

## **Abstract**

This thesis deals with the processes of lexical semantic change in the Early Modern English period. The theoretical part summarises previous research in the area of lexical semantic change including the basic taxonomies from secondary literature and outlines the linguistic situation in Early Modern English. The aim of the practical part of the thesis is to analyse qualitatively the processes of semantic change in 5 selected words on the basis of examples extracted from the corpora (CED, PCEEC, PPCEME, PPCME2 and EEBO), i.e. to describe circumstances of the changes and factors influencing the individual instances of change. The results of the qualitative analysis are confronted with the theories of semantic change discussed in the first part of the thesis.