ABSTRACT

The focus of this thesis is to explore the development of communicative competence in an elementary school pupil. The research aims to analyse the specific areas of lexical and grammatical competence development in this pupil. The theoretical part of the research defines key terms related to communication. Moreover, it is focused on childrens' speech with the emphasis on the acquisition of specific means of communication that constitute the communicative competence. It also mentions various speech disorders which may follow the linguistic phenomenon of ontogenesis. It introduces several methods which can be used to analyse the child's speech level. The focus of the research is the vocabulary diversity of an elementary pupil (2nd grade student), calculated using the Type-Token ratio (TTR). The research also focuses on the complexity of syntax structures, represented by the number of simple and more complicated sentences in a speech. Data were collected by recording non-scripted interviews over a 6-month period. Three interviews were spontaneous, while the remaining three were centred around a specific topic. In the latter interviews, the subject had the option to prepare for the interview and fill in a given worksheet, allowing for a more structured speech. The interviews were transcribed according to the orthographic transcription CHAT with modifications to preserve capital letters and punctuation. Data from each interview were analysed separately and then compared together and to other researches on this topic that have been conducted in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The research's findings indicate that the 6-month period did not have a major impact on the vocabulary complexity or syntax structures. Therefore, in order to monitor and demonstrate the effects of the child's age, the research would need to be conducted over a longer period of time.

KEYWORDS

Communicative competence, child's speech, first language acquisition, means of communication, lexical competence, vocabulary, grammatical competence