

This bachelor thesis aims to analyse the use of the Dutch word *er* in its existential function. The analysis is based not only on the definition of the characteristics of this function but also on the distinction of common features and differences between the function and other used functions of the word. *Er* is also compared to the English existential constructions with *it* which display certain similarities. A part of the attention is paid to other Dutch words with partially shared features, the so-called R-words. The analysis of verbs which can be used in existential constructions is considered one of the most important aims of the thesis with minor attention to the reference of the real subject and the type of adverbials in the constructions.

The second part contains an analysis of examples taken from selected works of fiction based on the findings from the theoretical part. These examples serve to illustrate the conditions of the use of *er* in existential constructions with regards to the distribution of verbs. With the help of them, various options of translation to English are examined