

Abstract

The diploma thesis focuses on the acquisition of Czech Sign Language by one child up to 36 months of age. This child is living in a family where Czech Sign Language is being used as the principal means of communication. The main attention was given to one specific aspect of language acquisition – development of handshape in Czech Sign Language. The thesis presents comprehensive review about sign language acquisition in general, then it focuses on the acquisition of handshape in various sign languages over the world and finally it summarizes results of foreign research. The analysis was based on video recordings that were provided by one family and captured communication between a deaf parent and their child. The main objective of this thesis is to describe a repertoire of handshapes acquired by child as well as their development. Additionally, comparison of handshapes produced by child with handshapes produced by adult users of Czech Sign Language will be made. Results of the analysis will be contextualized and correlated with findings presented by foreign researchers.