

Abstract:

The aim of this thesis is to attempt to summarize what communication possibilities children suffering from a serious form of infantile cerebral palsy have, to describe them and possibly to clarify what exactly restricts these possibilities. The thesis also tries to answer the question in what way the communication of these individuals differs from the communication of intact persons. The core of the thesis resides in a theoretical exposition which deals – among others – with the communication process and its verbal and non-verbal parts, the diagnostic characterization of the infantile cerebral palsy and the impaired communication ability in symptomatic speech disorders which are associated with this disability. It describes how especially mobility impairment and mental retardation are reflected in the way and possibilities of communication. Special attention is paid to methods of alternative and augmentative communication which can be used as a therapy in the stimulation of the development of communication and speech skills, and which very often represent one of few possible ways of communicating for persons with this disability. The theoretical part is accompanied by video recordings showing communication of four girls suffering from infantile cerebral palsy. As manifestations of this diagnosis are diverse, the possibilities and ways of communication of individuals with this disability can differ. Nevertheless it is possible even here to find some general tendencies, for example, an increased share of the non-verbal part. Non-verbal communication is, however, significantly restricted by the motor handicap, and some specific gestures, eye movements and facial expressions therefore assume the nature of a sign.