

This bachelor's thesis is concerned with the topic of linguistic (semantic) vagueness. In the beginning of the first, theoretical part I define this phenomenon in contrast to other types of semantic indeterminacy (such as ambiguity or underspecification). Then I give a brief summary of the early 1970's works by Rosch, Lakoff and Labov, through which the linguistic vagueness has been established as a major theme in linguistics. After that, I analyze various aspects of the subject from several points of view: from the perspective of the prototype theory and its criticism (the categorization problem), (post)analytical philosophy (relation of vagueness to meaning and structure), and formal logic (problems of treating vagueness in exact terms). The second, empirical part of the thesis deals with the semantics of a specific type of vague terms - the vague scalar modifiers in contemporary Czech (e. g. celkem, docela, velmi). I argue that there is a need for describing their semantics on an empirical basis, the introspective description not being satisfactory. I propose a method of exploiting large amounts of plain text in order to get enough empirical data for this kind of semantic description. Having applied this method, I present the technique and results of my own empirical research on semantic relations among 8 frequently used vague scalar modifiers in Czech.