

The aim of this work is to provide comprehensive view of the deaf as languagecultural minority. The thesis is divided into four parts, each covering different topic. The first part explains what the criteria for considering person deaf are. The two distinct approaches are studied - language-cultural approach and medicine approach. The second part describes particularities of Czech sign language, being considered as natural language. We explain why the sign language is integrál part of the deaf community, its culture, and consequently of a language-cultural approach. Relation between language-cultural approach and development of deaf child is emphasized, with main focus on the question of satisfying the basic needs of a child. In the last part, the general description of terms community and culture is given, including detailed description of the deaf community, studying individual properties of the culture. All the description is accompanied by examples. At the end of the thesis, those legal documents, the aim of which is to contribute to improvement of a view of a deaf community by the hearing people, are mentioned.