

## **Abstract**

The bachelor's thesis connects the field of Deaf Studies with the field of Gesture Studies. Both disciplines focus on communication transmitted through the visual-manual channel and produced by manual and non-manual articulators. This thesis focuses on the manual component of gestures accompanying spoken speech (co-speech gestures) of hearing people who have begun studying Czech sign language. Some international studies suggest that sign language knowledge influences the frequency and form of gesticulation. The aim of the research was to find out whether there is a similar connection between knowledge of Czech sign language and the use of gestures accompanying spoken speech in Czech. The data was obtained by recording the spoken speech of the respondents, new Czech sign language students at the university, at the beginning of the academic year and after two semesters of study. Analysis of the video recordings revealed an increase in the average frequency of gesticulation and the occurrence of signs used as co-speech gestures. However, no changes were found in the use of one-handed and two-handed gestures, nor were there any significant changes in the distribution of different categories of gestures (e.g. rhythmic, iconic, deictic, etc.), as they were found only in some respondents. In the semi-structured interviews, respondents reflected that they perceived the influence of learning Czech sign language on their gesticulation.

## **Keywords:**

co-speech gesture, gesticulation, sign language, Czech sign language, second language