ABSTRACT

The thesis "Well-being of cochlear implanted users in adulthood" analyzes responses obtained from informants, who underwent cochlear implantation in adulthood.

The theoretical part introduces the issue of hearing impairment, the related anatomy of ear and the principles of hearing, the classification and diagnosis of hearing loss and the introduction of hearing prosthetics. The theoretical part further defines the cochlear implant, its description and it operates. Further there are chapters about the history of cochlear implants in the world as well as in the Czech Republic, introduction of leading cochlear implant companies on the Czech market, benefits of cochlear implants and specifics of cochlear implantation in children and adults. This section also describes the criteria for selecting a candidate for cochlear implantation, individual pre-operative examinations, surgery and subsequent rehabilitation and speech processor setup. The last section of the theoretical part defines well-being, introduces subjective and psychological well-being and describes individual factors that affect an individual. This section is concluded by focusing on the well-being of people with disabilities.

In the empirical part, individual informants' responses, obtained by means of a semi-structured interview, are described. Cochlear implant users who had undergone cochlear implantation in adulthood were interviewed as part of this research. The aim was to explore the various factors influencing well-being of users of cochlear implants and to draw possible conclusions that could benefit these users in the future. The main factors influencing well-being in this research were identified as communication, social connections and cultural enjoyment, and employment. However, for comprehensive information, informants were also interviewed about the cochlear implantation process and its impact on their well-being and at the very end they were interviewed about their overall satisfaction.

The research highlighted the extent to which experiences and feelings of living with a cochlear implant vary, which can be seen in the individual accounts of the research participants. However, many findings can be generalized, being described identically by the participants. All interviewed users consider cochlear implantation to be beneficial and to have a positive effect on their well-being.