

Abstract

This diploma thesis deals with the topical organization in family conversations during a shared meal. It is a sociolinguistic case study focusing on conversations within one family of four between July 2023 and March 2024. Using qualitative analysis, the following is explored: the introduction of new topics, their closure or return to these topics.

The aim of the thesis is to uncover patterns for the introduction of new topics in comparison with patterns for bringing the topics back into the conversation. Both the type of the topic and the time after which speaker decides to bring it back play a role in conversation. This study also investigates the influence of individual speakers on topical organization and their overall activity in the conversation.

This thesis intends to contribute to the increase of studies in the field of family communication and thus allow the emergence of generalizations in this area. However, it stands out among already published studies concerning this topic because it focuses on communication in the Czech language, which allows us to relate the (mostly English) literature to a language within which has been paid less attention to this topic.

When compared to previous studies on this topic, we find both minor and major differences in the frequency of usage of each type of topic and in which family member brings topics into conversation most often.

Due to the fact that this is a contemporary study, the research also shows the influence of technology on everyday communication (for example, in the form of searching for information, showing videos or photos on a mobile phone). This research therefore creates a room for the emergence of further studies exploring the influence of technology in communication as well.

Keywords: topical organisation, topical management, family conversation, discourse analysis, communication patterns, Czech language