

This thesis examines the diagnostics of the speech development of pre-school children with the main focus on the lexical- semantic language plan and moreover, it compares the intact speech development to the impaired speech development among children who suffer from specific language impairment (SLI). The work conducts a survey of the diagnostic possibilities regarding the field of lexis and semantics among pre-school children, introduces the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test method and evaluates its possible adaptation into the Czech language environment.

There are two main parts of the thesis: the theoretical and the empirical one. The first mentioned presents the most important theories and personalities in the field of speech development and acquisition, the ways of lexicon, vocabulary and semantics assessment methods both in the Czech Republic and abroad and specific language impairment as such. The second, empirical, part verifies the possibility of using the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test method in the Czech language environment. The quantitative research was applied and in each of its stages the data from 411 tested people were obtained. The Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test was modified to fit into the Czech language and it was subsequently presented to pre-school children. The main features and characteristics of the text were examined in the pilot experiment and after the subsequent linguistic revision the possibilities of the text usage in the Czech language were verified and the results within the area of passive vocabulary of SLI children were compared to their peers.

The empirical part results could serve as the starting point for further research with the aim of adapting the testing tool into the Czech language and hence these results could mean an extension of the very limited possibilities of language and speech development assessment in the Czech language.

Keywords:

ontogenesis of speech, pre-school period, Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test, lexical-semantic level, vocabulary, language, speech, SLI