

The aim of this study is to describe the status of the Czech language in Austria with special regard to the relationships between language and economy. The work is focused on the position of Czech among other foreign languages in the field of school education, and generally its position on the foreign-language-market in Austria. The final part of the thesis illustrates the demand for Czech language in Vienna. The research is based on examination of teaching Czech language at schools, high schools, universities and 15 different language schools and institutes in Vienna, all randomly selected from the spectrum of adult-education institutions. The interpretation of the results is partly based on the theory of different language value ascribed to individual languages and partly on information derived from the analysis of the media content. My interpretation further draws on the statistics of foreign language teaching in Austria released by the Austrian Language Competence Center (Österreichisches Sprachenzentrum) and the Austrian Ministry of Education (Bundesministerium für Unterricht, Kunst und Kultur). The economic indicators of the Austrian foreign trade balance in the last five years are accessible on the web pages of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (Wirtschaftskammer Österreich). According to my research the demand for Czech language in Vienna exists for many years but it's not comparable with English, French or Italian. The reasons for learning Czech are of either emotional or economic nature. It's not possible to say which of them is predominant. The hypothesis that the status of a certain language depends basically on the economic activity and cooperation with the other country was not proven. On the other hand, different factors like the difficulty of the language, tradition and prejudice against a country play an important role.