

Abstract of thesis children's knowledges of words associated with Christmas

The thesis is concerned with Christmas traditions, particularly from the point of view of children. The thesis presents the evolution of Christmas celebrations, some of the traditions, and it also compares certain Christmas songs and carols, and thus demonstrates the evolution of Christmas related vocabulary. Furthermore, the thesis also presents a brief overview of the evolution of children's vocabulary.

In the practical part, the thesis attempts to answer the question of which Christmas related words children aged 9 – 12 years are familiar with. For the purpose of this practical research, the author of the thesis created a questionnaire containing 10 specific Christmas related words that children were asked to explain.

The research results show that children seem to have a relatively good passive knowledge of commonly used words associated with Christmas, but in many cases they find it difficult to actively demonstrate this knowledge, i.e. to define, explain those words. In general, the girls describe the meaning of words better than boys.

Children attending religious schools have apparently greater knowledge of words associated with religious meaning of Christmas than children from state schools.

Comparison of age do not show significant differences between knowledge of younger and older respondents.

The most significant contribution of this thesis is the summarisation of the topic, and the systematisation of children's answers, which can contribute to a more extensive future research in the area.