

ABSTRACT:

The thesis deals with possibilities of recording sign language vocabulary, especially the possible ways of notation of Czech sign language signs. The introductory chapter describes the first attempts to put the data down on paper in the 18th and 19th century in Europe. These ones were the first verbal descriptions of signs, sign notations and signs drawn in figures. Furthermore, the chapter gives a detailed description of the first notation system based on linguistic principles – William Stokoe's notation system, which was established in 1960 for American sign language and has become a basis and inspiration for many other notation systems which are also briefly described. A great deal of the paper is focused on possible ways to record Czech sign language lexicon. First, the thesis describes the "non-notational" ways of recording signs that were previously used in papers dealing with Czech sign language – description, figures, photographs, videos and computer simulations. After these, we focus on the particular standardized notational systems that can be used for our purposes - Czech notation system for sign language and its modifications, the Edinburgh non-manual notation system, Hamburg notation system, SignWriting and Berkeley transcription system. The last chapter provides an evaluation of the results obtained from an exploratory survey that focused on specific ways of recording signs used currently by Czech sign language users.