Abstract

The bachelor's thesis focuses on the use of simultaneous constructions in Czech Sign Language, specifically on their use in localizing static inanimate objects in space (boat, chair, picture, plate, notepad, pen, cup, apple and car) that is, expressing the relationship between a figure and its ground and figures with each other. The thesis focuses on what means are used to represent objects and express their spatial relations: classifiers, shape and size specifiers, lexical signs, relational lexemes, anchoring strategy. However, the focus is mainly on simultaneous representations of referents that is, the representation of more than one figure/ground at the same time: the direct explicit representation of spatial relations between objects by both hands. The research is inspired by the study Does space structure spatial language?: A comparison of spatial expression across sign languages (Perniss, Zwitserlood, & Özyürek, 2015), which focused on German and Turkish sign language. The aim of the research in this paper is to investigate how frequently simultaneous constructions are used when describing the relationship between static figures and the ground, and what means are most commonly used to do so. By analyzing the video recordings, it was observed that simultaneous representations appeared in more than half of the descriptions, especially in the relationships between figures with each other, and classifiers were the most used means.