

Abstract

This bachelor thesis describes and examines one particular component of the language change phenomenon in Czech Sign Language (CSL). Specifically, the process of grammaticalisation of the CSL sign STÁT-SE/STALO, its functions, both the semantics and functional shifts and its formal changes will be scrutinized. First part of this study is dedicated to introducing the process of grammaticalisation in general. Then, the process of language change concerning the sign languages is in display. Second part deals with the process of grammaticalisation in both the spoken and sign languages. Concerning the sign languages, the main focus will be on those aspects of changes where the shift of lexical meaning and the modifications of sign usage in statement occurs. Third part presents a case study analyzing both of these changes, but for a Czech Sign Language sign STÁT-SE/STALO. Mentioned study has its roots in analogical published paper examining the process of grammaticalisation of the sign HAPPEN in American Sign Language. Based on the research done on both Czech and foreign literature the hypothesis about semantics and morphological-syntactic aspects of given sign and about possible modifications of its forms (e.g. movement reduction) will be presented. The hypothesis will be verified by thorough research on the recordings of the Czech Sign Language production and by interviews with native speakers.

Key words: Sign Language, Czech Sign Language, language change, grammaticalization