

Abstract

The bachelor thesis deals with the acquisition of grammatical categories of nouns (grammatical case, number, gender) in a child in the period of age ranging from two years and three months to two years and nine months. The thesis is divided into two parts. The theoretical part presents the principal personalities of psycholinguistics and theoretical approaches to learning a language. It defines the basic terminology, ontogenetic development of speech and the way of acquiring grammatical categories and particularities of constituent levels in the child speech.

The other part is practical. Six 30-minute audio recordings of dialogues of an adult and a child were made in month-long intervals. The dialogues were transcribed by CHAT, that means by orthographic transcription. The transcripts were analysed in detail and the use as well as the development of grammatical noun categories, their function in a sentence and the occurrence of mini paradigms were studied.

The monitored child used substantives as the most frequent part of speech from the very beginning, even if they were often accompanied by interjections in the first recording. All the cases were used at least once, but the most frequent ones were nominative and accusative cases. The analysis of grammatical number showed that the child used singular forms more often than plural ones. As for the vocabulary, the child preferred more words of feminine gender than the masculine or neuter, but this preference was not significant. The child used nouns mostly as subjects or objects of sentences. The occurrence of mini paradigms was minimal. If there were any, they were in a three-part form. The ascertained phenomena are typical for such development level, and they do not differ from the similar researches dealing with acquiring language competence.