The goal of the present thesis is a corpus stylistic analysis of Alice in Wonderland (1865), and it presents the possibilities of using corpus methods in the study of literary texts. In the theoretical part, the thesis is concerned with an explanation of the words norm, foregrounding, deviance and prominence (Leech, 2008), which are key terms in stylistics. The text then focuses in detail on various concerns connected to keywords and clusters, which are investigated later on in the theoretical part. The relation of keywords to the reference corpus and aspects of the length and frequency of occurrence of clusters are analyzed. An important element in a corpus-based analysis is that it is supposed to decrease bias, as the researcher studies statistically based significant markers of the text.

The next part of the thesis focuses on the position of Alice in Wonderland between other members of the children’s literature of the Golden Age (Knowles & Malmkjaer, 1995), and the role of nonsense and non-observance of pragmatic principles of interaction in the text. The reference corpora are described and primary hypotheses stated.

In the practical part, keywords are studied first. They are divided into part of speech categories and interpreted from the point of view of their role and mutual relations in the text. Their semantics and context are studied as well. The thesis also focuses on four-word clusters with the minimal frequency of occurrence of four, which are further analyzed in detail. The last part is devoted to the pragmatic relations of the text, where Grice’s Maxims (Grice, 1975) and the Maxims of the Cooperative Principle (Leech, 2008) are employed. In the conclusion, the benefits of the corpus approach to the study of literary texts are evaluated.