

Abstract

The thesis describes the ways of expressing possessiveness in Czech sign language, using a replication of the research described in Possessive and existential constructions in sign languages (Zeshan – Perniss, 2008), which is a part of a series formulating the first findings concerning the typology of sign languages. The first parts of the paper pay attention to the theoretical context – the category of possessiveness and the definition of some basic terms, the theory of universals, linguistic typology in general and the typology of sign languages. Then, the initial publication (Zeshan – Perniss, 2008) is presented – its theoretical background (attributive and predicative constructions, alienable and inalienable possession, event schemas), research design (questionnaire and elicitation materials) and the results the authors arrived at based on data from 28 sign languages. The research on possessiveness in Czech sign language was conducted in two phases: 1) an interview with a linguistically educated native speaker based on the questionnaire presented in the initial publication (Zeshan – Perniss, 2008), 2) elicitation of possessive constructions from twelve respondents (six pairs) who were given the elicitation tasks used in the initial research (Zeshan – Perniss, 2008). Based on the analysis of the collected data (annotation in ELAN 6.4, creation of an excel spreadsheet with detailed descriptions of the recorded constructions and their analysis), the different types of constructions and devices used in Czech sign language to express possessiveness (mainly attributive and predicative constructions) are described. The findings from this analysis are correlated with the conclusions of the authors of the initial publication (Zeshan – Perniss, 2008).

Key words

Czech sign language, sign languages, possessiveness, possessive constructions, linguistic typology, typology of sign languages, possessive pronouns