

Abstract

This thesis focuses on changes in the height of articulation in Czech Sign Language affected by coarticulation. The theoretical base of the thesis originates from both Czech and foreign linguistic literature devoted to phonological processes in speech. One part of the thesis is basic insight into the issues of phonological processes in sign languages. The research of the height of articulation in Czech Sign Language affected by coarticulation follows the recent studies dedicated on changes in height of articulation of speakers of Dutch, American, Australian and New Zealand Sign Languages (Ormel, Crasborn, Kooij 2013; Tyrone, Mauk 2010; Grosvald, Corina 2012a; Russell, Wilkinson, Janzen 2011; Lucas et al. 2002; Schembri et al. 2009). The goal of the research is to describe the changes in height of articulation by the one-handed lexical signs with the place of articulation in the head area (the target signs KNOW and REMEMBER) affected by their phonetic context. The data were collected during the recordings of sign language production of 15 participants, all speakers of Czech Sign Language. 1400 tokens of target signs were excerpted and analysed in total. Results of research are compared with the present findings on coarticulation in foreign sign languages.

Key words: Czech Sign Language, production of signs, place of articulation, coarticulation, hand height, speech reduction, type of signs.