

This diploma thesis aims to verify the hypothesis of Camiel Hamans who claims that words with taboo meaning did not undergo the diphthongization process. This means that they avoided, unlike other words, the phonetic change from monophthongs /i/, /ü/ and /u/ to diphthongs /ei/, / ü/ and / u/ respectively. These words became less frequent due to their taboo meaning, which caused their inability to undergo this phonetic change. The process of this change that spread gradually from one word to other words is called lexical diffusion. There is a possibility that Hamans' hypothesis can be refuted, and drawing on an analysis of a corpus of words with taboo meaning, we will come to conclusions that will help us support or refute it.