Summary

This bachelor thesis deals with first names in general, a particular attention is, however, given to their usage in communication, to the familiar modifications of first names and to the motivation of addressing by hypocoristic forms as well as to the origin of nicknames. Within the first part, all the theoretical themes are summarised. The focus is primarily aimed towards the overall setting of the issue within the field of onomastics and the role of antroponyms within the linguistic system. The theoretical part further focuses on first names, motivation of their origin, function, transformation of the repertory of first names and their function within communication, language characteristics and naming motives. The issue of first names is enriched with an interpretation about the usage of antroponyms and their auto-nominalisation and along with a historic development of the shift from single-naming towards double-naming. The key part of the theoretical section concerns hypocoristics, the development of the hypocoristic forms of first names, their usage within communication as well as specific categories of hypocoristics and their language and word-forming characteristics. Interest was also put on nicknames and their general characterisation.

A practical part of the thesis is based on a proper research. Within this research a survey was performed, on which 45 families with pre-school and younger-aged children from Central Bohemian Region, Region of Hradec Králové and within the area of the Capital city of Prague actively participated. The final number of all the respondents of the questionnaire was 68. A quantitative part of the research is based on non-partaking direct observation, which took place from 29th May to 5th June 2013 at ZŠ Velké Poříčí after school club, altogether five times. Furthermore, five structured interviews with parents and their children were realised in order to acquire authentic antroponymic data in week from 3th to 7th June 2013. The task of the research was to obtain sufficient and authentic antroponymic material and ascertain how the children´s official name forms are transformed in the families and among the children of the same age as well as in which social situations the alternations of the first names are performed, what is the personal motivation towards their usage in communication and what motivation causes the nickname forming. To reach a higher lucidity, the acquired findings are accompanied with transparent tables and charts.