

## Abstract

This thesis is concerned with the non-standard functions of the word *like* in spoken discourse. The aim of this thesis is to categorize the non-standard functions that had been described in the past 30 years and create a comprehensive overview, which might serve as a guideline for further research. The theoretical part of the thesis offers a compilation of standard and non-standard functions that *like* may represent in spoken discourse. As a non-standard function is considered the use of *like* as a focus marker, hedge, quotative marker and a discourse marker. The second, methodological, part describes the method of extraction of the sample of 100 instances from the COCA. The following part then contains analysis of the extracted instances, which are categorized according to the theoretical frame created in the theoretical part of this thesis. The analysis also concerns the position of *like* in the utterance and frequent collocations. The result of this thesis is a confirmed theoretical frame containing the non-standard functions of *like* extended by an additional quotative construction, more detailed description of the hedge and the focus marker *like* and also a confirmation that non-standard *like* is certainly not only an empty intrusive word but a multifunctional, ever-developing, device with which the speakers may modify the pragmatic function of their utterances.