

ABSTRACT

The dissertation is dealing with the issue of foreign language aptitude and foreign language abilities of pupils with learning disabilities at the beginning of the foreign language acquisition. The first part of the work describes general theories of the foreign language acquisition and introduces the current trends in education of pupils with learning disabilities in the process of foreign language learning. The second part of the work describes the research, which aim was to investigate the quality and the development of the foreign language aptitude of the pupils with learning disabilities during the first year of foreign language study at the elementary school. Foreign language aptitude and foreign language abilities were compared with foreign language achievement and with native language and reading skills.

Key words: foreign language aptitude, foreign language abilities, phonological skills, specific learning disabilities, components of language