Abstract

This master's thesis focuses on neologisms in Czech Sign Language (ČZJ), specifically within the thematic area of technology, internet, and media. The aim was to define the concept of neologisms in the context of sign languages and to describe the mechanisms of creating new signs. The work is based on theoretical foundations of linguistics of spoken and sign languages and develops the concept of neologism as a dynamic linguistic unit between parole and langue. Based on elicitation with native ČZJ speakers and a subsequent focus group 118 sign variants for 32 expressions were collected. These signs were analyzed according to a system of mechanisms for expanding the sign lexicon, derived from studies on ČZJ, neologisms in Czech, and sign languages in general. The most frequently recorded mechanism was internal sign formation (50 %), followed by external mechanisms (37 %), and then depicting (8 %) and ad novo mechanisms (5 %).