

## **Abstract**

The aim of the bachelor's thesis is to present the issue of /ow/ and /oj/ variation as a phenomenon occurring in many Portuguese words and to describe the factors that condition the preference and degree of variation of these diphthongs. The first part is devoted to the diphthongs /ow/ and /oj/, their origin and evolution in the context of the oral diphthong group. Next, the thesis focuses on the variation of /ow/ and /oj/ in terms of historical linguistic processes that may have conditioned it. The second part of the thesis presents research on the words entering this variation. Based on data from the Portuguese corpus NOW and data collected in a self-administered questionnaire survey with 93 participants, a frequency analysis is carried out depending on the etymology of the diphthongs and on the phonological context of the diphthongs.

**Keywords:** diphthongs, variation, European Portuguese, phonetics, phonology, frequency, etymology, corpora