

Abstract

This thesis analyses expletive usage of Czech word *to* (*it*). The aim is to contribute to the current description of Czech expletive *to* in the subject position and to compare it with English expletive subject *it*. Theoretical part of this thesis is dedicated to definition of the term reference, and other terms associated with it, and referential, modifying and non-referential functions of *to* in Czech academic literature. Important part of the theoretical background is definition of semantic criteria for identification of the Czech expletive *to* by Ivana Kolářová. In Czech academic literature, the term expletive is not widely described, therefore this thesis also gives a brief overview of description of English expletive *it*. For the purposes of comparison of the Czech and English expletives, this thesis is partly dedicated to a description of partial pro-drop languages and to an explanation how it is connected to the Czech language. There are two types of Czech expletive *to* defined as a basis for a qualitative analysis: formal expletive subject *to* in raising constructions and inferential expletive subject *to*. The analysis is based on 300 manually excerpted examples of constructions with expletive subject *to* from spoken corpora ORAL2013 and ORTOFON. Both types of expletives are described separately on selected examples that demonstrate their variability and nature of usage.

Keywords: expletive, reference, deixis, language spoken corpora, functional linguistics, Czech, English