Abstract

This bachelor thesis examines the concept of hope in selected texts of Václav Havel using theoretical methodological principles of cognitive linguistics and ethnolinguistic. After an introduction to basic themes of cognitive linguistics this thesis explores the linguistic image of hope in Czech language by using dictionary data analysis. Subsequently, the focus shifts to conceptualization of hope in Havel’s texts, semantic frameworks where hope features prominently, and to the relationship of hope to related concepts. In the conclusion the concept of hope is put into broader context of Havel’s work. Arguments why the term hope can be counted amongst Havel’s keywords are duly provided.

This thesis is inspired in particular by the work of David S. Danaher and his comparative ethnolinguistic analyses of selected Havel’s terms.