Abstract

This work deals with the role of multicultural influences on a child's language development. The primary goal of this thesis is to assess how much influence multiculturalism has on a child's development, not only in the process of language acquisition, but in general in the personal development and self-identification of a bilingual individual that interacts with the majority of society. The work is divided into two parts, theoretical and empirical. The introductory chapters of the theoretical part explain the related terminology and the most common terms related to the main topic of the work. The following chapters describe and explain the history of the development of Croat - Czech relations and the situation of national minorities in the territory of both states. The theoretical part concludes with chapters on the definition of the theoretical basis of the language, including the necessary excursion into the issues between the process of simultaneous acquisition of multiple languages and the integration of bilingual individuals into society. The empirical part describes the research methodology and then presents the primary and additional findings concerning the influences of family and the majority of society on not only the linguistic but also personality development of a bilingual child, which resulted from the analysis of research data. The main goal of the research is to get an answer to the question of how much a child is influenced by various factors throughout its development and whether multiculturalism really plays such a large role or if the more dominant influence comes from the majority of society into which the child naturally tries to integrate. The transcripts of the controlled interviews with a research sample of selected bilingual individuals, which were used as a source of research data analyzed in order to obtain an answer to the main research question, forms the content of the appendix.

Key words: multiculturalism, bilingualism, biculturalism, minority, language