

ABSTRACT

The thesis focuses on the quality of life of people with hearing impairment acquired in adulthood. The objective of the thesis corresponds to the title, i.e. to study the effect of acquired hearing impairment on the subjective perception of quality of life. The first part of the thesis presents a theoretical elaboration on the subject based on a study of the literature focusing on hearing impairment and quality of life. The second part of the thesis contains the research itself. The research sample was intentionally defined as very diverse, which allows indicating the broad scope of the topic under study and identifying common aspects. The research questions are focused on sub-topics, such as what is the subjective perception of quality of life in the context of age or general health, what are the informants' personal experiences with compensatory aids, or what areas of quality of life are most affected by hearing impairment. The elaboration of the topic is based on a qualitative analysis of information obtained from a questionnaire survey and semi-structured personal interviews, which are processed in the form of case studies. The results of the research indicate some surprising conclusions: for example, it is possible to assume that the acquired hearing impairment, while affecting the informants' everyday life, is not one of the main factors determining their quality of life. Moreover, its impact can be mitigated through individual compensatory strategies, such as natural adaptation and the support of positive social relationships. In addition, a greater number of variables have been identified as influencing the success of the process of introducing a new compensatory aid, which may account for the untapped potential of their benefits.

KEYWORDS

Quality of life, acquired hearing impairment, case studies, compensatory aids, adulthood