Abstract

This bachelor thesis examines the decline of dialects in three rural villages in the Ostrava region (Krmelín, Nová Bělá, Stará Ves nad Ondřejnicí). Taking into account the regional distribution of the words, a sample of substantive lexical units recorded in the area was selected from the Czech Language Atlas I and II. These lexemes should not be identifiable on the basis of knowledge of their equivalent in written or Common Czech. A questionnaire was then compiled from these dialectisms and sent to a control group consisting mainly of respondents from the Čechy region. Thanks to this questionnaire, dialectisms whose meaning could be estimated by the respondents from Čechy were eliminated and at the same time its results served as reference points for the final questionnaire. A modified final questionnaire was then created and distributed to the inhabitants of the surveyed villages. It was completed by a total of 51 respondents, who were divided into 4 age groups according to generational divisions. After processing the responses, it was possible to describe the results, which confirm the hypothesis that knowledge of dialect vocabulary (recorded in the Czech Language Atlas) decreases with the new generations. The decline in knowledge is most significant between Baby Boomers and Generation X, the decline between Generations X and Y is insignificant, and the decline between Generations Y and Z is again greater. Among other things, the research provided updated data for the Czech Language Atlas, as 10 dialectisms were found to be likely to have disappeared completely or almost completely. On the other hand, 5 dialectisms (excluding control dialectisms) proved to be still integrated into the active vocabulary of all generations. The paper concludes by confirming the decline of dialect vocabulary knowledge in Ostrava as a natural trend in dialect development.