

Abstract

The diploma thesis is in the field of speech-language pathology. It deals with the issue of diagnosis of specific language impairment with a focus on speech comprehension. The main aim of this thesis is to validate a newly developed diagnostic tool called The Speech Understanding Test OTP (Body and Space Test) in practice, the author of which is a clinical speech therapist PaedDr. Věra Kopicová. The theoretical part of the diploma thesis defines speech understanding, its process and also describes in detail the development of speech understanding. Effective communication strategies for the development of speech understanding are also presented. Furthermore, the theoretical part focuses on the diagnosis of speech understanding and the currently available diagnostic materials for assessing speech understanding. This section concludes by presenting in more detail selected categories of impaired communication skills, specifically specific language impairment and articulation disorders. The empirical part of the thesis is quantitative in nature. The predetermined sub-objectives were achieved through static analyses of the data collected and the procedures used in the construction and validation of the properties of the diagnostic methods. The course of the research investigation was carried out in three main phases – preparatory, pilot and clinical study. A total of 205 children were involved in the research investigation. Based on the results of the research investigation, it was found that the developed test material is a valid and reliable diagnostic tool for assessing the level of speech understanding. At the end of the empirical part, several recommendations for practice are formulated.

Keywords

Speech understanding, speech understanding development, speech understanding test, diagnostics, specific language impairment