

Summary

The aim of the presented dissertation was to investigate and describe gesture-spatial pauses in the utterance of Polish Sign Language (PJM) users in comparison to pauses in the phonetic-auditory modality of the Polish language. As there is no publication in Polish scientific literature focused on sign language pauses, the proposed description serves as a research reconnaissance and does not claim to provide a comprehensive diagnose of the phenomenon. Being its probing, it contains, among others, proposals for the definition of pauses in PJM productions, their typology, discusses selected ways of revealing visual-spatial pauses together with examples of implementations, the frequency of their variations, indicates some analogies and differences that are visible between pauses in four-dimensional statements in PJM and in the Polish spoken language. In the context of pauses, I also considered the phenomenon of *Inter-Speech* (mid-pronunciation position of the organs of speech), proposing the term *Inter-Sign Posture* for the realization of sign language. The description of factors or conditions accompanying gesture-spatial utterances is maintained in a comparative perspective, dictated by the first part of the dissertation topic, aiming to critically reflect on the communicative and culture-forming potential of sign language compared to oral communication, along with its cultural and sociological background. The context for communication in the only natural language of d/Deaf people in Poland - Polish Sign Language (PJM) - are, presented in the paper, other forms of communication among d/Deaf people and with d/Deaf people: Signed Polish (SJM), phonogestures, total communication .

The basis for all presented conclusions and research in the work are, on the one hand, theoretical queries on pauses and related issues (such as communication in both modalities, language and communication competencies, speech fluency and its disturbances, auto-corrections, as well as e.g. narrations in vocal and sign languages), and on the other hand, own empirical research. It involved deaf users of Polish Sign Language and native users of vocal Polish. The empirical experiment, preceded by pilot studies, was carried out in two groups: a group of 29 d/Deaf people using PJM and a reference group of 10 people with phonic-verbal language. All participants were subjected to identical tasks, making statements on the same topics with varying degrees of difficulty. The material obtained from empirical research (156 videos with participants' statements recorded by video camera) became the foundation for the

methodological chapters, in which I included problems and research hypotheses, along with the method as well as graphs, tables and conclusions resulting from the analyses.

The dissertation consists of five chapters divided into over thirty sub-chapters, preceded by *The Introduction* and summarized in *The Recapitulation of the conducted research and Implications and research perspectives*. It includes an extensive Polish and foreign-language bibliography, partly including publications from the increasingly dynamically developing *Deaf Studies*, as well as (in *The Annex* and the chapter *Results of Own Research*) photographs visualizing selected pauses in the statements of participants of empirical tests at PJM.