This paper concentrates on the question of so-called 0-syllable words (i.e.,
words without vowels) in Slavic languages. The paper is strongly method-
ologically oriented, and theoretically deals with the problem of basic units in
language, their definition, and the influence of that definition on results of em-
pirical studies. By way of an example, special emphasis is laid on Slovenian
texts. Subsequent to general introductory remarks on the quantitative study of
word length, which focus on the basic definition of ‘word’ and ‘syllable’ as lin-
guistic units, the text concentrates on methodological aspects of the question;
in fact, it can be shown that under particular circumstances, different defini-
tions lead to different results which, however, can be systematically described.