

Abstract

This bachelor thesis will study English coordinating conjunction *but*. It is a coordinating conjunction which can connect not only the sentences (*John is poor, but he is happy.* (Quirk et al., 1985: 935)) but also various sentence elements (e.g. a modifier in the sentence *He had a demanding but low-paid job in the public service.* (Huddleston Pullum 2002: 1311)), and which can express different types of meaning, among which the core type is the adversative meaning. Apart from purely adversative meaning (*John is poor, but he is happy.*), the conjunction *but* can express a kind of clarification or correction ('repudiation') of a statement in the first sentence: *Jane did not waste her time before the exam, but studied hard every evening* (Quirk et al. 1985: 935).

The aim of this study will be to collect 100 examples with the conjunction *but* (excerpted from Spoken BNC2014) and conduct their syntactic-semantic analysis. Each example will be defined according to the type of the constituents connected by means of *but* as well as the meaning the coordinator expresses will be determined. Attention will be paid to other terms (e.g. *rather, also*) which may occur in conjunction with *but* and can be used to guide in the determination of its specific meaning.

Keywords: coordination, conjunction, but, adversative sense