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BAKALÁŘSKÁ PRÁCE

The semantics of subject in English weather forecasts
Sémantika podmětu v anglických předpovědích počasí

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ABSTRAKT

Tato práce se zaměřuje na analýzu typů podmětů ve větách žánru anglických předpovědí a na to, jak volba těchto typů ovlivňuje srozumitelnost sdělovaných informací. Cílem je identifikovat sémantické role, které podměty v předpovědích počasí zastávají, zjistit jejich četnost výskytu a objasnit, jaké důvody a dopady má jejich výběr ve vztahu k srozumitelnosti a stylu komunikace.

V rámci syntaktické analýzy je kladen důraz na typy vět, formy realizace podmětů a četnost výskytu těchto typů a forem. Byly využity metody určování četnosti výskytu jednotlivých typů podmětů a metody k vysvětlení a interpretaci jejich funkce a významu v kontextu textů předpovědí počasí.

Tato analýza zohledňuje nejen jazykové aspekty, ale také komunikační cíle, které jsou v kontextu předpovědí počasí zásadní pro efektivní předání informací v rámci této specifické komunikace odehrávající se mezi prezentujícím a velkým počtem příjemců. Tato analýza tedy nejen zjišťuje struktury používané v předpovědích počasí, ale zároveň také ukazuje, jak které formy podmětů ovlivňují porozumění sdělovaným informacím, což je zásadní pro dosažení efektivní komunikace v tomto žánru.

Výsledky této práce jsou zjištění a interpretace sémantických rolí anglických podmětů a jejich realizačních forem, dále také frekvence jejich výskytu a frekvence výskytu typů korelace mezi sémantickou rolí a formou podmětů v žánru mluvených anglických předpovědí počasí.

KLÍČOVÁ SLOVA

Předpovědi počasí, angličtina, podmět, sémantické role

ABSTRACT

This thesis focuses on the analysis of types of subjects in sentences within the genre of weather forecasts and how the choice of these types affects the clarity of the communicated information. The aim is to identify the semantic roles that subjects take on in weather forecasts, determine their frequency of occurrence, and interpret the reasons behind their selection and the impact this has on the clarity and style of communication.

The analysis focuses on the types of sentences, the forms of realization of subjects, and determining the frequency with which these types and forms occur.

The communicative goals, which are significant for the effective transmission of information in the context of weather forecasts, in this specific type of communication where the communicative process happens between a single presenter and a large amount of recipients, are taken into account. Therefore, this analysis also shows how different forms of subjects affect the understanding of the conveyed information, which is essential for achieving effective communication in this genre.

The results of this bachelor thesis include the findings and interpretation of the semantic roles and their realization forms, as well as the frequency of their occurrence and the frequency of occurrence of the types of correspondence between the semantic role and form of the subjects in the genre of spoken English weather forecasts, examined with regard to register.

KEYWORDS

Weather forecasts, English, subject, semantic roles

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1 The Subject in English

The subject is an obligatory clause element and as such, it is essential for the construction of an English sentence (Dušková et al., 2012).

It is impossible for a sentence in English not to include a subject. In the English language, there are no sentences that are truly subjectless. While the subject may not always be explicitly expressed in a sentence, in such cases, it is covert. A covert subject, which is not overtly expressed but is indicated by the verb form and the sentence type or structure, occurs only in imperative sentences. However, this does not mean that these sentences lack a subject, as the subject is implicit (Dušková et al., 2012).

1.1 The Relation between the Subject and the Predicate

According to Quirk, the subject, after the predicate, is the second most frequently occurring clause element.

The subject is also the element with the most distinctive features. When defining the subject, as well as other clause elements, there are four key distinctions which must be considered (Quirk et al., 1985, p. 724).

The distinction between clause elements is based on four criteria: form, position, syntactic function, and semantic role (Quirk et al., 1985, p. 724, 725, 726).

Together with the predicate, the subject forms the basic structural pair.

It is possible for the subject and the predicate to be the only clause elements present (Dušková et al., 2012).

According to Quirk, the verb element is crucial in determining which other elements, such as the object, complement, and adverbial, can occur in the clause or may even be required. The verb determines the valency and, therefore, the necessity of other clause elements based on the properties of the verb (Quirk et al., 1985, p. 723).

The subject is considered an independent clause element. As such, the relationship between these two clause elements, the subject and the predicate, known as predication, is typically viewed as a one-sided dependency of the predicate on the subject. However, Dušková defines this dependency as reciprocal, since although the subject determines the subject in

terms of person and number, the predicate also determines one aspect of the subject, which is the subject's case (Dušková et al., 2012).

As previously mentioned, the subject holds the greatest significance among the elements of a clause, aside from the verb itself. Furthermore, it is the element for which we recognize the four types of distinctions between the subject and other clause elements. Because of its important role, its placement is considered independent of other syntactic functions (Quirk et al., 1985, p. 724).

1.2 FORM

Form is the structural realization of clause elements, which refers to whether they are realized by a phrase, and if so, what type of phrase, or by a clause, and if so, what type of clause. According to Quirk, in the case of the subject being realized by a clause, it is a nominal clause (Quirk et al., 1985, p. 726).

The subject can be realized not only by a noun or a pronoun, which is most typical, but also by different word classes as well as by non-finite constructions such as an infinitive, as in the example: "To leave so early would be impolite" (Dušková et al., 2012), or a gerund: "Putting it off won't make it any easier" (Dušková et al., 2012; Potužníková, 2020).

The predicate, or the verb element, within a clause is typically realized by a verb phrase. Formal criteria, such as form and position, typically make it clear to identify the verb element. For instance, the main lexical verb of the clause is central to its structure and often occupies a specific position in the sentence (Quirk et al., 1985, p. 723).

1.2.1 The Subject realized by the Pronoun "IT"

There are multiple variations of "it" through which the subject is realized, as the pronoun "it" serves different functions. These functions can be either deictic or anaphoric (Dušková et al., 2012).

In the first case, the "it" being deictic, it denotes an entity that exists outside of extralinguistic reality. According to Dušková, this may refer to an inanimate object or an animal, as exemplified in the sentence: "Is it your suitcase?" (Dušková et al., 2012).

Similarly, when referring to multiple referents, the pronoun changes to the plural form, such as "they" (Dušková et al., 2012).

The second function, the anaphoric function of "it," refers to something that has been mentioned previously. It points back to an already mentioned noun or to a preceding clause. For example, in the sentence "I changed for dinner, but it was really unnecessary," the "it" refers to the first clause, "I changed for dinner" (Dušková et al., 2012).

Another way in which "it" functions is the situational "it." Dušková exemplifies this with sentences such as "It's the boys." According to Dušková, this type of "it" is invariable (Dušková et al., 2012).

Another case where "it" functions as the subject is when the subject is realized by a nominal content clause, which is referred to as the anticipatory "it." An example from Dušková is: "It was better not to invite too many important people at the same time." In this example, "it" is the anticipatory "it," referring to the relative clause that follows (Dušková et al., 2012).

Lastly, "it" occurs in clauses about time, atmosphere, or information about places, as illustrated in Dušková's example: "It is early" or "It is late." This type of "it" is called the "dummy it," as it fills the subject position to meet grammatical requirements in English. However, the "dummy it" does not have a specific referent, making it semantically empty (Dušková et al., 2012).

An alternative to the "dummy it" is the use of additional words, such as "there," to achieve a referent. For example: "It was lonely there" or "It was unusually cold in May" (Dušková et al., 2012).

"It" often occurs in relation to expressing information about atmospheric conditions. There are three types of simple sentences in English, one of which includes "it" as the subject (Dušková et al., 2012).

When "it" stands as the subject referring to the weather, it serves as a formal element. Its function is to fill the subject position, which is known as the "dummy it." As previously stated, this usage helps meet the grammatical requirements of English sentences. Examples include: "It was raining," "It has rained itself out," and "It snowed all day" (Dušková et al., 2012).

The second way in which the weather can be referred to is by using "there," as seen in Dušková's example: "There was a flash of lightning" (Dušková et al., 2012).

The third and final way of addressing atmospheric conditions is by realizing the subject with a noun that denotes the meteorological event, such as "the snow" in Dušková's example: "The snow was falling pretty thick" (Dušková et al., 2012).

1.2.2 The subject realized by the pronoun "THERE"

"There" can function as the subject in a clause, similar to the previously discussed anticipatory "it." Although both forms anticipate the real subject, there is, however, a distinction between the two (Dušková et al., 2012).

According to Dušková, the difference lies in the type of subject they refer to. The anticipatory "it" typically refers to infinitive constructions or gerunds. In contrast, "there" does not only serve as a formal means of filling the subject position (Dušková et al., 2012). There are two main types of "there" used as a subject: the existential "there" and the existentially locative "there" (Dušková et al., 2012).

Dušková provides examples to illustrate these distinctions, such as "There is no exception" for the existential type, and "There is a girl in the waiting room" for the existentially locative type (Dušková et al., 2012).

The first type of "there," the existential "there," can be further characterized by the fact that the verb "to be" can be substituted with the verb "to exist." For example, the sentence "There is no exception" can be transformed into "There exists no exception" (Dušková et al., 2012). A clause without the word "there" in this context is not possible. Such a structure, in which "there" is omitted, cannot occur (Dušková et al., 2012).

The second type of "there," the existentially locative type, requires an adverbial element in the sentence. The adverbial clause element is necessary since it specifies that something occurs in a particular place or at a specific time (Dušková et al., 2012).

Other types of "there" as the subject include the event-type and "there" in modal types (Dušková et al., 2012).

The event-type "there" is illustrated by Dušková in the sentence "There was a click in the lock." In this example, the subject is formed by a deverbal noun, meaning the noun expresses the event, enabling the sentence to convey the event without specifying the agent or doer of the action (Dušková et al., 2012).

This type of "there" is particularly important and frequently used when describing atmospheric phenomena, such as weather events, as demonstrated by Dušková's examples: "There was a flash of lightning," "There was a peal of thunder," and "There was a gust of wind" (Dušková et al., 2012).

In such sentences, a locative element is present. This locative element identifies the space in which the event occurs or the source of the event. This is shown in examples provided by Dušková: "The floor creaked," "The windows rattled," and "The woods are steaming." The locative element functions as the subject in these cases (Dušková et al., 2012).

Lastly, "there" can appear in modal-type sentences. Typically, it occurs with a subject in the form of a gerund, as in Dušková's example: "There is no knowing what she may do" (Dušková et al., 2012).

1.2.3 General Human Agent

The subject can be realized by a general human agent. Unlike German, English does not have a direct equivalent to the general human agent "man." However, there are ways in English to refer to a general human agent in a manner that corresponds to the German "man", although its usage is more limited (Dušková et al., 2012).

The way in which the general human agent is referred to depends on the type of style in which it appears (Dušková et al., 2012).

1.2.4 The Subject realized by a Non-finite Construction

The subject can be realized not only by a phrase or a nominal clause but also by a non-finite construction (Dušková et al., 2012).

There are three non-finite constructions: the infinitive, the gerund, and the participle. In the case of the subject, it can only be realized by either the infinitive or the gerund. A subject cannot be realized by a participle (Dušková et al., 2012).

In the case of non-finite forms, the clause elements realized by them include secondary predication. This tendency to use non-finite constructions in English is strong and contributes to the condensation of English sentences (Dušková et al., 2012).

The subject in the Form of an Infinitive

The infinitive typically functions as the nominal clause element, and therefore, as both the subject and the object (Dušková et al., 2012).

Some examples of the infinitive functioning as a subject, chosen by Dušková to exemplify this, include: "To leave early would be impolite", "To play with him was great fun", and "To work under him means to exert oneself to the utmost." (Dušková et al., 2012).

The relation between the subject and the predicate, in cases where the subject is realized in the form of an infinitive, is that the infinitive expresses an event or something happening, which is evaluated by the predicate (Dušková et al., 2012).

In relation to the previously mentioned anticipatory "it," Dušková states that in cases where the predicate is verbonominal, it is typical for the infinitive to be extraposed after the predicate with the use of the said anticipatory "it" (Dušková et al., 2012).

The Subject realized in the Form of a Gerund

The gerund functions as a noun but denotes an action or a process. This is due to its verbal progressive suffix, "-ing". While the gerund behaves syntactically like a noun, the meaning it expresses refers to an event or an ongoing action (Dušková et al., 2012).

The gerund can also form semi-sentence constructions, which are equivalent to relative clauses (Dušková et al., 2012).

Similar to the infinitive, the gerund is syntactically used as a noun and can function as both the subject and the object. However, using the gerund form as the subject is more common than using the infinitive (Dušková et al., 2012).

When comparing the gerund and the infinitive as the subject, there are certain cases where both forms can be used in the same sentence. However, such instances are rare and do not occur frequently. According to Dušková, this possibility arises in statements about general truths or universal concepts, as illustrated by the examples: "Seeing is believing" and "To see is to believe." (Dušková et al., 2012).

Aside from the previously mentioned cases, it is typically neither possible or usual to choose between the gerund and the infinitive when realizing the subject (Dušková et al., 2012).

1.2.5 The Subject realized by a Clause

The subject can be realized in the form of a relative clause. The relative clause can either be a nominal content clause or a nominal relative clause. This applies to an object as well (Dušková et al., 2012).

Nominal Content Clause

Nominal content clauses express what is stated in the matrix clause of a complex sentence. There are four types of nominal content clauses that can function as the subject: declarative, interrogative, exclamative, and desiderative clauses (Dušková et al., 2012).

As previously mentioned, the subject can also be realized by a gerund. This gerund form can be replaced by a content clause beginning with "that," as illustrated in an example by Dušková: "Having achieved our aim is not enough" and "The fact that we have achieved our aim is not enough." (Dušková et al., 2012).

Nominal Relative Clause

Relative clauses are introduced by relative expressions such as pronouns, adverbials, and particles, which is a feature that shows their subordination to the matrix clause within the sentence in which the relative clause occurs (Dušková et al., 2012).

Relative clauses are classified as either nominal relative clauses or adjectival relative clauses. When functioning as the subject, only nominal relative clauses can be used (Dušková et al., 2012).

Nominal relative clauses, which can serve as the subject of a sentence, are introduced by wh-expressions such as "what," "where," or "which." An example of a nominal relative clause functioning as the subject, as provided by Dušková, is the following sentence: "What interests my son usually bores my daughter." In this case, the initial clause represents the subject of the sentence (Dušková et al., 2012).

1.3 POSITION

The subject in an English sentence differs from other clause elements primarily by its position.

1.3.1 Position of the Subject in Various Sentence Types

The position of the subject is influenced by the type of sentence in which it occurs.

In sentences with a direct word order, the subject precedes the verb, whereas in sentences with an inverted word order, the subject follows the verb.

In a declarative sentence, the subject is in preverbal position, and therefore, it precedes the predicate, making the word order direct.

In an interrogative sentence, the subject follows the predicate, so the word order is inverted and the subject appears in postverbal position (Dušková et al., 2012).

In exclamative sentences, there is an inversion of the subject and the predicate, as illustrated by Dušková in the example: "May you be happy!" (Dušková et al., 2012).

For example: "Everybody (the subject) has left (the predicate) for the day." When transformed into an interrogative sentence, the word order changes from direct to indirect, which affects the position of the subject: "Has (this is a part of the verb phrase called the operator) everybody (subject) left for the day?" (Quirk et al., 1985, p. 725).

As stated previously, there is an exception in imperative clauses, where the subject is typically not expressed explicitly but is understood implicitly. Therefore, it is covert (Quirk et al., 1985, p. 725).

Additionally, the implied subject in subjectless nonfinite or verbless clauses is usually the same as the subject of the main clause. (Quirk et al., 1985, p. 725).

1.3.2 Functional Sentence Perspective

From a functional sentence perspective, the subject is typically the theme and is positioned at the beginning of the sentence to align with the communicative dynamism, as it generally refers to information that the speaker considers familiar or already known (Potužníková, 2020).

1.4 SYNTACTIC FUNCTION

From the perspective of syntactic function, the subject is mandatory in certain cases, particularly in finite clauses. It was also noted by Quirk that there is an exception for imperative clauses, where the subject is covert.

In the case of finite clauses, the subject determines the number and person of the verb. In finite clauses, the subject dictates the verb's number and person, as seen in the example by Quirk: "I (subject) am (predicate) your new colleague." Here, the singular form and first person are conveyed (Quirk et al., 1985, p. 725).

The subject typically determines the number of the subject complement when the complement is a noun phrase. For instance: "Caroline and Vanessa (subject) are my sisters (complement)" (Quirk et al., 1985, p. 725).

1.5 SEMANTICS

Every sentence describes a situation involving multiple participants. Determining the roles that these participants or entities play is a matter of semantics (Saeed, 2003).

1.5.1 Semantic Roles

In an example sentence chosen by John I. Saeed, "Gina raised the car with a jack." there are three entities, or participants, involved in the described situation (Saeed, 2003).

Firstly, there is "Gina" who is the doer of the action. "Gina" is the participant who carries out the action (Saeed, 2003).

The second participant is "the car" which is the entity affected by the action.

The third and final participant is "a jack" which is the entity used by the doer to accomplish the action (Saeed, 2003).

These roles can be identified as follows: "Gina" represents the agent, "the car" represents the patient, and "the jack" represents the instrument (Saeed, 2003).

These are all examples of semantic roles, which will be further examined in this chapter.

Agent

The most frequently occurring semantic role of the subject is that of the agent, which is the performer or the initiator of the action denoted by the verb (Dušková et al., 2012).

The agent is the participant who has the capacity to act, and does so with will and intention (Saeed, 2003).

The subject in the role of an agent can be seen in the following examples: "David cooked the rashers.", "The fox jumped out of the ditch." (Saeed, 2003), and "Margaret is mowing the grass" (Quirk et al., 1985, p. 741).

It is important to consider the verb, as these two clause elements are closely connected. Whether the subject performs an action intentionally or not is typically expressed through the verb. However, there are exceptions, as illustrated in examples chosen by Dušková, for instance, the sentence "In 1830 men commonly labored twelve or thirteen hours a day" shows the subject as an animate agent. In contrast, the sentence "The wind broke a window" (Dušková et al., 2012) presents the subject as an inanimate agent.

Patient

A participant takes on the semantic role of a patient in cases where it is in a position of undergoing the effect of the action described in the sentence in which it appears, or when it is undergoing a change of state (Saeed, 2003).

The semantic role of a patient is also referred to as the affected role in certain grammars, such as in the Comprehensive grammar by Quirk. According to Quirk, the role of a patient, or the affected role, is the most typical one for a direct object (Quirk et al., 1985, p. 741).

The semantic role of a patient is illustrated by Saeed in the following examples: "Enda cut back these bushes." and "The sun melted the ice." (Saeed, 2003).

Typically, the subject functions as a patient when the action denoted by the verb affects the subject directly. In such cases, something is being done to the subject, which is why it assumes the role of a patient. This is shown in the following examples: "They hit me." and "They kissed us." (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002, p. 231).

The subject is also often the patient in passive constructions, as demonstrated in the example: "I am often sent by my union to conferences." (Dušková et al., 2012).

Experiencer

The participant is not in control of the action or state described by the predicate but is aware of it. This can be seen in the following examples: "Kevil felt ill." and "Mary saw the smoke." (Saeed, 2003).

The subject takes on the role of an experiencer when it undergoes an emotional, sensory, or mental process, as in the examples given by Dušková: "She keeps worrying." and "Did you hear me?"

The semantic role of an experiencer is further illustrated by sentences such as: "He hates me." and "We heard a bang." (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002, p. 231).

As shown in the examples above, the experiencer is the participant that feels or perceives something (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002, p. 231).

Recipient

The subject plays the role of the recipient when it is associated with verbs such as "get," "receive," or "obtain," as in the example: "I was given no choice." (Dušková et al., 2012).

The role of a recipient assigned to a subject occurs in relation to verbs such as "have, own, possess, and benefit (from)" (Quirk et al., 1985, p. 746).

Positioner

According to Quirk, the subject can take on the role of a positioner in relation to verbs such as "sit, stand, lie, live, stay, remain, carry, hold, keep, and wear" (Quirk et al., 1985, p. 746).

An example of a subject in the role of a positioner, as stated by Quirk, is: "They are staying at a motel." (Quirk et al., 1985, p. 746).

Attribute

The semantic role of an attribute is most often assigned to a subject or an object complement, as in the following example by Quirk: "Brenda became their accountant." (Quirk et al., 1985, p. 741).

Causal, Instrument, Temporal

Inanimate subjects are typically linked to location, cause, instrument, or time, and this is often reflected in their role as adverbial phrases (Dušková et al., 2012).

Locative

The locative semantic role refers to the space where something takes place or is situated, as shown in the following examples: "The monster was hiding under the bed." and "The band

played in a marquee." (Saeed, 2003). In other words, the locative role is assigned to a subject in cases where the subject expresses the place of a state or an action (Quirk et al., 1985, p. 747).

In certain situations, a locative subject can be replaced by the words "there" or "it" (Dušková et al., 2012).

Instrument

An example of the semantic role of an instrument is: "The end of the lesson found me only with half the homework done." which can be rephrased as: "By the end of the lesson, I had only completed half of my homework." (Dušková et al., 2012).

The semantic role of an instrument can be illustrated by the following examples: "She cleaned the wound with an antiseptic wipe." and "They signed the treaty with the same pen." (Saeed, 2003).

The semantic role of an instrument refers to the means used to perform an action or by which the action is carried out (Saeed, 2003).

Temporal

The subject plays the temporal role when it indicates time, as illustrated in the following example by Quirk: "Yesterday was a holiday." (Quirk et al., 1985, p. 747).

Eventive

An example of a subject in the eventive semantic role, as stated by Quirk, is the following: "The match is tomorrow." (Quirk et al., 1985, p. 747). In this case, the subject denotes an event.

Goal

A participant taking on the semantic role of a goal is an entity to which something moves or leads. This can be in a literal or metaphorical sense (Saeed, 2003).

Examples of the semantic role of a goal include: "Sheila handed her licence to the policeman." and "Pat told the joke to his friends." (Saeed, 2003).

Source

This semantic role is essentially the opposite of the semantic role of a goal. The semantic role of a source refers to an entity from which something moves in the situation described in the sentence (Saeed, 2003).

The semantic role of a source is illustrated by Saeed in the following examples: "The plane came back from Kinshasa." and "We got the idea from a French magazine." (Saeed, 2003).

The variety of meanings expressed by the English subject stems from the language's analytical structure. In English, the subject typically comes before the verb in declarative sentences, aligning with the position of the theme and the flow of information in the sentence. This arrangement allows elements related to circumstances (such as location or time) to function as subjects, even though in languages with more flexible word order, like Czech, these elements are usually used as adverbial phrases (Dušková et al., 2012).

2 Discourse, Linguistic and Communicative Features of Weather Forecasts

Terminological studies focus on identifying specific terms, analyzing their formation and provenance, organizing them into specific categories, and determining the strategies through which they entered the language. Terminological studies also refer to how terms are understood by the general public (Hauer, 2021).

In every specific area or domain, a specialized language is used, based on specific terminology. This specialized terminology forms the central element of specialized communication (Hauer, 2021).

Meteorology is a field of science with its own specific scientific terminology. From a linguistic and communicative perspective, it is essential to ensure that the information is easily understood, enabling recipients or the audience to act accordingly. (Hauer, 2021).

The language of meteorology is based on specific scientific terminology, which includes terms used by professionals in the field. These terms are used when communicating with each other, as there is a shared assumption of a certain level of understanding between the speaker and the listener (Fleming, 2005, p. 11). However, this shared understanding is not assumed when presenting weather forecasts to a wide variety of recipients from the general public. Therefore, the language must be altered to achieve clarity and ensure comprehension (Al-Hindawi and Naji, 2017).

Weather forecasting is a genre defined as predicting the atmosphere for a given location using science and technology. The ways in which this scientific information is processed and presented to a wide variety of recipients must be adapted accordingly to remain clear and understandable to those receiving the information (Al-Hindawi and Naji, 2017).

Furthermore, since weather forecasting involves predicting atmospheric conditions for a specific location at a given time, it is inherently uncertain and subject to change. As predictions are not definite, this uncertainty must be reflected in the language used when presenting the forecasts (Al-Hindawi and Naji, 2017).

2.1 Types of Media Used to Present Weather Forecasts

From the media's point of view, the weather forecast is characterized by being concise and providing information about the meteorological situation in a specific location (Zítka, 2010).

There are multiple different media that present weather forecasts, and therefore variations exist. The presentation style may differ, but there are shared features that remain consistent, which is why weather forecasts can be considered a separate genre (Zítka, 2010).

The weather forecast is a genre which occurs in both written and spoken forms. It is a very typical program on television, and it can also be found in written form on the internet (Chafe, 1994).

2.1.1 Weather Forecasts Presented on Television

Weather forecasts are typically associated with news programs, which are scripted. In contrast, weather forecasts are less scripted due to time constraints and the need for spontaneity. While visual elements are prepared in advance, the spoken commentary during the broadcast is spontaneous, which results in a faster pace of speech (Chafe, 1994).

Weather forecasts that are broadcast on television are presented in spoken form. The information is presented quickly and may be shortened to fit within the time constraints of the news segment, ensuring that the forecast is concise and aligns with the overall structure of the program.

When presented in spoken form, the focus is placed on the speaker or presenter, as their delivery plays a crucial role in conveying the information clearly to the audience (Al-Hindawi and Naji, 2017). The communicative process occurs between the presenter, one singular person, and many recipients at once.

The presenter can be a specialized professional, but they may also be a non-specialist. Weather forecasts are delivered to the general public, who are the recipients and must be taken into consideration. To make the language more understandable and accessible to a large audience with diverse backgrounds, varying knowledge, and different ways of understanding, the language must be adapted (Hauer, 2021). This is why forecasters must choose the appropriate pragmatic features to achieve their goal of making the weather forecasts understandable to a wide variety of listeners (Al-Hindawi and Naji, 2017).

The language must be simple while still retaining meaning and being grounded in scientific background. If the discourse level were too scientific, it could lead to misunderstandings.

The language of the presenter must combine both scientific meteorological terms and information, as well as a non-scientific way of presenting these, depending on the audience to which they are presented.

There is a need, whenever possible, to avoid overly scientific terms to ensure the message is delivered clearly (Bates, 1964, p. 237).

There is a set structure that weather forecasts follow. This structure includes a technical type of presentation with a neutral tone of voice, as well as other prosodic patterns, such as specific intonation and rhythm (Chafe 1994).

There are also visual cues and gestures performed by the speaker to support the clarity and understanding of the speech, accompanying what is visually presented (Chafe, 1994).

The presenter utilizes a multimodal feature, specifically a map, to provide said visual support. By pointing to relevant locations or graphically depicting weather phenomena, such as wind flow patterns or the progression of rainfall across regions, the presenter enhances the recipients understanding.

2.1.2 Weather Forecasts Presented on the Internet

The internet is a medium where weather forecasts are presented in written form. There is no time limit as there is in television, especially when the weather forecast is part of the news.

Interactive maps, which serve as a multimodal feature and support better understanding by providing visual assistance, are often used to help visually guide the recipients to a clearer comprehension. Recipients can actively engage with these maps, for example, by observing the colorful patterns that indicate rain in specific regions at different times (Chafe, 1994).

From a linguistic perspective, the focus is on the style. In this context, the weather forecast can be defined as a concise text of a communicative and informative nature, which aligns with the journalistic functional style typical of written forecasts on the internet (Zítka, 2010).

2.2 Discourse Reference tracking Mechanisms

Throughout communication, both the speaker and the listener must keep track of who or what is being discussed. It is important to ensure that both the speaker and the listener, or the recipients, understand and continue to follow what is being talked about.

There are various grammatical tools and means that help maintain clarity and ensure that the correct referent is identified. The subject plays a central role in how information is referenced or maintained during discourse. Keeping track of referents can be accomplished by using pronouns such as "he," "she," or "it," which help avoid repetition of the full noun (Van Valin and LaPolla, 1997, p. 285).

Certain elements, particularly the subject, play a crucial role in the flow of communication. In weather forecasts, for example, pronouns such as "it" are frequently used as the subject to support the understanding of the information being presented. Such pronouns help to track what is being referred to, which aids in maintaining clarity throughout the discourse (Van Valin and LaPolla, 1997).

2.3 Distinction Between Weather Forecasts and Weather Forecast Reporting

Regarding weather forecasts and weather forecast reports, there is a distinction between these two terms.

A weather forecast refers to predictions about future conditions. It is concerned with what the weather is expected to be at a certain time in the future.

Weather forecast reporting, however, refers to past conditions. It provides information about the weather that has already occurred. Both of these terms are taken into consideration and combined to describe the actual weather conditions (Al-Hindawi and Naji, 2017).

2.4 Communicative Strategies

A communicative strategy is an organized set of communicative actions. Communicative strategies are related to the way in which speech is organized with respect to the intention of the communication. The communicative actions that form a strategy are organized based on the communication's goal. These strategies are dynamic, meaning they change and adapt as

the communicative process progresses. A set of measures is required to achieve a specific communicative goal (Pavlichenko, Ponomarenko, & Shaulko, 2020, p. 53).

For a specific situation, various speech tactics are used based on factors such as the development of the communication. The speaker can change the tactics during the communication process, but the strategy can remain the same (Pavlichenko, Ponomarenko, & Shaulko, 2020, p. 54).

This is particularly relevant to the pragmatic interpretation of weather forecasts. The presenter must keep their intention in mind and strive to achieve communicative goals. To achieve these goals in the context of this genre, specific communicative strategies and tactics must be employed.

Weather forecasting is a distinct genre that serves two main functions: providing understandable information to the recipients and maintaining contact with them (Pavlichenko, Ponomarenko, & Shaulko, 2020, p. 57).

The most important aspect of a meteorological presentation is the act of informing. According to the study conducted by Pavlichenko, Ponomarenko, and Shaulko, there are two main objectives that weather forecasts aim to achieve. First, to provide accurate current information about the weather conditions in a specified area, and second, to communicate trends regarding changing weather conditions. Specific methods need to be used to convey these messages precisely (Pavlichenko, Ponomarenko, & Shaulko, 2020, p. 54).

The second most crucial aspect is maintaining the recipient's attention. In weather forecasting, there is no direct contact between the presenter and the recipients, meaning the communication happens in only one direction. This can lead to a loss of attention on the part of the listener.

To prevent this, there are tactics that can be used, such as the addressing tactic. This tactic involves using phrases that directly address the recipient, as illustrated in the following example: "Alright, my dear friends, let's take a look at the weather forecast for tonight." (Pavlichenko, Ponomarenko, & Shaulko, 2020, p. 55).

There is another tactic included in the given example: the tactic of imitating friendly communication. In this case, the presenter addresses the recipients as "dear friends" and uses the possessive pronoun "my," creating a sense of familiarity and connection.

Similarly, informal phrases are often included in weather forecasts, such as the example provided by Pavlichenko, Ponomarenko, and Shaulko: "See you." which is a friendly, informal phrase used in everyday conversation (Pavlichenko, Ponomarenko, & Shaulko, 2020, p. 55).

Other linguistic characteristics and features of weather forecasts include the use of personal pronouns in tactics of addressing, demonstrative pronouns in tactics of warning, and adverbs (such as adverbs of place and time) in tactics of forecasting and informing (Pavlichenko, Ponomarenko, & Shaulko, 2020, p. 57).

2.4.1 Strategies of Advice

There are three categories of communicative strategies, which can be further divided. The first category includes strategies of advice, which are intended to offer guidance to the recipients. These strategies include four tactics: recommendation, warning, proposal, and appeal (Pavlichenko, Ponomarenko, & Shaulko, 2020, p. 57).

2.4.2 Strategies for Attracting and Keeping Attention

The second category includes strategies for attracting and keeping attention. These communicative strategies comprise tactics such as addressing the recipient, establishing and maintaining contact, and imitating friendly communication (Pavlichenko, Ponomarenko, & Shaulko, 2020, p. 57).

2.4.3 Strategies of Informing

The third and final category of communicative strategies relevant to the genre of weather forecasting concerns strategies of informing. There are three tactics in this category: informing about the present situation, comparing present and past situations, and forecasting future conditions (Pavlichenko, Ponomarenko, & Shaulko, 2020, p. 57).

The two main strategies mentioned earlier correspond to two sets of communicative strategies: the strategy of attracting and keeping the recipient's attention, and the strategy of

informing, along with the strategy of providing advice (Pavlichenko, Ponomarenko, & Shaulko, 2020, p. 57).

2.5 Meteorological Events and Participants

There is a lack of certain semantic participants typically not included when communicating about meteorological events. It is not possible for a participant to exist independently from the event denoted by the verb.

In sentences such as "It is cold" and "It is hot," the lack of participants is evident. This is because there are no specific entities that the subject refers to. While entities like "snowflakes," "raindrops," and "lightning bolts" may seem to be involved in the meteorological events, as presented by Eriksen, Kittilä, and Kolehmaine, they do not qualify as typical participants.

As stated by Eriksen, Kittilä, and Kolehmaine, it is impossible to determine or specify the identity of meteorological entities like "snow that is snowing" or "rain that is raining."

It is challenging to define the semantic roles of the aforementioned entities. Meteorological events are beyond people's control and are not directed at other entities. Moreover, these events do not affect other participants (Eriksen, Kittilä, and Kolehmainen, 2010).

3 Practical Part: Analysis of Transcriptions of Weather Forecasts

3.1 The Content, Structure and Objectives of the Practical Part

In this part of the thesis, I conducted an analysis of five weather forecasts. These specific forecasts were broadcast in spoken form. For the purpose of the analysis, the video samples were transformed into written text using a combination of the online tool Otter.ai, which generates speech to text transcriptions, and automatically generated subtitles.

The approach I took to the analysis involved several steps. I focused on the types of sentences in which the analyzed subjects appeared. In terms of verbality, there were two types of sentences: verbal and verbless.

In verbal sentences, which have a structure consisting of a subject and a predicate, and therefore include predication, I focused on whether these sentences were finite or nonfinite.

In the case of finite sentences, I examined whether the subject was explicit, meaning overt, as in the following sentence taken from the analysis: "We've had a weather system edging in through the night." In this sentence, there is predication with an explicit subject "we" and a predicate "have had."

The other type of verbal sentences I focused on involved those in which the subject was not explicitly expressed, meaning the subject was ellipted or covert. An example of this elliptical subject can be seen in the following sentence from the analysis: "Particularly around the coast and hills where it's damp and drizzly, temperatures struggling in the mid-teens at best." In this sentence, the ellipted subject "it is" is implied in the first clause: "Particularly around the coast and hills where it's damp and (it is) drizzly."

In the case of nonfinite sentences, there were either explicit subjects or the sentences did not have a subject.

An explicit or overt subject occurs in sentences such as "We've had a weather system edging in through the night." In this example, the second clause is nonfinite. The subject is "a weather system" and the nonfinite verb form is "edging in."

Another example of a nonfinite clause appears in the sentence "Particularly around the coast and hills where it's damp and drizzly, temperatures struggling in the mid-teens at best." Similarly to the previous example, there is a nonfinite verb form in the second clause. The subject is "temperatures" and the nonfinite verb form is "struggling."

Subjectless nonfinite clauses also occur, such as "But as that band of cloud and rain does, it does tend to weaken and frizzle out" and "You'll be pleased to hear that in the next few days," which could be understood as "You'll be pleased WHEN YOU HEAR."

Another type of sentence that frequently appears in the analyzed forecasts is the nonverbal sentence. In such sentences, the predicate is not explicitly expressed.

The nonverbal sentences that appeared in the analysis were either two-member sentences or one-member sentences.

In cases of two-member sentences, the subject was contextually implied, and the verb "to be" was not explicitly expressed. This occurred, for example, in the following sentence: "Still on the cool side, of course, the far north with gusty conditions here." In this sentence, the verb "to be" could be inserted: "Still on the cool side, of course, the far north is with gusty conditions here."

Another example is the sentence "But the highest temperatures across the southeast, East Anglia, 23, 24, maybe 25 degrees Celsius." In this case, the verb "to be" could also be added: "But the highest temperatures are across the southeast, East Anglia, 23, 24, maybe 25 degrees Celsius."

The final type of sentence that appears in the transcribed weather forecasts is the one-member sentence. In such sentences, there is no subject and no verb. These sentences contain only nonverbal predicates.

Such sentences occur quite frequently, but since they do not include a subject, it was not possible to analyze them or their semantic roles. Examples of one-member sentences include: "A bit of a damp and drizzly sandwich for the final Saturday of June" and "Still a lot of dry weather with highs up to 25 Celsius."

The analyzed transcriptions of weather forecasts included a large number of atypical sentences, such as those with nonverbal structures. Since the subject can often be inferred from its relation to the predicate, and many cases involved missing predicates, identifying the subject in these instances was either difficult or even impossible.

In nonverbal structures, elements such as "there" could potentially have been inserted, which may function as the subject, as the subject can be realized in this form. However, this is an alternative that the speaker chose not to use. In the genre of weather forecasts, such structures are not typically present. While it is important to mention this possibility, I have decided to

analyze only the structures that the speaker chose, in order to retain the transcription in its original form.

The second type of atypical structure that occurred frequently was where a verb was present in the sentence, either in finite or nonfinite form, but the subject was covert or ellipted.

3.2 The Analysis

3.2.1 The Methods of Conducting the Analysis

When conducting the analysis attached to this thesis, I followed several steps.

First, for compound sentences, I divided them into individual clauses. To each individual clause, which I had separated from a compound sentence, I assigned a number in the analysis, as well as to the simple sentences, which did not require further separation.

When referring to these assigned numbers, which are assigned to individual clauses in the analysis and used as examples, I am referring to the numbered sentences that appear in the attachment with the same numbering and can be found there.

Next, I identified the verbality of each clause, determining whether the clause was verbal or verbless, and established where the subject occurred, as well as the type of verb, whether it was finite or non-finite, if present.

In the case of verbless clauses, I marked them as such and noted that they contained no subject. There were also instances of phrases that did not contain any subject. In both cases, I marked the number of occurrences of these clauses and phrases.

The next step was to focus on the subject when it was present, determining its form and analyzing its semantic role.

In the analysis, I focused on the semantic roles discussed in the theoretical part. In the case of an agent, when the subject is inanimate, I classified it as an inanimate agent rather than an external causer, based on Dušková's reasoning that an inanimate entity can act as a doer of the action as well. Dušková demonstrates this with an example "The wind broke a window.", where the inanimate performer of the action is the natural force "the wind" (Dušková et al., 2012).

After completing the analysis, which consisted of 304 structures, I summarized the results in the following chapters.

3.2.2 Phrases

Apart from the previously mentioned types of clauses that occurred in the transcribed weather forecasts, there were also phrases used to introduce and close the broadcasts, such as the very first sentence, number 1: “Welcome to your Saturday morning weather update from the Met Office.” In this case, "welcome" is a phrase, which I have not included in the following analysis.

Dušková suggests that in certain phrases, the subject is omitted, meaning the subject becomes phraseologized. Examples provided by Dušková include phrases such as “Thank you.”, “Beg (your) pardon?”, and “Serves him right (Dušková et al., 2012).

Such phrases with the omitted subject occurred nine times throughout the entire analysis out of the total amount of 304 analyzed structures. In the attached document, which contains the full analysis, these phrases are numbered 1, 63, 114, 192, 193, 233, 234, 235, and 303. The specific phrases, along with their assigned numbers, are listed in the following table.

Table 1:

1	Welcome to your Saturday morning weather update from the Met Office.
63	Hello again.
114	Hello there.
192	Bye, bye.
193	Hi there.
233	Bye, bye.
234	Hello there.
235	Welcome to your latest weather forecast from the Met Office.
303	Take care.

These phrases occurred either at the beginning or at the end of the weather forecasts. This is because they were used to greet the recipients at the beginning, such as in the case of the previously mentioned phrase "welcome," or at the end, for example, "take care," with the

intention of addressing the recipients once more and expressing goodbye in a more formal and appropriate manner.

3.2.3 Types of Clauses and the Number of Occurrences

VERBALITY

3.2.3.1.1 Verbal sentences

Verbal sentences contain the basic structural pair, namely the subject and the predicate. They include a verb, which determines which other clause elements must be present. This means that the syntactic structure of the sentence depends on the properties of the verb. A feature of the English language is that there are no one-member verbal sentences. For this reason, the subject is always necessary in verbal sentences (Dušková et al., 2012).

3.2.3.1.2 Verbless sentences

Verbless sentences in English are divided into one-member and two-member verbless sentences.

Dušková refers to one-member sentences as minor sentences, which are structured without a definite verb, in contrast to major sentences, which contain both a subject and a predicate.

One-member verbless sentences are dependent on context. Dušková provides an example: “No waiting.”, where its meaning differs depending on the context in which it occurs. According to Dušková, this sentence, for instance, on a traffic sign means “No parking.”, whereas in a service establishment, the same sentence expresses “Service without waiting.” (Dušková et al., 2012).

This type of sentence is considered a sentence because it performs a predicative function. Dušková explains that one-member sentences express a predicate and an implied subject. This implied subject is understood from the context (Dušková et al., 2012).

Two-Member verbless sentences contain both a subject and a predicate part. The key difference between a verbal and a two-member verbless sentence lies in the fact that in two-member verbless sentence, the predicate is expressed in a nominal form rather than by a verb. Dušková illustrates this with an example: “Not bad, that book of hers.” (Dušková et al., 2012)

Table 2:

VERBAL	VERBLESS
218 - Finite 174x - Non-finite 44x	77

Out of the 304 analyzed structures, 9 of which were previously discussed phrases, the remaining portion consisted of 295 clauses, of which 218 were verbal clauses. As for the verbless clauses, they made up 77 clauses out of the total 295.

There were 77 occurrences of verbless clauses in total. This structure was used to convey the information that needed to be presented more quickly, in order to suit the nature of weather forecast broadcasting. Verbless structures make the weather forecasts more compact and shorter, which is appropriate for this type of presentation.

Additionally, the verbally presented weather forecasts were accompanied by visual prompts. In the analyzed forecasts, a map was used in the background in all five video cases of the weather forecasts that were transcribed and analyzed. The maps help make the speech more compact, as the visual aspect aids in completing the meaning and makes the message easier for the recipients to understand.

FINITENESS

Table 3:

FINITE	NON-FINITE	
174 / 304	44 / 304	
	Type	Occurrences
	Infinitive	1x
	Gerund	0x
	Participle	Present 42x Past 1x

Out of the total 304 analyzed structures, after subtracting the 9 phrases already discussed and the 77 verbless clauses, 218 verbal clauses remained. Of the total 218 verbal clauses, 174 were finite and 44 were non-finite.

In the entire analysis, out of the 44 non-finite structures, only one was in the form of an infinitive. This occurred in the analyzed clause number 247: "A fairly chilly night to come."

There was not a single occurrence of a non-finite gerund form. This is because gerunds are typically used to express continuous actions or ongoing states, which are less common in the context of weather forecasts, as they tend to focus more on short-term events.

The participle form occurred 43 times. Of those 43 occurrences, 42 were in the form of a present participle, such as, for instance, in the following examples of clauses number 4: "...a weather system edging in through the night..", number 16: "Temperatures struggling in the mid-teens at best.", number 50: "...a bit more rain heading into Shetland..", number 71: "The isobars indicating the strongest winds.", number 134: "...some more frontal systems bringing in some longer spells of rain.", number 259: "...any fog patches quickly disappearing..", and number 280: "...a few spots of rain developing..".

There was only one occurrence of a past participle. This form appeared in clause number 210: "A colder night compared with the previous night."

3.2.4 Clauses with explicitly and with implicitly expressed subjects

Explicitly expressed subject

Out of the 218 analyzed clauses, there were 202 explicitly expressed subjects and 16 of said clauses were with an implicit subject.

The explicit subjects were realized by either a noun phrase or by a pronoun phrase. Of the 218 subjects, 137 were realized by pronoun phrases, while noun phrases made up the remaining 81 instances.

Implicitly expressed subject

3.2.4.1.1 Elliptical subject

According to Dušková, elliptical subjects most commonly occur at the beginning of sentences. In the case of compound sentences, the elliptical subject appears after coordinating conjunctions such as “and, or, but“. Dušková illustrated this with the following example: “Such an explanation fits the general facts but also allows for individual differences.“ (Dušková et al., 2012).

Elliptical subjects most commonly occur when the predicate is repeated from the first clause of the compound sentence in the second clause: “I’ve been reading and the children (have been) watching TV.“ (Dušková et al., 2012).

There were 12 instances out of the 218 clauses, where the subject was elliptical. There were 7 elliptical noun phrases and 5 elliptical pronoun phrases.

Examples of the elliptical noun phrases include the following clauses: number 5: “..(a weather system) making for a gray start for much of Wales Northwest England,” in which case, the ellipited noun phrase “a weather system” is ellipited from the previous clause, number 4: “..a weather system edging in through the night..”; as well as clause number 54: “..but (bright or sunny spells) struggling to have that much of an impact on..” in which case, the ellipited noun phrase “bright or sunny spells” is ellipited from the previous clause, number 53: “..bright or sunny spells coming through at times..”.

Examples of the elliptical pronoun phrases include the following: clause number 41: “..and (we’ll be) well down into single digits in some parts of the countryside,” in which case, the predicate is ellipited as well. The pronoun phrase “we” is ellipited from the previous clause, number 40: “..whereas further north we’ll be down into single figures..”. Another example of an ellipited subject in the form of a noun phrase occurred in clause number 148: “..(these) bringing in some more persistent outbreaks of rain..” in which case, the pronoun phrase “these” is ellipited from the preceding clause, number 147: “..and with light winds these could move through fairly slowly..”.

3.2.4.1.2 Covert subject

Out of the 218 clauses, where the subject was realized either by a noun phrase in 93 instances or by a pronoun phrase in 125 instances, the subject was covert, specifically the covert

pronoun phrase “you”, in 2 cases in the following clauses number 61: “For more details on that keep up to date with everything from the Met Office.” and number 190: “So enjoy the warm sunshine while it's here.”

3.2.5 Types of the Subjects and the Numbers of Occurrences

Realization forms

In terms of form, subjects were realized by a noun or a pronoun phrase. In the entire analysis of 304 structures, of which 9 were phrases and 77 verbless clauses which were discussed in the previous subchapters, subjects of the remaining 218 clauses out of the total 304 numbered structures were analyzed.

Table 4:

NOUN PHRASE	PRONOUN PHRASE	CLAUSE
80x	138x	0x

As shown in table 4, there was not a single occurrence of a subject realized by a clause. Based on this, the subject is not realized by a nominal clause, a nominal content, or by a relative nominal clause in the genre of weather forecasts. Such a form of realization does not align with the compactness typical for this genre.

Out of the 218 subjects, 138 were realized by a pronoun phrase, while a noun phrase was used in the remaining 80 cases. This ratio occurs for multiple reasons.

There were significantly more occurrences of pronoun phrases, since the use of pronouns helps achieve the communicative goal of engaging and maintaining the recipient's attention by addressing them directly through personal pronouns. Furthermore, subjects realized by the pronoun phrases "there" and "it" were used frequently, as they align with the content of weather forecasts, which is related to weather phenomena. In the case of "there," it refers to stating meteorological events occurring, while "it" has no semantic content, because in weather phenomena, there are no entities behind the actions or states denoted by the predicate, as further and in more detail explained in the following paragraphs regarding pronoun phrases.

In the case of realization by noun phrases, there were three main areas to which the noun phrases referred. These include either the weather phenomena, the place or area where the weather phenomena are to take place, or the time.

In the case of noun phrases denoting weather phenomena, examples include clause number 35: "A few showers will keep going in Northern Scotland," as well as clause number 45: "..clouds will tend to melt away."

Place or area where weather phenomena are to take place is shown in clause number 18: "Maybe southern Scotland and the northern Islands with lighter winds shouldn't feel too bad," and clause number 29: "..that parts of Northwest England and Northern Scotland will be a touch below average."

Time of the weather phenomena is reflected in clause number 124: "..but for many, the week, once again, should be dry.." and clause number 263: "..as the day goes on."

Apart from these three main areas, the following exceptions occurred.

Slightly different is clause number 71: "..the isobars indicating the strongest winds." In this case, the subject "the isobars" does not denote a weather phenomenon but rather a tool related to weather, as it is used to measure weather conditions. Similarly, in clause number 26: "That's what this map is showing," the noun phrase "this map" refers to another tool assisting in the presentation of the weather information.

Another exception is found in clause number 62: "The best way to do that is to hit subscribe to our YouTube channel." This particular clause differs from the others. Since this weather forecast was taken from the YouTube website, it includes this clause for that reason. If this forecast were presented through a different medium, such as television, this clause would not be included, because television broadcasts do not typically include calls to subscribe to a YouTube channel.

Furthermore, the noun phrase "things" occurred twice. In clause number 131: "So things remaining largely mild," the noun phrase "things" is still related to the weather because, based on the context, it denotes a state of the weather discussed previously by the speaker. A similar instance occurs in clause number 172: "..as things start to warm up," where it is

again understood from the preceding clauses and overall context that it refers to weather conditions.

Among the pronoun phrases, both personal and demonstrative pronouns were present.

Personal pronouns appeared 84 times. As discussed in the previous chapters, the use of personal pronouns is particularly suited to the genre of weather forecasts, as they help maintain the recipient's attention by addressing them directly, for example in clause number 27: "You can see.." and in clause number 77: "..even as we go through the day today."

There were 8 occurrences of demonstrative pronouns, for example in clause number 144: "..where this could be quite heavy at times."

According to Dušková, third-person pronouns have either an anaphoric or a deictic function. The first function, anaphoric, means that the pronoun refers to a previously mentioned noun, i.e., the pronoun phrase in a later clause refers to the noun phrase in the preceding clause. The second function, deictic, works by referring to a phenomenon outside of the linguistic reality (Dušková et al., 2012).

The function of the pronoun in clause number 144 is anaphoric, therefore referring back to the subject of the preceding clause.

Furthermore, the pronoun "there" functioning as a subject appeared 11 times. Out of these, 10 instances were of the event-type, and one was of the existentially locative type. An example of the event-type "there" is clause number 146: "..but there is a risk of shower". The one instance of the existentially locative type was clause number 119: "..there is a change on its way..".

The function of the pronoun "there" in clause number 146 is anaphoric, since it refers back to the information in the previous clause. In the preceding clause, number 145: "Across parts of the South and Central areas it should brighten up through the afternoon..," "there" in clause 146 refers back to the location where "the risk of showers" is to occur.

Lastly, occurrences of "it" were divided into two types: dummy it and anaphoric it. "Dummy it" appeared 28 times and "anaphoric it" occurred 3 times.

"Dummy it" occurred in clause number 95: "..it's still going to be windy across the northern half of the country for a time..", clause number 161: "Though it largely clears across Northern Island.", clause number 185: "..though it could be still fairly cloudy at times.", clause number 216: "..but it will soon warm up", and clause number 252: "..so for much of the UK it is actually going to be a dry night."

"Anaphoric it" occurred in clause number 33: "..it does tend to weaken and fizzle out," referring back to a subject from the previous clause, number 32: "..but as that span of cloud and rain does..", as well as in clause number 239: "..it really is not going very far," referring back to the subject of clause number 237: "High pressure is going to remain firmly in charge." Finally, in clause number 240: "Over the next couple of days it will eventually move off towards Europe," the "anaphoric it" refers back to the subject of clause number 237 as well.

Table 5:

PRONOUN PHRASE	TYPE	OCCURENCES
We	Personal	57x
Elliptical we	Personal	2x
You	Personal	9x
Covert you	Personal	2x
I	Personal	10x
Elliptical I	Personal	1x
That	Demonstrative	6x
They	Personal	3x
Us	Personal	2x
There	Event-type	10x
	Existentially locative	1x
This	Demonstrative	2x

These	Demonstrative	1x
Elliptical these	Demonstrative	1x
It	Dummy	28x
	Anaphoric	3x

The pronoun "us" occurred in pronoun phrases realizing the subject two times in the following clauses. These included clause number 115: "Many of us enjoyed some warm spring sunshine this afternoon.." in the phrase "many of us," and clause number 276: "..a lot of us actually seeing (temperatures staying above freezing).." in the phrase "a lot of us."

3.2.6 Semantic Roles

After determining the semantic roles of the subjects in the analyzed 218 clauses, I summarized the results in table 6.

The semantic roles identified in the analysis include an inanimate agent, an experiencer, an animate agent, a recipient, locative, temporal, measure, positioner, and goal, as well as instances where no semantic role was assigned.

Certain semantic roles, such as attribute, causal, instrument, and source, did not occur at all, as they are not typically aligned with the characteristics of the weather forecast genre or do not correspond to the subject in English, because, for example, the semantic role of an attribute is typically a complement.

Table 6:

Semantic role	Occurrences	Examples
INANIMATE AGENT	70	26) "That's what this map is showing."
EXPERIENCER	49	51) "..but I think.."
ANIMATE AGENT	24	24) "..as I say.."
NO SEMANTIC ROLE	39	185) "..though it could be still fairly cloudy at times."
RECIPIENT	11	82) "We will also have gusty winds,.."

LOCATIVE	6	18) “Maybe southern Scotland and northern Islands with lighter winds shouldn't feel too bad.”
TEMPORAL	4	250) “..as the night goes on.”
EVENTIVE	9	247) “..so a fairly chilly night to come,..“
MEASURE	1	224) “..,16 to 18 Celsius are possible for central and southern areas.”
POSITIONER	4	126) “And we still remain in that southerly flow of air..”
GOAL	1	62) “The best way to do that is to hit subscribe to our Youtube channel.”

Correspondence between semantic role and form

Table 7:

Semantic role	Occurrences	Form
INANIMATE AGENT	70	Noun phrase: 60x Pronoun phrase 10x
EXPERIENCER	49	Noun phrase: 3x Pronoun phrase: 47x
ANIMATE AGENT	24	Noun phrase: 0x Pronoun phrase: 24x
NO SEMANTIC ROLE	39	Noun phrase: 0x Pronoun phrase: 39x
RECIPIENT	11	Noun phrase: 0x Pronoun phrase: 11x
LOCATIVE	6	Noun phrase: 6x Pronoun phrase: 0x
TEMPORAL	4	Noun phrase: 4x

		Pronoun phrase: 0x
EVENTIVE	9	Noun phrase: 4x Pronoun phrase: 5x
MEASURE	1	Noun phrase: 1x Pronoun phrase: 0x
POSITIONER	4	Noun phrase: 1x Pronoun phrase: 3x
GOAL	1	Noun phrase: 1x Pronoun phrase: 0x

3.2.6.1.1 Inanimate Agent

The semantic role of an inanimate agent was assigned to a subject 70 times, in cases where an inanimate entity acted as the performer or initiator of the action expressed by the verb. These subjects were realized through noun phrases or anaphoric pronoun phrases referring to noun phrases from preceding clauses.

This is illustrated in the following example: clause number 105: "...weather fronts coming our way." and clause number 106: "They're not particularly potent." In clause 106, the personal pronoun "they" is anaphoric and refers back to the subject "weather fronts" from the previous clause.

The whole main clause, in which the preceding example occurred, is as follows: "As we move from Friday into Saturday, we've got this next area of weather fronts coming our way."

The noun phrases typically denoted elements of the weather or natural forces. An example of the semantic role of an inanimate agent being assigned to a noun phrase denoting a weather element can be found in clause 53: "Bright or sunny spells coming through at times."

The whole main clause, in which the preceding example occurred, is as follows: "Today we will see a bit more rain heading into Shetland, but I think we'll see bright or sunny spells coming through at times, but struggling to have that much of an impact on the temperatures, generally mid to high teens across the South."

These previous examples of the semantic role of an inanimate agent were in relation to a non-finite verb form.

Examples of the semantic role of an inanimate agent assigned to the weather phenomena or natural forces in relation to a finite verb form occurred as well.

In the form of a pronoun phrase, a pronoun with an anaphoric function, which referred to the noun phrase from the preceding clause, is shown in the following example from clause number 33: “..it does tend to weaken and fizzle out.” In this case, the anaphoric pronoun "it" refers to the subject from the preceding clause number 32: “..but as that span of cloud and rain does,..”. In clause number 32, the subject "that span of cloud and rain" is a noun phrase assigned the role of an inanimate agent and is related to a finite verb form. Another example is clause number 45: “..clouds will tend to melt away,” in which case, there is an inanimate agent in relation to a finite verb.

Therefore, both finite and non-finite structures can include a subject in both noun phrase and pronoun phrase forms.

There was one instance of an inanimate agent that was not a weather element. Specifically, the case of a map, which served as a multimodal feature. This occurred in clause 26: “..what this map is showing.” Here, "this map" functions as the subject and takes on the role of an inanimate agent.

3.2.6.1.2 Experiencer

The semantic role of an experiencer was the second most frequently occurring role after the inanimate agent. It was assigned to 49 subjects which were not in control of an action or state denoted by the verb but were aware of it, particularly in instances where the subject underwent an emotional, sensory, or mental process.

As shown in table 7, out of the total 49 occurrences of the semantic role of an experiencer, 47 of them were assigned to a pronoun phrase and only 3 to a noun phrase. Therefore, the occurrence of pronoun phrases is significantly higher compared to the occurrence of noun phrases. This is likely because pronouns are commonly used in weather forecasts to maintain the flow of information and engage the recipient, as they allow for quicker, more concise

references to the experiencer without the need for repeated noun phrases. Pronouns also contribute to the compactness and efficiency typical of the genre.

There were cases where the subject as experiencer was realized by personal pronouns, such as "I" in clause 275: "..but I think thanks to the cloud cover" and in clause 282: "..but I'm hopeful" where the speaker undergoes a mental process related to the information being conveyed.

The role of experiencer was also assigned to inanimate entities in cases where the subject underwent a state. For example, in clause 16: "Temperatures struggling in the mid teens at best."

3.2.6.1.3 Animate Agent

The semantic role of an animate agent, the doer of an action with the intention to act, occurred 24 times and was realized only by pronoun phrases, since those subjects denoted people. This role was present, for example, when the presenter referred to themselves, as in clause number 24: "..as I say," and clause number 121: "As we finish off the day on Friday," when including the recipients as well.

3.2.6.1.4 No Semantic Role

There were 39 instances in which no semantic role was assigned, all of which involved pronoun phrases. Specifically, the pronouns "it" and "there".

This is because "dummy it," a typical feature of the weather forecasting genre, is used in English, where a subject is required even when no actual semantic agent exists, as these potential participants cannot exist independently of the event denoted by the verb (Eriksen, Kittilä, and Kolehmainen, 2010).

This type of subject appeared, for example in clause number 38: "It will be quite a warm night tonight across the South." and in clause number 185: "..though it could still be fairly cloudy at the time."

3.2.6.1.5 Recipient

The subjects were assigned the semantic role of a recipient in cases where the subject was related to verbs such as “get, receive, obtain“ (Dušková et al., 2012) and “have, own, possess, benefit (from)“ (Quirk et al., 1985, p.746).

In the analysis, the semantic role of a recipient occurred 11 times, for example, in clause number 82: “We will also have gusty winds,..“

The semantic role of a recipient was assigned exclusively to pronoun phrases. There was not a single occurrence of the recipient role being assigned to a noun phrase.

As forecasts are directed at a general and unspecified audience, the use of pronoun phrases provides reference to the recipient without the need for explicit noun phrases. This principle aligns with the register’s characteristic conciseness.

3.2.6.1.6 Locative

The locative semantic role was assigned to subjects that referred to the space where something takes place or is situated.

In the analysis, the locative semantic role occurred 6 times, for example, in clause number 271: “Into the evening and nighttime period a lot of the UK seeing fairly cloudy skies.”

In relation to form, the locative role was assigned only to noun phrases, since they denote places, and locative expressions refer to physical locations, with noun phrases being the best-suited structure to represent them.

3.2.6.1.7 Temporal

The subjects played the temporal role when indicating time. There were 4 instances of the temporal semantic role assigned to a subject, for example, in clause number 250: “..as the night goes on.”

In relation to form, the temporal role was assigned only to noun phrases, since they denote periods of time, and temporal expressions are most effectively represented by noun phrases to convey information about time.

3.2.6.1.8 Eventive

The subjects were assigned the eventive semantic role in cases where the subjects denoted events. There were 9 instances of occurrence of the eventive semantic role assigned to a subject, for example, in clause number 247: “..so a fairly chilly night to come,..“

3.2.6.1.9 Measure

There was only one occurrence of the semantic role of a measure assigned to a subject. This occurred in clause number 224: “16 to 18 Celsius are possible for central and southern areas.“

This subject refers to the temperature, which was a recurring subject. However, in this case, the semantic role is "measure," as it explicitly states the measure or the extent of the temperature, unlike the noun "temperature," which does not explicitly convey the quantity. The subject "16 to 18 Celsius" was therefore assigned the measure semantic role.

3.2.6.1.10 Positioner

The semantic role of a positioner occurred 4 times, for example, in clause number 126: “And we still remain in that southerly flow of air..“

3.2.6.1.11 Goal

The semantic role of a goal was assigned only once in the case of clause number 62: “The best way to do that is to hit subscribe to our YouTube channel.“, where the subject functions as the goal to which something leads in a metaphorical sense.

Form and semantic role with regard to register

The register of weather forecasts is defined as predicting the atmosphere for a given location using science and technology (Al-Hindawi and Naji, 2017).

In order for the scientific information to be presentable to a wide audience, it must be processed and adapted accordingly to remain clear and comprehensible to said recipients (Al-Hindawi and Naji, 2017).

The analysed transcriptions of the weather broadcasts were taken from weather forecasts, not from weather forecast reporting. Therefore, the content focused on future conditions and what the weather is expected to become, in contrast to weather forecast reporting, which refers to past conditions.

As part of the register of weather forecasts, predicting atmospheric conditions is involved. This leads to uncertainty, since predictions are not definitive, and therefore, there is a possibility for the information to change. This factor must be reflected in the language used when presenting the forecasts (Al-Hindawi and Naji, 2017).

Form with regard to register

There were 138 subjects realized in the form of a pronoun phrase and 80 subjects realized in the form of a noun phrase.

In the register, there is a preference for pronoun phrases over noun phrases. Pronoun phrases are shorter, and their use makes the information more compact. Noun phrases are longer and more cumbersome to repeat. The lower frequency of noun phrases confirms the register's characteristic emphasis on compactness.

The 138 occurrences of subjects realized in the form of a pronoun phrase made up the largest portion of realizations, making pronoun phrases the most significant realization form of the subject in the genre of weather forecasts.

The realization form of the subject, which plays a crucial role in communication and maintaining the flow of discourse, is the pronoun phrase. Pronoun phrases help keep track of referents while avoiding repetition of noun phrases, aligning with the concise nature of weather forecasting. The use of pronoun phrases is a tool that maintains clarity and ensures that the correct referent is identified by the listener, enabling them to understand and follow what is being discussed.

In 77 instances, the structure was a verbless clause. This is suitable for weather forecasting, as the register of weather forecasts is concise. There are variations, however, since weather forecasts are presented through different media, meaning the presentation style may differ (Zítka, 2010). The analyzed weather forecasts were originally presented in spoken form. To fit the time constraints, it was necessary to ensure that the forecasts were concise, which was achieved through the use of concise verbless clauses.

Verbless clauses further add to the clarity and precision, which are characteristic features of this genre.

Lastly, there were 9 instances of structures in the form of phrases, which are listed in table 1. These phrases, typically greetings or farewells, served a pragmatic function of addressing the audience directly. This is typical for the register of weather forecasts, as such expressions help to frame the communication in a more personal way.

Semantic role with regard to register

The semantic role of an inanimate agent was assigned to a subject 70 times out of a total of 218 clauses, making it the most frequently occurring semantic role in the analysis.

The very frequent use of the inanimate agent semantic role aligns with the register of weather forecasts, as this genre is characterized by an objectivized description of natural phenomena. These phenomena are presented as the actors of the action. In the context of weather forecasts, these inanimate entities become the main actors. The high frequency reflects the genre's characteristic focus on phenomena and processes, rather than on human participants.

The second most frequently assigned semantic role was that of an experiencer, which occurred 49 times.

The presence of the experiencer semantic role is related to people's perception of the weather. People are influenced by the weather because objective information has a subjective impact on them.

An example of the experiencer semantic role occurred in clause number 40: “..whereas further north we’ll be down into single figures.“

The third semantic role, that of an animate agent, occurred 24 times.

An animate agent is not typical for the genre of weather forecasting. Occasional personalization appeared, for instance, when the speaker refers to themselves as the subject using the pronoun phrase "I." The speaker thus acts as the agent, or when the pronoun phrase "we" is used to refer to both the speaker and the recipients. This relates to the register, as this form of addressing the recipients helps maintain their attention within the communication.

Examples include clause number 24: “..as I say..“ and clause number 258: “So we start Sunday off..“.

No semantic role was assigned to a subject 39 times. In all these instances, no semantic role was assigned to pronoun phrases.

There were 28 instances of “prompt it” or “dummy it.” It was impossible to determine the identity of the subject in these cases because there were no specific entities to which this form of subject, “dummy it,” referred. No participant existed behind these dummy subjects, as these potential participants cannot exist independently of the event denoted by the verb (Eriksen, Kittilä, and Kolehmainen, 2010).

"Dummy it" is a typical feature of the weather forecasting genre. This is because, in English, it is necessary to have a subject even when there is no actual semantic agent.

Additionally, there were nine phrases in the analysis that did not include a subject, and therefore, there was no possibility of assigning a semantic role to them, as no subject was present.

These phrases reflect the need for conciseness and speed in the genre. The subject is understood even when omitted, and therefore, as it is not necessarily required for conveying the information concisely, it is left out.

Furthermore, there were 77 instances, out of the analyzed 304 structures, that were verbless sentences, and as mentioned earlier, no semantic roles were assigned in these either.

Verbless structures are characteristic of the style of this register. They contain the main information on which the focus is placed, prioritizing that over grammatical completeness. The emphasis is on the key, essential information, rather than on sentence structure completeness, which also leads to a reduction in the number of semantic roles.

In total, out of the 304 analyzed structures, there were three categories of instances where it was not possible to assign a semantic role to the subject: 9 phrases, 77 verbless structures, and 39 pronoun phrases with no semantic content.

In the weather forecast register, more than a third of the structures, specifically 125 out of 304, had no assigned semantic role. This is in line with the register, as conciseness and clarity are prioritized.

Therefore, out of the 304 analyzed structures, 125 lacked a semantic role assignable to a subject, as the subject was either absent or without semantic content.

Communicative goal of predictions

There are two main goals that the genre of weather forecasting aims to achieve. These include providing information in an understandable way to the recipients and maintaining contact with them (Pavlichenko, Ponomarenko, & Shaulko, 2020, p. 57).

To achieve these goals in the context of weather forecasts, communicative strategies and tactics were employed.

There is specific terminology used in the field of meteorology, and from a communicative perspective, the scientific terminology, which includes specific terms used by professionals in meteorology, must be presented in a way that ensures the information is understood by recipients who do not possess professional level knowledge in the field.

When presented in spoken form, focus is placed on the presenter. The speaker's delivery played a crucial role in conveying the information to the audience clearly (Al-Hindawi and Naji, 2017).

The language was altered to make the specialized language easily comprehensible to the general public, ensuring clarity and understanding on the recipients' side. If the language used were too scientific, misunderstandings could occur.

The language used was simplified but still retained its meaning and stayed grounded in the scientific background.

To maintain the recipient's attention, tactics were used to keep their attention and overcome the potential issue of the lack of direct contact between the presenter and the recipient. This could lead to a loss of attention because the communication occurs in only one direction (Pavlichenko, Ponomarenko, & Shaulko, 2020, p. 54).

Tactics for attracting and maintaining attention were employed.

These included addressing the recipients by using personal pronouns as well as imitating friendly communication in phrases by speaking to the recipients in a friendly and informal manner, for example, in the phrase numbered 192: "Bye, bye."

This can be seen in the case of the experiencer semantic role. In weather forecasts, the experiencer is often used to engage the audience directly, as it refers to individuals who perceive the weather or are affected by it. By realizing the subject in the form of pronoun phrases such as "you" or "we," the speaker creates a connection with the audience, helping to maintain their attention and making the information feel more personal and relevant. This aligns with the goal of weather forecasts: to keep the audience engaged and informed.

Multimodality

The Oxford Reference defines multimodality as “The use of more than one semiotic mode in meaning-making, communication, and representation generally, or in a specific situation. Such modes include all forms of verbal, nonverbal, and contextual communication.”

The Cambridge Dictionary defines something as “multimodal“ when it means “involving several ways of operating or dealing with something“.

The concept of multimodality is relevant to weather forecasting, as English weather forecasts combine multiple semiotic modes, such as verbal and nonverbal communication, along with maps.

Apart from adjusting the language, specifically the vocabulary, by transforming it from scientific to a form more easily understood by a wider audience, for example by using widely known and familiar noun phrases, the presenters also employed additional means to further support the audience’s understanding of the information presented, as well as to maintain the neutral tone of voice typical of this informative genre.

A significant multimodal feature is the map, which provides additional visual support. As the presenter points to the map to visually represent the phenomena being discussed, the understanding of the recipients is supported.

While pointing at the map and presenting the information, the presenter also uses gestures beyond simply indicating relevant locations. These include facial expressions that reflect whether the weather being described is desirable, in the case of good weather, or undesirable.

The map changes throughout the forecasting process depending on the weather phenomenon being discussed at that moment. When talking about temperature, labels displaying numbers appear to indicate the temperature values relevant to the time being discussed. In addition,

colors are used to represent the intensity of cold and warm temperatures. Areas with similar temperatures are highlighted using the same color. These visual elements disappear once the discourse shifts to a different weather aspect.

Visually represented weather patterns, such as rain, are displayed as formations highlighted by specific colors. The process of their movement across the regions shown on the map is gradually projected, allowing for a clear visual understanding of their progression.

Additionally, arrows are used to further support the viewer's understanding of the directions in which the weather phenomena are moving.

By aligning the subject's form with visual aids, presenters improve the clarity of the forecast, making the information easier to understand.

Conclusion

The aim of this bachelor thesis was to analyze the semantic roles of the subjects as well as their realization forms in English weather forecasts, with a focus on the relationship between the subject's form and its communicative function within the multimodal genre as well.

The results of the analysis showed that inanimate agent and experiencer are the main semantic roles, which does reflect the nature of the genre, since it focuses on presenting weather phenomena and their impact on the audience. These findings confirm the objective and informational nature of the genre, where inanimate phenomena are presented as the performers of actions.

Another finding was the frequent realization of the subject in the form of a pronoun phrase, with pronouns such as "it" and "there" being particularly recurring and carrying no semantic content or semantic role. This supports the genre's tendency to prefer compactness in expression. The use of these forms provides quick and efficient communication, allowing information to be conveyed without the need for explicit expression and repetition of noun phrases.

The analysis also showed that verbless structures and elliptical subjects are common stylistic means in this genre, ensuring clarity and compactness by omitting information that is known from context and does not need to be explicitly stated, while also helping to maintain the audience's attention.

The correlation between semantic roles and subject forms demonstrates that linguistic choices support the speed and efficiency of delivery of information, which is crucial for this genre, and that the choices are not random. The choice of form not only reflects the informational content but also influences how the audience perceives and maintains attention, which aligns with the main purpose of weather forecasts, which is to inform while keeping the audience's attention.

The results of the analysis show how the linguistic form and semantic roles in English weather forecasts work together to achieve the communicative goals of this specific genre, which is providing clear and effective information for a wide audience.

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Vyjádření k využití nástrojů umělé inteligence

Během psaní této bakalářské práce jsem použila program založený na umělé inteligenci, Otter.ai, nástroj, který generuje transkripce mluvené řeči. Tento program jsem použila k získání písemné verze původního mluveného zdroje, abych zkrátila čas potřebný v případě ruční transkripce, a také abych zajistila přesnost transkripcí a minimalizovala potenciální chyby.

Dále jsem použila automaticky generované titulky k předpovědím počasí. Ty jsem manuálně zkontrolovala, abych zajistila jejich správnost a přesnost.

Využila jsem ChatGPT, nástroj umělé inteligence, k závěrečnému ověření správnosti, případně opravení gramatiky, interpunkce a pravopisu, po dokončení textu samostatně, abych zajistila, že tyto jazykové aspekty jsou správně.

Také jsem použila ChatGPT k pomoci s tvorbou citací v Chicago stylu a k jejich seřazení abecedně podle příjmení autorů.

List of Attachments

- The Analysis of the transcribed Weather Forecasts