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Synopsis of PhD Thesis

Honorifics in the Language of Hearing-Impaired Youth

This thesis has been written on the basis of research made among hearing-impaired youth from lower secondary schools in order to analyze their communication skills, specifically familiarity and skills when it comes to using interactive honorifics. It is also an answer to a reported need of a detailed analysis of hardship in terms of using social, situational and pragmatic rules by hearing-impaired people. The topic seems all the more valuable, since so far no tests have been conducted when it comes to honorifics in the speech of hearing-impaired people.

The theoretical basis comprises of first three chapters, which include the description of methodology of the tests and the description of: impairments of the hearing organ, speech development of a hearing-impaired child and communication competence and linguistic courtesy. In the fourth chapter test results are presented and the analysis of familiarity, understanding and usage of honorifics by the hearing-impaired youth from lower secondary schools in situations of making contact, maintaining and finishing it.

The ending of the thesis is a summary and analysis of the tests regarding the interactive agility of the hearing-impaired students of lower secondary schools. They made it possible to determine the level of familiarity and application of honorifics, present strategies of building the linguistic courtesy by the hearing-impaired youth and indicate the method of acquiring a language by the hearing-impaired, which is best when it comes to interaction. The achieved outcome, confronted with the results of students from the control group, provide valuable hints of how to teach Polish to hearing-impaired children.

Keywords: communication skills, honorifics, linguistic courtesy, speech development among hearing-impaired children