

The thesis discusses questions about the nature of the human mind, the process of language acquisition and the cognitive development in general and presents results of connectionist modelling of one of the seminal developmentally-psycholinguistic phenomena – segmentation of continuous speech flow on the basis of phonotactic and prosodic cues. In the general part of the thesis there is at first briefly introduced the philosophical topic of mind-body problem and then there is described intellectual, historical and cognitively-anthropological background of the computational-representational paradigm which is in the contemporary cognitive science the most prevailing view of the human mind treating the mental life as a kind of computation in the sense of manipulation and transformation of syntactic structures.