

ABSTRACT

This diploma thesis deals with the relationship to reading in people with Asperger's syndrome. The aim of the thesis is to find out what the individual reading experiences of selected people with Asperger's syndrome are. The research focuses on their reading interests, experiencing of a literary story and motivation to read. The theoretical part of the thesis characterizes autism, the autism triad, the psychological theory of autism, and Asperger's syndrome. Reading, functions of literature, reading interests and reading of people on the autism spectrum are also described. The practical part of the thesis is based on semi-structured interviews with ten adults with Asperger's syndrome, who are presented through case studies. Interviews are analysed using open coding. The research found that the respondents read books of various genres, fiction and non-fiction. They form different relationships with literary characters, they also experience the story emotionally. They appreciate the interesting plot of the book, the unusualness or the depicted atmosphere. Motivation factors for reading are relaxation, the search for life wisdom, education, and help with psychological problems or in the field of social relationships.

KEYWORDS

Reading. Reader interest. Autism. Asperger's syndrome.