

## **ABSTRACT**

The bachelor thesis is devoted to the topic of hearing loss in young age. The thesis is focused on the process of coping with hearing loss acquired in adolescence and young adulthood. The aim of this bachelor thesis is to examine ways, how people experienced the acquired deafness, how they coped with it, which processes helped them to deal with the deafness and where they found support, and vice versa what makes the coping process harder.

The thesis consists of two parts – a theoretical and a practical one. The first, theoretical part describes the meaning of hearing ability and consequences of hearing impairments on human life, and focuses on defining people with hearing impairment and on specification of post-lingual deaf people in the group of people with hearing impairment. It follows up with characterization of developmental periods of adolescence and early adulthood. The main part is the chapter of stress, of coping strategies in general and of coping with hearing loss as a hard life situation specifically.

For practical empirical part, was chosen a technique of qualitative research. The data were collected by semi-structured interviews with 6 respondents, who have had experience with hearing loss in young age. The support of others and their overall reaction to the change of communication and adaptation to the conditions and to the needs of people with hearing loss seem to be the main factors. From the findings follow the recommendations for spreading the phenomenon of hearing loss in young age publicly, and for offering the psychological support to people with hearing loss and to people around them.

## **KEYWORDS**

coping, coping strategy, stress, acquired deafness, hearing loss, deaf, Deaf, adolescence, young adulthood