nə se 'ri:nə - 'reɪnə

Socrates 'sɒkrətɪ:z || 'sɑ:krətɪ:z

Sophia səʊ 'faɪə səʊ 'fi:ə || sou 'fi:ə sə-

T

Thalia θə 'laɪə 'θeɪliə 'θæl-

Theodora θi:ə 'dɔ:rə || -'dɔər-

Theodore θi:ədɔ: || -dɔ:r -dɔər

Tiberius taɪ 'bɪəriəs || -'bɪəriəs

Tori 'tɔ:raɪ || 'tɔʊraɪ

U

Ulysses ju 'lɪsɪ:z 'ju:lɪsɪ:z -ə-

Undine **'ʌndi:n** ʌn 'di:n ʊn 'di:n

V

Valentine **'væləntəm** 'væləntɪn

Veronica **və 'rɒnikə** ve 'rɒnikə vi 'rɒnikə

Vera **'viərə** || 'viərə

Victoria **vɪk 'tɔ:riə** || -'touriə

Violet **'vaɪələt** 'vaɪəlɪt

Viola **'vaɪələ** 'vi:əʊlə vi 'əʊlə -vaɪ || **vaɪ 'əʊlə** vi-; 'vaɪələ

X

Xantippe **zæn 'tɪpi** gzæn 'tɪpi

Xenophanes **ze 'nɒfəni:z** zɪ 'nɒfəni:z zə 'nɒfəni:z || -'nɑ:f

Z

Zeno from Elea **'zi:nəʊ** || 'zi:nou

Zeus **zju:s** zu:s 'ziəs || **zu:s**

APPENDIX 3

Signs of the Zodiac

Aries **'eəri:z** 'eərii:z || **'eri:z** 'ær- 'ii:z

Taurus **'tɔ:rəs**

Gemini **'dʒemɪnaɪ** -ə- -ni:

Cancer **'kæntʰsə** || -'r

Leo	'li:əʊ 'li:ɔʊ
Virgo	'vɜ:gəʊ 'vɜ:gɔʊ
Libra	'li:brə 'lɪb- 'laɪb-
Scorpio	'skɔ:piəʊ 'skɔ:piɔʊ
Sagittarius	ˌsædʒɪ 'teəriəs -'ter-
Capricorn	'kæprɪkɔ:m -rə- -kɔ:m
Aquarius	ə 'kweəriəs ə 'kwɛr- ə 'kwær-
Pisces	'paɪsɪz 'pɪsk- 'pɪs-

APPENDIX 4

Phonetic symbols according to Cambridge Dictionaries

Online (Dictionary.cambridge.org:2015)

Vowels

Long Vowels

i: sheep

ɑ: farm

u: coo

ɔ: horse

ɜ: bird

Short Vowels

ɪ ship

æ hat

ʊ foot

ɒ sock (UK)

ʌ cup

Consonants

Voiced

b book

d day

g give

v very

ð the

z zoo

ʒ vision

dʒ jump

l look

r run

j yes

w we

m moon

n name

ŋ sing

Voiceless

p pen

t town

k cat

f fish

θ think

Diphthongs

eɪ day

aɪ eye

ɔɪ boy

aʊ mouth

əɪ, əm, ən can be pronounced either: **əɪ** or **ɪ** etc.:

/ˈleɪb.əɪ/ = /ˈleɪb.əɪ/ or /ˈleɪb.ɪ/

ɹ linking r is pronounced only before a vowel in British English:

fɔ:ɹ + 'æp.ɪz = fɔ:'ræp.ɪz

four + apples = four apples

Other symbols:

['] primary stress

[,] secondary stress

[||] division of BrE and AmE

[§] BrE non-R

In bold recommended pronunciation variant