

## **Abstract**

This thesis investigates the effect of iconicity on the processing of Czech words in persons with aphasia. It aims to conduct a partial conceptual replication of the research by Meteyard et al., 2015, design an experiment containing two tasks to test the effect of iconicity on language processing, and test them on a group of aphasic patients and a control group of non-aphasic speakers. The theoretical chapters of the thesis are devoted to the definition of aphasia, the typology of aphasic syndromes and their manifestations, and a brief introduction to linguistic aphasiology. They also introduce the concept of iconicity in linguistics and the relation of iconicity to language processes in health and disease. The experimental part of the thesis focuses on the actual description of the forthcoming research. Based on an online experiment aimed at assessing the iconicity of words, a total of 36 iconic and 36 non-iconic words were selected and equally divided between the two upcoming experimental tasks. An additional 36 Czech pseudowords were created for the lexical decision task, and the stimuli used in the word repetition task were converted into sound form. Both experiments were subsequently tested on a group of aphasic patients and a control group of non-aphasic speakers, the lexical decision task was tested also in online form on a larger group of Czech participants. In the analysis, reaction times and numbers of correct responses were monitored for lexical decision task, and success rates in word production for word repetition task. Participants from the online pilot study of the lexical decision task showed statistically significant higher success rates for iconic words than for non-iconic words, for the clinical and control groups, however, differences in the ratings of iconic and non-iconic words did not prove statistically significant in either task.

## **Keywords**

sound symbolism, aphasia, lexical decision task, word repetition, language processing