BAKALÁŘSKÁ PRÁCE

UNPREDICTABLE PRONUNCIATION OF BRITISH PLACE NAMES

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ANOTACE

Cílem bakalářské práce je vytvořit seznam místních jmen na území Velké Británie, které mají z pohledu českých mluvčích obtížně předvídatelnou výslovnost, tedy takových, kde je výslovnost obtížně odvoditelná z pravopisu při užití analogie s výslovností obecných slov. V centru pozornosti budou významnější lokality, a pokud půjde o názvy na území Walesu, Skotska či Severního Irska, půjde o zaměření pouze na jejich anglicizované podoby, nikoli na jejich podobu v původních jazycích.

Kromě vytvoření seznamu místních názvů půjde také o zjištění obecných tendencí, jimiž se výslovnost vlastních jmen odlišuje od výslovnosti běžné slovní zásoby, např. na základě jejich etymologie.

ABSTRACT

The aim of this thesis is to create a list of British place names which have an unpredictable pronunciation. Their pronunciation is difficult for Czech speakers because they are even less easily derivable from orthography than general words. The focus will be on important localities and if they are localities in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland, attention will only be given to their English forms.

In addition to the list of British place names, another aim is to identify general tendencies that make the pronunciation of place names different from the pronunciation of the common vocabulary, e.g. on the basis of their etymology.

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1   Introduction

The goal of my BA thesis is to create a list of British place names which have an unpredictable pronunciation. The pronunciation of place names is generally difficult for Czech speakers because they are even less easily derivable from orthography than general words can be. The thesis is divided into three parts: the theoretical part with comments on history, another part devoted to analysis of the pronunciation, and the practical part, which contains a list of the place names and their phonetic transcription.

First of all, I would like to introduce the historical development of the English language because it is connected very closely with British history. In the past Britain was occupied by many nations who brought their languages and so considerably influenced English. The language has gone through a number of changes, for example inflections, suffixes, prefixes, simplification of the language, etc. The changes affected all levels of the language from phonetic and morphological to syntactic and lexical. The different periods of historical development of the English language are referred to by traditional terms, such as Old English, Middle English and Modern English. I am going to describe all the forms with their historical background.

Next, as a non-native speaker, I am going to identify place names with unpredictable pronunciation on specialized websites and in pronouncing dictionaries, and to make a list of those place names with comments on their location, pronunciation and etymology, which deals: "the origin, formation, and development (of a word)" (Onions 1985, V). Then I am going to search for the meaning of prefixes and suffixes in etymologic dictionaries.

In the following part of my thesis I am going to describe the suffixes or prefixes which are used to create those place names with regard to their historical origin. This chapter is organised chronologically, based on the different periods of language development. I am going to compare the standard pronunciation with the incorrect pronunciation on concrete examples, and state some mistakes that non-native speakers can make or associate when pronouncing. The next step is to find out the general factors which make the pronunciation of place names different from the pronunciation of common vocabulary.

Another part of my thesis deals with aspects of pronunciation development which are connected with vowel or consonant changes and with changes for easier pronunciation. Again, the chapter is written chronologically as the changes occurred. I am going to describe the change on a particular example with phonetic transcription and comments on the pronunciation.

The final part sums up the place names and their location from the historical point of view. A general tendency is that the towns which contain suffixes from other languages are usually situated in the parts of the United Kingdom where the coming nations attacked the land.

2   <u>The Development of the English Language</u>

In this part of my thesis I am going to describe the development of Modern English as it is represented in a book by prof. Josef Vachek *Historický vývoj angličtiny* and in a book *The Story of English* by Robert McCrum. The development of Modern English was not always compact. The English that we know nowadays was formed in several waves and influenced by many nations. Just like a country has its history, the language also has a history of its own. The development of the English language has been a long process.

From the very beginning there were several tribes in the British area. At first they were the Celtic tribes, that is the Gaels and the Britons, who came in two waves. Unfortunately for them, the island was "highly desirable both for its agriculture and for its minerals" (McCrum et al. 2011, 52). This attracted Julius Caesar and the Romans in 55 BC, whose occupation lasted nearly 400 years. The Celtic language existed side by side with Latin. However, the London area gradually became Romanized and the Celts expanded mainly into the North and West of Britain. The Romans' presence is evident for example from the names of places that were established at that time: "A few Roman words crept, corrupted, into British usage: place-names like Chester, Manchester, and Winchester are derived from the Roman word *castra*, meaning a camp" (*Ibid.)*

In the second half of the fifth century A.D. the Celts and the Romans were attacked by the Anglo-Saxons. The Anglo-Saxons in Britain included three Germanic tribes – The Angles (originally known as Anglii), the Saxons and the Jutes. They came from Denmark, Germany and coastal Holland where the Frisians lived. The language of the Frisians is very close to the language of the Anglo-Saxons because they belonged to the same Germanic family of languages (*Ibid.*, 53). "The native Britons were driven westward, fleeing from the English 'as from fire'. The English language arrived in Britain on the point of a sword" (*Ibid.,* 55). The expelled Britons were called *wealas,* which represented foreigners and from which there is nowadays the word Welsh (*Ibid.,* 56). The existing language was involuntarily affected by the incoming language and the Anglo-Saxons could reign. They invaded Britain and settled on the East and South-East coast. England was split up into seven kingdoms (Essex, Kent, Sussex, Wessex, East Anglia, Northumbria and Mercia). Wessex was the most important part with its political centre in Winchester (Vachek 1978b, 8).

For better orientation I have decided to attach a map where the kingdoms are marked:

Fig. 1 Old English Kingdoms, January 2015, from uni-due, 10 may 2015 https://www.uni-due.de/SHE/HE_GermanicInvasions.htm

We can see that the Anglo-Saxons were expanded almost all over the country, but the most densely populated area was the South. The language used was largely Germanic. It is inflected, and thanks to that, the word order was free and the spoken and written forms agreed. This language was called Old English and it was made from the Celtic language, Latin and Germanic language. The oldest epic, *Beowulf*, dates from this period, for example.

The Anglo-Saxons settled down, they started farming and so the vocabulary from OE contains a number of expressions related to agriculture, like *sheep, ox, plough, wood, field,*

earth and *work* (McCrum et al. 2011, 57). Anyway, in AD 597 the Anglo-Saxons "received an enormous boost when Christianity brought its huge Latin vocabulary to England" (*Ibid.,* 61). The Latin words described mainly the religious expressions, objects and topics but they were also described by the words from Greek.

At the end of the 8th century, Britain was attacked again, this time it was the Viking invasion. They were invaders from Norway and the Danes, collectively called the Vikings. The Danes are also known as Norsemen, they conquered the North of France and so this land is called Normandy, whence the Norman Conquest came in the 11th century. Finally, they raided England (*Ibid.,* 65). England became part of the Scandinavian empire. Naturally, the Danes and the Saxons lived side by side more or less peacefully for a long time. Their languages were both from the Germanic branch so they could understand each other *(Ibid.,* 67). The language in this period was so far a mixture of the Germanic language, Celtic language, Latin and Old Norse. Although the Danes can be considered as warriors who attacked England to get power and riches, there is one advantage thanks to them. OE had many inflections instead of prepositions that we have nowadays. Those inflections determined the case of nouns, and verbs. "The simplification of English by the Danes gradually helped to eliminate these word-endings" (*Ibid.,* 69). That was one of the reasons why the word order was to become fixed in English. Concerning place names from this period, McCrum speaks about the Saxon and Viking influence that is proved: "Places like Clapham, ending in *ham* (meaning a settlement), *ing* (as in Worthing), *stowe* (as in Hawkstowe), *sted* (as in Oxsted), and *ton* (as in Brighton) are all likely to be of Saxon origin" (*Ibid.,* 70). Some of those suffixes will be described and commented on more precisely later. The Viking place names have also some characteristic suffixes: "*by* (meaning originally a farm, then a village) is almost certainly of Danish origin, as in *Grimsby* or *Derby... Thorpe* (Danish) and *thwaite* (Norwegian) are also common Viking names, as is *toft (*meaning a plot of land), and *scale* (a temporary hut or shelter)" (*Ibid.,* 70). One could say that the Viking power over the language was strong. They influenced not only the vocabulary with new words but also the morphology with new suffixes and syntax with the fixed word order. Even though their influence on the language was strong, the main inflection changes appeared in MidE period.

The end of the Anglo-Saxon political power was caused by the Norman king William the Conqueror, whose language was French, a Romance language. He fought against the English- speaking king Harold. It was the famous Battle of Hastings in 1066. As a result of William's victory, French was spoken by the higher society. It had a social and cultural

prestige (*Ibid.*, 72-4). It means that Old English, an essentially Germanic language, was spoken in Britain by the lower society. However, English had strong roots. It had been strongly established already and the speakers had "an overwhelming demographic advantage" (*Ibid.*, 75) which must have been difficult to change.

The Hundred Years War took place from 1337 to 1454 and during this period and some years after the English language made a comeback in both the spoken and the written form. It was also caused by the plague, also known as the Black Death. A lot of people died in monasteries or churches, which caused the loss of educated people who taught others (*Ibid.,* 76-78). McCrum states: "…a new generation of semi-educated, non-French and Latin speakers took over as abbots and prioresses. After the plague students at school began to construe their French and Latin lessons in English not French, to the obvious detriment of French" (*Ibid.,* 78). If English was a native language for them and French was their second language then it is evident that they preferred speaking English to French. English then appeared in every social level again and it may be stated that the English language had survived the Norman invasion.

Old English with the Norman influence from AD 1150 to 1500 is called Middle English. More precisely Middle English was a blend of French, Latin and OE, peaking in the second half of the 14th century. French was still the language of government. MidE became diversified into a variety of dialects and its grammar was profoundly changed, as the language was changing from an inflected to a non-inflected one. The language was simplified, the word order was fixed, and the spelling started to move away from pronunciation. There were also changes in pronunciation in this era, especially vowels. They sounded differently in different parts of the land. Let us focus on the vowel *y*. In the North and East of Midlands to London this vowel was read like short vowel *i* as in the word *sin*. Otherwise in Kent and East Anglia, the same vowel is pronounced more like *e* as in *merry*. Finally in the West Country, the sound represented *oo* as in *mood*. "Old English for 'kin', *cyn*, for example, could be *kyn, ken* or *kun*. In the case of *byrgen* (which had Middle English variants *birien, burien, berien*) Modern English has kept the western spelling, *bury*, while using the Kentish pronunciation, *berry…*" (*Ibid.,* 79). It shows us the divergence of one phoneme that was in the spoken form, whereas the written form agreed. This language can be found e.g. in Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* which means that it had its biggest expansion.

Middle English is followed by Early Modern English since the end of the 15th century. Its vocabulary is about half Germanic (Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian) and half Romance (French and Latin). The Renaissance era was important for both the printing press and new inventions or discoveries that needed new vocabulary. The words describing them were again from Latin or Greek, French or Spanish, such as *atmosphere, pneumonia, encyclopaedia, bigot* etc. Thanks to this period there are over 10,000 new words that were added to the lexicon (*Ibid.,* 91-3). Early Modern English in the Elizabethan period still had a different syntax to the present-day English. *The Story of English* illustrates: "Adverbs could be used for verbs, nouns for adjectives; nouns and adjectives could take place the place of verbs and adverbs…You could *happy* your friend, *malice* or *foot* your enemy…" (*Ibid.,* 94). The syntax may be a little bit different but we can see that the written from starts to be the same as the words in the contemporary language. Modern English was based on the Middle English dialect of London, which became a literary language. In this period, spelling and word order gradually became completely fixed.

This summary of the development of the English language shows us that Modern English is closely connected with English history. When a nation of conquerors came, the language was immediately influenced. It is important to say that during this long period many towns or villages were founded and so their names reflect the language used at the time of their origin. The development of the English language is not straightforward and easy. It is influenced by several languages that are genealogically different. Those influences have produced a very large number of differences not only in orthography but also in pronunciation or morphology. What can be seen is that in the OE period the language received many foreign words from incoming languages, whilst the language in the MidE period started to form and changed its structure.

3   List of Place Names with Unpredictable Pronunciation

I was going through lists of British place names on websites and looked for their pronunciation in *Longman Pronouncing Dictionary* by J.C. Wells. Those place names, which I found interesting as a non-native speaker, I have written down to this list with the precise location, pronunciation and information about the origin:

Town, City	Location	Pronunciation	Language Origin	Chapter/ Page
Ashford	Kent	[ˈæʃfəd]	Old English	4.1.2 / p. 13
Aylesbury	Buckinghamshire	[ˈeɪəlzbri]	OE	4.1.1 / p.12
Balcombe	West Sussex	[ˈbælkəm]	OE	4.2.4 / p. 20
Bedford	Bedfordshire	[ˈbedfəd]	OE	4.1.2 / p. 13
Berwick-Upon-Tweed	Northhumberland	[berɪkəpɒnˈtwiːd]	Latin	4.2.3 / p. 19
Bicester	Oxfordshire	[ˈbɪstə]	Latin	4.1.4 / p. 15
Birmingham	West Midlands	[ˈbɜːmiŋəm]	OE	4.2.1 / p. 16
Bosham	Sussex	[ˈbɒzəm]	OE	4.2.1 / p. 16
Bournemouth	Dorset	[ˈbɔːnməθ]	Old Frisian	4.2.2 / p. 18
Bradford	West Yorkshire	[ˈbrædfəd]	OE	4.1.2 / p. 13
Canterbury	Kent	[ˈkæntəb(ə)ri]	OE	4.1.1 / p. 12 5.3 / p. 24
Chelmsford	Essex	[ˈtʃelmzfəd]	OE	4.1.2 / p. 13
Cheltenham	Gloucestershire	[ˈtʃeltənəm]	OE	4.2.1 / p. 16
Chiswick	A district of London	[ˈtʃɪzɪk]	Latin	4.2.3 / p. 19
Cogenhoe	Northamptonshire	[ˈkʊknəʊ]	OE	4.2.1 / p.17
Derby	Midlands of England	[ˈdɑːbi]	Old Norse	4.1.3 / p. 14
Dewsbury	West Yorkshire	[ˈdjuːzbri]	OE	4.1.1 / p. 12

Eynsham	Oxfordshire	[ˈenʃəm]	OE	4.2.1 / p. 15
				5.2 / p. 23
Farcet	Huntingdonshire	[ˈfæsət]	MidE	4.1.4 / p. 16
Farnborough	Hampshire	[fɑ:nbrə]	OE	4.1.1 / p. 12
				5.3 / p. 24
Gillingham	Kent	[ˈdʒɪlɪŋəm]	OE	4.2.1 / p. 16
Glastonbury	Somerset	[ˈɡlæstənbri]	OE	4.1.1 / p. 12
				5.3 / p. 24
Gloucester	Gloucestershire	[ˈɡlɒstə]	Latin	4.1.4 / p. 15
				5.3 / p. 24
Greenwich	A district of England	[ˈɡrenɪʃ, ˈɡrɪnɪʃ]	Latin	4.2.3 / p. 19
				5.2 / p. 23
Grimsby	Lincolnshire	[ˈɡrɪmzbi]	Old Norse	4.1.3 / p. 14
Guildford	Surrey	[ˈɡɪlfəd]	OE	4.1.2. / p. 13
Guisborough	North Yorkshire	[ˈɡɪzbrə]	OE	4.1.1 / p. 12
				5.3 / p. 25
Harwich	Essex	[ˈhærɪʃ]	Latin	4.2.3. / p. 19
Hougham	Lincolnshire	[ˈhɒfəm]	OE	4.2.1. / p. 16
				5.2 / p. 24
Ilfracombe	Devon	[ˈɪlfrəku:m]	Latin	4.2.4 / p. 20
Keadby	Lincolnshire	[ˈkɪdbi]	Old Norse	4.1.3 / p. 14
				5.1 / p. 23
Keswick	Cumbria	[ˈkezɪk]	Latin	4.2.3 / p. 18
Kirkby	Lancashire	[ˈkɜ:bi]	Old Norse	4.1.3 / p. 14
Leasingham	Lincolnshire	[ˈlezɪŋəm]	OE	4.2.1 / p. 16
				5.2 / p. 23
Leicester	Leicestershire	[ˈlestə]	Latin	4.1.4 / p. 15
				5.2 / p. 23
Leominster	Herefordshire	[ˈlemstə]	Latin	4.1.4 / p.15
				5.1 / p. 22

Loughborough	Leicestershire	[ˈlʌfbrə]	OE	4.1.1 / p. 12 5.3 / p. 25
Meopham	Kent	[ˈmepəm]	OE	4.2.1 / p. 16 5.1 / p. 22
Monmouth	Monmouthshire, Wales	[ˈmɒnməθ]	Old Frisian	4.2.2 / p. 18
Motcombe	Dorset	[ˈmɒtkəm]	OE	4.2.4 / p. 20
Oldham	Greater Manchester	[ˈəʊldəm]	OE	4.2.1 / p. 16
Osbournby	Lincolnshire	[ˈɒzənbi]	Old Norse	4.1.3 / p. 14
Oxford	Oxfordshire	[ˈɒksfəd]	OE	4.1.2 / p. 13
Plymouth	Devon	[ˈplɪməθ]	Old Frisian	4.2.2 / p. 18
Rotherham	South Yorkshire	[ˈrɒðərəm]	OE	4.2.1 / p. 16
Rugby	Warwickshire	[ˈrʌgbi]	Old Norse	4.1.3 / p. 14
Salford	Greater Manchester	[ˈsɔːlfəd]	OE	4.1.2 / p. 13
Salisbury	Wiltshire	[ˈsɒlzbri]	OE	4.1.1 / p. 12 5.3 / p. 24
Scarborough	North Yorkshire	[ˈskɑːbrə]	OE	4.1.1 / p. 12 5.3 / p. 24
Shrewsbury	Shropshire	[ˈʃrəʊzbri]	OE	4.1.1 / p. 12 5.3 / p. 24
Stamford	Lincolnshire	[ˈstæmfəd]	OE	4.1.2 / p. 13
Teignmouth	Devon	[ˈtɪnməθ]	OE	4.2.2 / p. 18 5. 2 / p. 23
Tewkesbury	Gloucestershire	[ˈtjuːksbri]	OE	4.1.1 / p. 12 5.3 / p. 24
Threekingham	Lincolnshire	[ˈθrekɪŋəm]	OE	4.2.1 / p. 16 5.2 / p. 23
Towcester	Northamptonshire	[ˈtəʊstə]	Latin	4.1.4 / p. 15
Warwick	Warwickshire	[ˈwɒrɪk]	Latin	4.2.3 / p. 19

Watford	Hertfordshire	[ˈwɒtfəd]	OE	4.1.2 / p. 13
Weymouth	Dorset	[ˈweɪməθ]	Old Frisian	4.2.2 / p. 18
Whitby	North Yorkshire	[ˈwɪtbi]	Old Norse	4.1.3 / p. 14
Woolacombe	Devon	[ˈwʊləkəm]	Latin	4.2.4 / p. 20
Worcester	Worcestershire	[ˈwʊstə]	Latin	4.1.4 / p. 15
Wrexham	Wrexham County, Wales	[ˈreksəm]	OE	4.2.1 / p. 16
Wycombe	Buckinghamshire	[ˈwɪkəm]	OE	4.2.4 / p. 20

The next step is to analyse the pronunciation of those place names from two aspects: the historical point of view and the phonological point of view.

4   The Formation of Place Names in Different Language Eras

As we can see from the historical development, Modern English was formed during a long period of time. Several languages came and went on the British Isles and that also influenced the language. Every language had its own grammar and rules, including the rules of pronunciation. The development therefore resulted not only in the lexical changes, but also phonetic or morphological changes. Some of them survive in place names. Ralph Waldo Emerson stated: "The English language is the sea which receives tributaries from every region under heaven." I am going to focus on those "tributaries".

4.1 The Old English Period

4.1.1   Proto-Germanic Influence – suffixes *bury/ borough*

The word *burȝ* (the written form with an ancient grapheme) has a long and complicated history. Its meaning refers to a castle as it is mentioned in *HVA* (Vachek 1978b, 59). This voiced fricative *ȝ* comes from the Proto-Germanic language which existed well before Old English, and it is placed both at the beginning of a word and in middle position or in final position. As Vachek explains, the pronunciation in word-final position in *HVA*: "In word-final position ȝ is pronounced as palatal ǯ, if a palatal vowel precedes… After velar vowels the ȝ is not palatalized: ȝenoh (ModE enough), ploh (ModE plough). (It comes to the loss of voicing. The voiceless X which appears is written as h)" (*Ibid.,* 35). Later, in Old English era, the word *burȝ* changed the written form to the *burh* by the way I have described. The word *burh*, which *Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology*, henceforth *ODEE,* states, represents a fortified place (Onions 1985, 127). It is evident that this word came through a phonological change. In spite of those spelling changes the meaning of the castle remained till nowadays in place names. I have chosen those ones:

Salisbury   (Wiltshire)   [ˈsɒlzbri]

Shrewsbury   (Shropshire)   [ˈʃrəʊzbri]

The suffix –bury is reduced and voiceless and the place name is considered as one word. The verb infinitive to bury exists in English as a common word. Its pronunciation is

[ˈberɪ], it means that there is a front mid-open vowel and the speaker has spread lips. The first syllable of this verb is stressed, then. Because of the same spelling of the verb and the suffix, non-native speakers confuse the two forms, incorrectly using analogy on the basis of identical spelling.

However, there is another interesting suffix I would like to add because it shares the etymology with the previous suffix –bury. I have recognized the suffix –borough in the place names with different pronunciation. This suffix comes from the word *burh*, too (*Ibid.*, 108). The meaning is the same as for –bury, that is a fortified place. I would state those towns:

Guisborough   (North Yorkshire)   [ˈgɪzbrə]

Loughborough   (Leicestershire)   [ˈlʌfbrə]

This suffix is completely reduced. Firstly it is caused by the final group –gh which is silent in English and secondly the place name is read as a whole. When we omit the suffix –borough and its meaning, there is also a common word in English *borough* which is pronounced [ˈbʌrə]. As I have written, the silent group –gh is not pronounced, which holds true here, too. Nevertheless, the first syllable is stressed and it is pronounced again with the front middle vowel.

4.1.2   Old Saxon Influence – suffix *ford*

As I have described, in the second part of the fifth century the Anglo-Saxons came and spoke the Germanic language. From this period we know one suffix that makes part of British place names. *ODEE* states that the suffix –ford means "a shallow place in a piece of water where one may cross" (*Ibid.*, 369). This suffix comes from the Old Saxon word *voorde,* which is of Germanic origin. I would indicate examples of place names that contain this suffix:

Ashford   (Kent)   [ˈæʃfəd]

Bedford   (Bedfordshire)   [ˈbedfəd]

Bradford   (West Yorkshire)   [ˈbrædfəd]

Guildford   (Surrey)   [ˈgɪlfəd]

As the transcription suggests, the suffix does not bear stress and is always pronounced with the neutral vowel schwa, which Roach defines as follows: "The most frequently occurring vowel in English is ə, which is always associated with weak syllables…It is generally described as lax, that is, not articulated with much energy" (Roach 1991, 76). Czech learners tend to pronounce those place names with the stress on the second syllable because they may think there is the long open back vowel ɔː such as in a general noun *ford* or a verb like *to afford*, or in words with similar spelling e.g. *accord, sword* or *discord.* Anyway, the stronger pronunciation of the second syllable is not right because the place name is considered to be one unit.

I have got one remark for the place name Guildford and the stem guild. When we focus on the pronunciation it can be seen that the final consonant *d* is omitted and it causes the pronunciation [gil] instead of [gild]. This fact is explained by the following consonant *f* which is the initial consonant of the suffix. It would demand the pronunciation of three consonant in sequence but it is not common in English. Pačesová adds other words where the *d* consonant is mute and is omitted: "Grapheme d is not pronounced in following expressions: handkerchief, handsome, Wednesday, landscape, Windsor and sandwich" (Pačesová 1990, 78).

The omission of consonant in this place name is explained by the fact that it is the lenis consonant *d* and fortis consonant *f,* which causes a pronouncing problem. Furthermore, those three consonants have a different place of articulation and also the manner of articulation. It follows that the pronunciation would be realized with difficulty during speech.

4.1.3   Norse Influence – suffix *by*

I have already mentioned that at the end of the 8th century England was attacked by the Danes and afterwards made part of the Scandinavian Empire. The best-known suffix coming from the Norse language is the suffix –by. This suffix was used to represent a farmstead or a

village and the suffix is pronounced [bɪ] (Onions 1985, 131). This suffix produced, for example, the following place names:

Keadby	(Lincolnshire)	[ˈkɪdbi]
Osbournby	(Lincolnshire)	[ˈɒzənbi]

The problem which can arise for non-native speakers is that they can associate the pronunciation of this suffix with the pronunciation of the preposition *by* which is pronounced [baɪ] and which is well known in non-native speakers' awareness. *Longman Pronouncing Dictionary* explains: "This word normally has no weak form. However, there is an occasional weak form bɪ, bə, which is stylistically marked, and in RP[1] restricted to set phrases" (Wells 1991, 101). It means that common words containing this syllable are not usually reduced, such as: lullaby, whereby or thereby.

4.1.4   Latin Influence – suffixes *cester / minster*

Latin coexisted with other languages on the British Isles from the very beginning. It is therefore no wonder that many English words come from Latin. Concerning the place names containing suffixes like –caster, -cester or –eter, they all are derived from the Latin word "*castra*" (Onions 1985, 157). Its meaning is an old fortified place or a military town. I have found an annotation to this pronunciation on the website *howdoyousaythatword.com*. It says that the ending –*er* behaves as schwa also known as a neutral vowel and the pronunciation of "ce" at the beginning is mute. I would mention those place names:

Bicester	(Oxfordshire)	[ˈbɪstə]
Gloucester	(Gloucestershire)	[ˈglɒstə]
Leicester	(Leicestershire)	[ˈlestə]
Towcester	(Northamptonshire)	[ˈtəʊstə]

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[1] RP = received pronunciation

Worcester   (Worcestershire)   [ˈwʊstə]

For non-native speakers, there can be a problem with the initial group "ce" and its pronunciation. It seems to suggest the pronunciation [tʃɪ] such as in place names Manchester [ˈmʌntʃɪstə], Winchester [ˈwɪntʃɪstə] etc. The place names pronounced this way contain three syllables, it means that the suffix is two-syllable.

I have an interesting remark to the place name of Worcester. In *HVA* Vachek speaks about the liquid *r*: "In the pre-consonantal positions, r̲ was lost by the end of the 17th century; it is preserved only in sandhi situations (if immediately followed by a vowel)" (Vachek 1978b, 208). That is the case of Worcester and Farcet, where the liquid *r* has been removed from the first syllable.

Farcet   (Huntingdonshire)   [ˈfæsət]

Very closely related to the suffix –cester is another one that also comes from Latin. That is the suffix –minster. *ODEE* provides the following information: this suffix is derived from the Latin word *mynster* which means a monastery, or a church originating in a monastic establishment (Onions 1985, 579). Searching the unusual place names I have discovered one:

Leominster   (Herefordshire)   [ˈlemstə]

This word shows an interesting division of syllables. The first syllable of the suffix –minster is reduced and it is partly connected to the first syllable of the place name. Then it becomes a two-syllable word. This is a similar case as the previous place names containing the suffix -cester.

4.2 The Middle English Period:

4.2.1   Glottal Consonant *h* – suffix *ham*

The suffix –hamm from Old English has the meaning of land that is hemmed in by water. The suffix –ham which is similar to it has a little difference in meaning, actually it is extracted from the suffix –hamm as mentioned in *ODEE* (*Ibid.,* 425). It represents a village or a farm. Concerning the suffix –hamm or –ham, there is a change that leads to disappearance

of the glottal consonant *h* in pronunciation. That is an impact of the Norman language, specifically its pronunciation, which reflects French. The *h* is not pronounced in the second part of compounds, as Vachek mentions in *HVA* (Vachek 1978b, 212). Those compounds are not considered as compounds anymore. In the historical development of English this phoneme was dropped in other words, too. For example words such as *honest, hour* or *heir* have *h* only in the written form, while words from Latin like *able* (in Latin habilis) lost *h* both in the written and pronounced form (*Ibid.,* 212). As for place names, I give examples of the following towns with their pronunciation:

Bosham	(Sussex)	[ˈbɒzəm]
Birmingham	(West Midlands)	[ˈbɜːmɪŋəm]
Hougham	(Lincolnshire)	[ˈhɒfəm]
Leasingham	(Lincolnshire)	[ˈlezɪŋəm]
Meopham	(Kent)	[ˈmepəm]
Threekingham	(Lincolnshire)	[ˈθrekɪŋəm]

The transcription indicates that the suffixes are not stressed, so their full form –hamm or –ham is not conserved in pronunciation. The *h* is not pronounced at the beginning of unstressed syllables. It causes the suffix being unstressed and reduced, and that is why the neutral vowel schwa appears. For Czech speakers, the pronunciation of those place names can be a problem. The suffixes –hamm and –ham suggest the pronunciation as English words containing "ham", such as *hamster, ham, hammer*. In those words the *h* is pronounced and is followed by the front open vowel *æ*. In addition, Czech speakers may pronounce this suffix as stressed because they intuitively follow Czech rules of pronunciation. In Czech there is not reduction of unstressed syllables. It is worth noting that the consonant *h* is missed out also in pronouns and other words, but concerning place names, there is for example this one:

Cogenhoe   (Northamptonshire)   [ˈkʊknəʊ]

Although the suffix –hoe comes from Middle English, the pronunciation is also influenced by the Norman language. In French, the letter *h* can be written but it is never pronounced at any case. The meaning of this suffix is following: "-howe implement for breaking up ground" (Onions 1985, 444).

4.2.2 French prefix *ply* and Frisian suffix *mouth*

Talking about the French influence, I would comment on the prefix ply-. It can evoke the wrong pronunciation because it exists also as the verb to ply [ˈplaɪ] with a distinct pronunciation. Anyway, this prefix comes from French. Its pronunciation is explained as follows: "old and modern French [pli] plier / whence ply vb. bend" *(Ibid.,* 691). To comment on this citation, the prefix is derived from the French verb *plier*, so the pronunciation is maintained from the original word. This verb also produced the English verb to ply which means to bend. The prefix occurs in this place name:

Plymouth   (Devon)   [ˈplɪməθ]

It is interesting that, for example, the word *plyometrics* containing this prefix, too, is not pronounced according to its French origin. The pronunciation is [plʌɪəˈmetriks] and the prefix is not reduced.

However, this place name is interesting not only for its prefix but also the suffix –mouth: "Old Frisian mũth later mund" (*Ibid.,* 594). The suffix means the mouth of a large river. We can see that the place name is composed of two lexical units, and therefore originated as a compound, but now it is considered as one unit, that is a derivative. It means that because of the pronunciation of the suffix, which is reduced to schwa, the stress is on the first syllable. Another example of this pronunciation can be found in:

Teignmouth   (Devon)   [ˈtɪnməθ]

The suffix is reduced and the first syllable is also quite unpredictable. I am going to explain this later in the chapter on phonological changes.

4.2.3   Semi-vowel w – suffixes *wick/ wich*

When mentioned the disappearance of the consonant *h*, the semi-vowel *w* has a similar history. First, as Vachek says in his book *A Brief Survey of the Historical Development of English*, the pronunciation of bilabial consonant *w* disappears in initial *wr-* words such as *write* [raɪt], *wrong* [rɒŋ] or *wretch* [retʃ] (Vachek 1978a, 104). Those words are known from Old English. Later, in Middle English the semi-vowel *w* disappears from compounds that ceased to be regarded as compounds and are treated as derivatives or morphologically simple words. This applies to words like *answer* [ɑːnsə] or *boatswain* [bəʊsən] and place names containing the suffix –wick. This suffix is derived from a Latin word *vicus* and refers to a dwelling or a place, in the 11th century it meant a farm, which I found in *ODEE* (Onions 1985, 1005).

Warwick	(Warwickshire)	[ˈwɒrɪk]
Chiswick	(a district of London)	[ˈtʃɪzɪk]

The second suffix which is changed in the same way is the suffix –wich in place names:

Greenwich	(a district of England)	[ˈgrenɪtʃ, ˈgrɪnɪtʃ]
Harwich	(Essex)	[ˈhærɪtʃ]

Both –wick and –wich now survive only in place names and, like the previous suffixes, they do not bear stress. The suffix [ɪtʃ] in pronunciation can also alternates with pronunciation as [ɪdʒ], which means that both ways of pronunciation are possible. In addition, the first syllable in Greenwich may be pronounced in two ways, which I am going to explain further. The wrong pronunciation is caused by the similarity of the suffixes with the words like: *which* or *witch* [wɪtʃ], *switch* [swɪtʃ], *wick* [wɪk] etc. The *w* in those words is a bilabial consonant and it is pronounced in Modern English words.

4.2.4 Word-final Group –*mb* – suffix *combe*

In the 15th century the word-final group –mb was simplified in pronunciation. The process resulted in *m* being preserved, and the consonant *b* left out of pronunciation. Vachek supplies: "At first, this change probably took place before a pause and before words beginning in a consonant, and then the resulting form was to be generalized to other positions" (Vachek 1978a, 103). This word final group occurs in a word from Old English. It is the word *combe* that appears in place names. I have found its meaning in *ODEE* and it stands for a deep hollow or a valley (Onions 1985, 213). The place names containing this suffix are, for example:

Balcombe   (West Sussex)   [ˈbælkəm]

Motcombe   (Dorset)   [ˈmɒtkəm]

Woolacombe   (Devon)   [ˈwʊləkəm]

Wycombe   (Buckinghamshire)   [ˈwɪkəm]

The main stress is on the first syllable and the suffix –combe is reduced because of the *b* consonant being left out and the neutral vowel that appears. The suffix –combe can intuitively refer to words such as *a comb* or *a combat*. The pronunciation of the first word follows the rule of leaving out the *b* consonant. However, the vowel *o* that follows is stressed and the pronunciation is [ˈkəʊm]. The word a combat is transcribed as [ˈkɒmbæt], the consonant *b* is pronounced because it belongs to the second syllable. It means that the syllabic boundary is important: tautosyllabic *mb* groups lose *b*, heterosyllabic groups preserve it in pronunciation. It causes problems for non-native speaker since they are unable to determine from the written form where the syllabic boundary is.

Anyway, the pronunciation of this suffix is associated with some difficulties, too. There is, for example, one place name containing this suffix which does not follow the pronunciation that I have already explained. This is:

Ilfracombe   (Devon)   [ˈɪlfrəkuːm]

As it can be noticed from this example, the pronunciation varies. In the example above the pronunciation of the suffix is not reduced. The *b* consonant is not pronounced, of course,

but the long vowel *u:* is preserved. Such cases are hard to explain because, for example, Woolacombe is in the same county and has the similar etymology but the suffix is reduced. Consequently, the different pronunciation of these names cannot be attributed to differences in regional dialects.

This chapter is devoted to the suffixes or prefixes which came from the language of the invaders. The process of language formation was long and closely related to history, as the colonizers were coming and leaving. Anyway, any language is still developing and there are new changes that appear. The place names that I described here were those created in the OE period. The first of them are influenced by the Proto-Germanic language and its word *burg* which yielded the suffixes –bury and –borough. Another influence comes from the Anglo-Saxons. They settled down, divided Britain into seven parts and the towns that were created at that time bear suffixes reflecting their origin, such as –ford. The Viking invasion lasted over a long period and brought the short suffix –by. Other places with unpredictable pronunciation were influenced by Latin words *castra* or *mynster*. The derived suffixes from them have the form –cester and –minster. The Middle English period brought suffixes like –ham or –hamm, which have a similar etymology. The pronunciation of the glottal consonant *h* is omitted and that also goes for the suffix –hoe, where the *h* is not pronounced. This pronouncing rule is influenced by the Normans. Concerning the prefix ply- which comes from the French verb, its pronunciation is conserved in the original form. The place name which contains this prefix has also an old Frisian suffix –mouth. It is also reduced, just like the previous suffixes. The omission of a consonant in pronunciation relates to the semi-vowel *w*, too. It belongs among Latin suffixes –wick and –wich, which are reduced in pronunciation. The last suffix that I spoke about was the suffix –combe. It contains a group –mb, in which the *b* is not pronounced here: in other words the pronunciation depends on the syllabic boundary.

From all those place names that are created with the above-mentioned suffixes we can observe two factors:

The first is that they are all considered as one unit. Native speakers never put stress on the suffix. It is on the first syllable or on the syllable that precedes the suffix. Thus, the suffix which usually constitutes the second or the third syllable does not bear stress. It means that it is reduced and almost always contains the neutral vowel schwa. The loss of the stress and the resulting phonological reduction considerably affect the pronunciation of the place name.

Czech speakers do not know the relationship between stress and vowel quality in their language and that is why they found reduction unnatural.

The second factor influencing the pronunciation is that some of those place names follow the pronunciation of the words of the original language from which the suffix or prefix comes, such as –by and ply-.

5   Formation of place names from the phonological point of view

Considering the fact that the English language went through a long formation process which was influenced by many other languages, it is only logical that the languages that came and went affected English phonology, with succession of phonological changes occurring at different periods. I would like to focus on some those that concern place names.

5.1 Short Vowels: Spontaneous Changes

There were short vowels in OE: *ae, e, i, a, o, u, y* and three diphthongs *ea, eo* and *io*. In Late OE those diphthongs became monophthongized (Vachek 1978b, 107). First, I would like to comment on the diphthong *eo*. This diphthong changed in the 12th century to the vowel *ö* in pronunciation although the written form stayed. During the 12th century, this vowel became the vowel *e*. It is interesting that for example in the South of England *ö* survived till the 14th century. Vachek gives an example of pronunciation: "Thus OE heorte > hörte > herte (the form hörte was spelled heorte…)" (*Ibid.,* 108). As for place names, I would mention those already discussed in this thesis:

Leominster   ['lemstə]

Meopham   ['mepəm]

We can see that the towns retain the OE written form but the pronunciation followed the vocalic changes. For those who do not know about this development it is not easy to deduce the right pronunciation, especially for non-native speakers.

5.2 Shortening of Long Vowels

The majority of cases of vowel shortening probably occurred in the 15th and 16th century. However, some of them date back to an earlier period, and that caused many troubles in phonological research *(Ibid.,* 187).

The long vowel *e* from the Middle English shortened to *i*. Again, Vachek claims: "ME e̱ shortened simply to i̱: breeches, Greenwich, nickname (from an eke name)…" *(Ibid.)* It goes for those place names, for example:

Keadby   [ˈkɪdbi]

Greenwich   [ˈgrɪnɪtʃ]

Teignmouth   [ˈtinməθ]

Concerning the town Keadby, English language learners could expect the pronunciation of a long *i:* or a short *e* in the first syllable. In the case of Greenwich, this explains the pronunciation containing *i* in the first syllable, which is derivable from the phonological changes in the historical development of English.

The Middle English long vowel was also *e* shortened to the short *e,* for example: "death (OE deap), head, red, threat, breakfast" (*Ibid.*, 188).

Leasingham   [ˈlezɪŋəm]

Threekingham   [ˈθrekɪŋəm]

This shortening can also explain the other possible pronunciation of Greenwich as [ˈgrenɪtʃ], with the *e* vowel in the first syllable. We can see that they are homophones: both *ea* and *ee* are pronounced in the same manner.

Another case of shortening is in the written from *ei*, which is the result of vocalic changes in language development from the ME long vowel *a*. This diphthong is shortened, e.g. in *waistcoat* [weskət] (*Ibid.)* This example can clarify the pronunciation of the following towns where the full diphthong can wrongly be expected by Czech speakers:

Eynsham   [ˈenʃəm]

Leicester   [ˈlestə]

The last shortening I would like to speak about applies to the long ME vowel *o*. This vowel was shortened to the vowels *u, a* and *o* respectively, depending on whether the shortening took place before or after the 16th century. This kind of shortening occurred before phonemes *f, s* and *θ*. It is the shortened form of *o* vowel that is interesting for us. There is a word gosling that has the first syllable shortened, and which derived as a diminutive from the word gos (*Ibid.*) I would name those place names:

Gloucester   [ˈglɒstə]

Hougham   [ˈhɒfəm]

The phonetic transcription suggests that the short open back vowel *o* is followed by the phonemes I have mentioned above, so the above-mentioned rule is proved.

5.3 Svarabhakti vowel

In this part I would like to introduce a phonetic change that occurs in order to make the pronunciation easier, too, but the written form of the place name becomes longer. This phenomenon is called a *svarabhakti vowel*. It is an extra vowel that is put into a word between other consonants, whose combination is not usual. Thanks to this vowel the pronunciation is less difficult (Pačesová 1990, 118). In *Fonetika a fonologie současné angličtiny* there is an example: "For example, the Old English bury is noteworthy in particular because of its dative form byrʒ. Both in dative and in nominative the svarabhakti vowel appeared between [r] and final vowel… byrʒ - byriʒ which continues to today's –bury in some place names" (*Ibid.*)

It is proved in ODEE, too: "The OE dative singular „byrig" is preserved in place-names ending in –bury" (Onions 1985, 108). This goes for place names that I have already mentioned above:

Salisbury   (Wiltshire)   [ˈsɒlzbri]

Shrewsbury   (Shropshire)   [ˈʃruːzbri]

As it is already known, suffixes –bury and –borough have a similar etymology. The extra vowel occurs in the –borough suffix, then. Pačesová gives an example: "burh – buruh (today's borough)" (Pačesová 1990, 118). In this case, the epenthetic vowel is *u* that appears between the pronounced [r] and final *h*, e.g. in those place names:

Guisborough   (North Yorkshire)   [ˈgizbrə]

Loughborough   (Leicestershire)   [ˈlʌfbrə]

From the phonological point of view, the formation of place names is very complicated. There are many different situations when and how the phonemes are changed. I have described changes from the 12th century, but also from the 15th or 16th century, and so the final pronunciation has developed over a long period of time and it has been a long process. What we can notice is that all the phonological changes tend to make the pronunciation simpler and easier.

6   Geographic Location

Fig.2 1 England County Towns. Picture by Joe Edkins, November 2006, from Gwydir Demon, 10 May 2015.
http://gwydir.demon.co.uk/jo/maps/uktowns.htm

In this last chapter I would like to sum up or make a little pre-conclusion of the etymologic origin of the aforesaid place names with regard to their position in the United Kingdom. From the previous chapters about suffixes and historical view on English we can estimate an approximate period when the town were built or named and also the location of the invaders. For better orientation, a map showing the location of countries (with names in green) is attached:

The suffix –ford that comprises place names e.g. Ashford, Bedford or Guildford, comes from the period of the Anglo-Saxons' arrival. They spread out mostly in the South and South-East of England, as already mentioned. Ashford is placed in the county of Kent, Bedford in Bedfordshire and Guildford in Surrey. Those counties are all in the southern part of England. Their names therefore correspond to the historical development.

When England was attacked by the Vikings, Old English had been settled. They brought some new words and rules including the suffix –by. Places like Keadby and Osbournby situated in Lincolnshire derive their etymologic origin from them. Lincolnshire is in the North-East of the UK which could signal that Vikings came really from the North and settled logically in the Northern part of England. The place names with suffixes –ham or –hamm are of Viking origin, too. The towns like Hougham, Leasingham or Threekingham are also placed in Lincolnshire. Anyway, Birmingham in West Midlands or Eynsham in Oxfordshire got further to the centre of the land, which could suggest the Vikings' progress. Meopham and Bosham are located more in the South, in Kent and Sussex. A possible explanation is that this was caused by the Danes, who belonged to the Vikings, too, and who occupied the southern part of the country.

The Latin suffix –cester derived from the word *castra* is represented in many place names, e.g. Bicester, Gloucester, Leicester, Towcester or Worcester. As I have already written in the previous chapter about the historical development of English, the Romans came to Britain as one of the first invaders. During their occupation lots of those place names were established. Those towns or cities are located mainly in the centre of England, including Manchester. Counties like Oxfordshire (where Bicester is located), Gloucestershire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire or Worcestershire can all be considered as neighbouring counties. They are located in the West or West-Central England. That suggests that the Romans continued to spread over the country. The Romans progressed by land from the South and occupied London. Later, they spread out step by step. Anyway, another county which

neighbours with those counties is Warwickshire, where Warwick, which also manifests the Latin suffix –wick, is situated. That means that the Roman influence affected particularly the western part of England. The last geographical locations that I would like to mention are places like Balcombe, Motcombe and Wycombe, which come from Old English. The towns are situated in the South of the island, precisely in West Sussex, Dorset and Buckinghamshire. Again, one may say that their pronunciation reflects period of their origin.

This geographic description shows that many towns or cities which have the same suffixes are located in the same county or in neighbouring counties. With regard to suffixes, one may estimate the approximate time of foundation and the place where the particular invading nations settled. As a result, those place names create some kind of a map that depicts English history and the formation of the language. They constitute a commemoration of their etymologic origin.

7 Conclusion

The objective of this thesis was to analyse British place names which have an unpredictable pronunciation for Czech speakers. Their unpredictability stems for the fact that these place names are not subject to rules of pronunciation of common words. This can be explained by the historical development of the language and also by the etymology of such words.

For the purpose of research I chose local names of bigger towns and localities, especially in England. I also analysed their etymology, which means that I studied the meaning of the morphemes occurring in the names. In many cases they are composed of suffixes and prefixes, or possibly lexical units which came to be treated as suffixes and prefixes, from the original languages.

As it has been said many times in this thesis, the historical development of the English language is closely related to English history. In the course of centuries, the country was attacked by many nations who influenced the actual language character. At first the Celts were attacked by the Romans. They brought with them Latin words and the Latin suffixes –cester and -minster, which survive in many place names. Next, the country was occupied by the Anglo-Saxons, who brought the suffix -ford. Those Germanic tribes significantly influenced the language. The language of that period was Old English, from which many suffixes, such as –shaw, –combe, –borough or –bury remain constituent parts of English place names. Thereafter, the Vikings came at the end of the 8th century. They included the Norwegians and the Danes. Their contribution to the language was the suffixes –by or -ham. The next event that occurred was the Battle of Hastings in the 11th century and the arrival of the Normans. It meant another inflow of words, Latin or French, into the language. The suffixes –minster, -wick or –wich were created at that time. All those received suffixes have a meaning of their own. They often refer to the place where the towns were set up, for example a shallow place, a deep hollow, a mouth of a large river, wood or a fortified place. Others describe the form of the settlements, such as a farmstead, a village, a monastery, etc. It is important to remark that the influence of French and Latin was strong not only in that period but also in Renaissance, when there was a new vocabulary for describing science discoveries or inventions.

When I finished my analysis of those names from the etymological point of view I examined the results and came to the conclusion that there are two factors that influence the

pronunciation. The first factor represents the fact that the particular place name is considered as one unit even though it is a compound. The suffix is always reduced, mostly to the neutral vowel schwa. The stress is on the first or preceding syllable. These place names have lost the status compounds, but behave like derivatives. This presents a difficulty for Czech speakers because unstressed syllables in Czech are not reduced but pronounced in the same way as the stressed syllables. That is why Czech speakers do not understand the relationship between stress and vowel quality. Another explanation can be that English language learners use incorrect analogy based on superficial graphical similarity of those place names with common English words that they know. Concerning the prefix ply- in the place name Plymouth, the second factor applies here the pronunciation of the original word is conserved, in this particular case, the French word *plier* represents the short vowel *i*. Or, the suffix –by has also its original pronunciation in places like Keadby and Osbournby.

Then in the second part of the analysis I dealt with the pronunciation from the phonological point of view. As the pronunciation was developing through centuries, many changes occurred, some of them spontaneously, that is as natural unintentional development within one language over time, and some caused by the pressure of the languages spoken by the invaders. I focused on changes that influenced the pronunciation of place names. As for the spontaneous changes, there was a simplification in pronunciation of diphthongs that became pronounced as simple vowels. The town Meopham, for example, is pronounced [me] in the first syllable because the pronunciation of the diphthong *eo* was simplified to *e*. The other change that occurred was the shortening of vowels. Two syllables that did not create a diphthong were shortened into one vowel in pronunciation, e.g. Keadby is pronounced as [ˈkɪdbɪ], which means that only one vowel is read. Anyway, in both types of changes, the written form has remained conserved, while the pronunciation developed for the purpose of language economy and simplicity in order to make communication easier. Unfortunately, this is something that Czech speakers are not likely to know. The next change, which I described, was the *svarabhakti vowel*. This type could be more familiar to Czech speakers. Even though this change exists in their native language, too, it performs the vowel unconsciously in speech. This rule is that the vowel is put between two consonants so that the speaker could pronounce simply.

To sum up my research, the problems that cause the wrong pronunciation appear because of different phonetic rules of languages, the development of the pronunciation of English and its historical factors that are not known for English language learners.

8 Resumé

Cílem mé bakalářské práce bylo vytvořit seznam britských místních jmen, která mají z pohledu českých mluvčích neobvyklou výslovnost. Dále jsem se zabývala obecnými tendencemi, které vedou k jejich odlišné výslovnosti oproti výslovnosti běžné slovní zásoby, a to z perspektivy historického vývoje jazyka a etymologie místních názvů.

V první části mé práce popisuji historický vývoj angličtiny. Jazyk je úzce spjatý s historií země, a stejně je tomu i v případě angličtiny. V průběhu několika staletí byla Anglie osidlována různými národy. K nejdůležitějším patří období staré a středověké angličtiny, kdy byl jazyk z pohledu vzniku místních jmen ovlivněn nejvíce. Mezi první kmeny patří kmen Keltů, který byl následně napaden Římany v roce 55 př. n. l. Jejich působení trvalo přibližně 400 let. S nimi přišla na území Británie latina, která velmi ovlivnila dosavadní jazyk. Důležité je podotknout, že z této doby pochází latinské sufixy –cester a –minster, které jsou dodnes součástí celé řady místních názvů. Dále byla důležitá invaze Anglosasů, jejichž jazyk přinesl například sufix –ford. Jazyk, kterým se mluvilo v této době, se označuje jako stará angličtina, odkud pochází i další sufixy v místních jménech, například –combe, -borough nebo –bury. Na konci 8. století na ostrov dorazili Vikingové, konkrétně Dánové a Norové. Jejich příspěvkem do staré angličtiny byly sufixy, jako –ham nebo –by. Další příliv latinských a francouzských slov byl způsoben příchodem Normanů v 11. století. Sufixy –minster, -wick a –wich pochází z této doby. Etymologický význam všech těchto zmíněných přípon je velmi důležitý, neboť často popisují místo, kde dané město bylo založeno, např. les, mělčina, údolí, ústí řeky nebo opevněný hrad. Dále bych podotkla, že vliv francouzštiny a latiny byl silný nejen v této době, ale i v období renesance, kdy vznikala nová slovní zásoba pro popis vynálezů nebo vědeckých objevů.

V další kapitole jsem se zabývala etymologickým původem místních jmen a došla jsem k závěru, že jsou dva hlavní faktory, které ovlivňují jejich výslovnost. První z nich spočívá v tom, že zkoumané místní názvy v současnosti nejsou v angličtině považovány za složeniny, nýbrž za derivativa. Koncová část těchto názvů se tedy v průběhu vývoje jazyka začala chovat jako nepřízvučný sufix, který prošel procesem redukce, jejímž výsledkem je v řadě případů neutrální samohláska schwa. Přízvuk nese buď první slabika názvu, nebo slabika, která sufixu předchází. To způsobuje pro české mluvčí výslovnostní problémy, protože nepřízvučná slabika v češtině není kvalitativně ani kvantitativně redukována, ale vyslovuje se se stejnou kvalitou jako přízvučná slabika. Druhý faktor je ten, že nerodilí

mluvčí nesprávně využívají analogii na základě grafické podobnosti místního názvu a slova z běžné slovní zásoby, které je jim bližší. Například sufix –by si zachoval svoji původní výslovnost [bɪ], avšak čeští mluvčí v něm mohou shledávat podobnost s předložkou *by*, která se vyslovuje [baɪ]. Co se týče prefixu ply-, zachoval si taktéž výslovnost z původního francouzského slova *plier*.

V následující kapitole jsem se zabývala výslovností místních jmen z fonologického hlediska. Během vývoje jazyka došlo k několika změnám výslovnosti. Některé z nich byly tzv. změny spontánní, tedy ty, které se postupně vyvinuly v procesu užívání jazyka, a některé byly způsobeny jazykem nájezdníků. První změna, ke které došlo, byla změna diftongů na jednoduché samohlásky, tzv. monoftongizace. Např. město Meopham se v první slabice vyslovuje [me] a to z toho důvodu, že dvojhláska *eo* byla zjednodušena na *e*. Další fonologickou změnou je krácení samohlásek. Dvě samohlásky, které netvoří dvojhlásku, se zjednodušily na výslovnost pouze jedné z nich, tedy Keadby se vyslovuje jako [ˈkɪdbɪ]. Nicméně, u obou těchto změn se psaná forma zachovala v původním tvaru. Bohužel, tento fonologický jev je pro české mluvčí zcela neznámý, a proto dochází k problémům s výslovností. Poslední změnou, kterou jsem se zabývala, je tzv. svarabhaktická samohláska, která je vložena mezi dvě souhlásky ve slově, za účelem jednodušší výslovnosti. Závěrem této kapitoly je konstatování skutečnosti, že všechny fonetické změny se objevily pro zjednodušení a usnadnění výslovnosti.

Na závěr této práce bych ráda shrnula faktory, které způsobují nesprávnou výslovnost místních názvů. Tyto problémy se objevují zejména kvůli odlišným fonetickým pravidlům angličtiny, kvůli vývoji výslovnosti angličtiny, kdy se oddělila forma mluvená od formy psané, a také kvůli nesprávně užité analogii, kdy nerodilí mluvčí chybně odvozují výslovnost místních jmen na základě formální podobnosti s jednotkami obecné slovní zásoby.

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