

## **ABSTRACT**

The thesis seeks to give an overall image concerning the linguistic situation of Cajun French of Louisiana. This regional variant of French is spoken by a minority group of speakers in this state. Given that the paper was created in the Czech academic community where Cajun French is virtually unknown, it tries to spark more interest in this topic.

The first chapter presents the theoretical input to the outlined problem and Czech works dealing with Cajun French.

The second chapter shows the basic facts about Louisiana, as well as the key events in its history. It examines the creation of Cajun French and characterizes its specific features. It also includes a mention of Cajun French reference books.

The third chapter examines the legal status of the French language in Louisiana. Furthermore, the work sheds light on its French language policy, carried out mainly by a state agency called CODOFIL (the abbreviation comes from *Council for the Development of French in Louisiana*). The thesis later explains what the adherence to Francophonie would mean for this state. This is followed by an account of the relations entertained with Francophonie. The thesis later outlines the current linguistic situation and describes the possibilities of studying French in Louisiana. The presence of French on signage and in the media is specified as well.

The fourth chapter is concerned with the problematic areas of Cajun French, community and culture. The focus then shifts on the preservation of Cajun French. Finally, the variety of French that should be taught in Louisiana is discussed.