

## **ABSTRACT**

This thesis examines the development of conference interpreting in Finland, using conference interpreting in the European Union as an example. The thesis is of a theoretical and descriptive nature. Its primary aim is to outline the changes in interpreting in Finland that emerged in 1995 upon the country's accession to the EU. Moreover, this thesis describes the current situation and the potential future of Finnish within the EU. Finally, this research explores training on conference interpreting at the university level, as well as the current status of the Finnish interpreting market. This thesis also describes the current status of the Czech interpreting market in relation to Finnish.

The first chapter introduces distinguished individuals involved in interpreting in Finland. The following chapter deals with the development of interpreting in Finland, with emphasis on conference interpreting and training for conference interpreters. One subsection of this chapter is devoted to discussing a special course on conference interpreting offered at the University of Turku. The next chapter describes how Finland's membership in the EU changed interpreting services in the European Parliament, European Commissions, and Court of Justice of the EU. This chapter explores interpreting from and into Finnish in the European Commission in greater detail. The chapter also highlights the status and potential future of Finnish in EU institutions. The final chapter describes the current status of the Finnish interpreting market, including information about Czech interpreters whose working language is Finnish.

The main contribution of this thesis is the data collected from semi-structured interviews and e-mail communication with chosen individuals, as well as questionnaires completed by Finnish interpreters of the European Commission.

While data was collected from a limited number of respondents, this research introduces new and crucial data that enriches the existing knowledge about the development of interpreting in Finland. The research also helps to specify the status of Finnish and its future within the EU. This thesis demonstrates new information about the history of interpreting in Finland, offering a new perspective on the topic.

## **KEY WORDS**

interpreting, development of interpreting, Finland, European Union, history of interpreting, interpreting profession, teaching interpreting, Finnish